



ESKIMOS BUILDING A SNOW HANGAR

Around the nose of an airplane in northern Canada to protect it from intense cold. It was 30 degrees below zero and the wind was blowing a 40-mile gale when this picture was taken.

AVIATION

Airplane Travel Develops Remote Canadian Wilds

AVIATION, man's newest mode of travel, is being rapidly used to locate and carry away the wealth of one of the world's most inaccessible and undeveloped regions.

Remote corners of Canada, which 10 years ago could be reached only after days of travel by dog team in winter and canoe or pack train in summer, are now at the most just two days' flight from the end of steel. J. A. Wilson, controller of civil aviation for the Dominion, has reported to the Empire Mining and Metallurgical Congress.

Strange methods are used in these distant lands. The noses of the planes are often housed in small igloo hangars built from snow and ice, sometimes with the help of Eskimos. Engines are thus protected from the intense cold so that hot oil will warm them up enough for starting.

The accompanying picture of Eskimos at work putting up an airplane igloo was taken in the heart of the Barren Lands just beneath the Arctic Circle. It was snapped by Norman Pearce of the *Northern Miner* in early April when the temperature was 30 degrees below zero and the wind was blowing a 40-mile gale.

Although all flying is done over land,

airplanes on wheels are never used. Northern Canada's myriads of lakes and rivers provide ready made alighting places for pontoons in summer and skis in winter. Caches of food, rifles and fuel have been set up at close intervals along the routes to sustain life in the wilds in case of forced landings.

But in spite of wildness and isolation, the climate and physical character of Northern Canada are favorable to flying, Mr. Wilson explained. There are few mountains. Though the climate is cold, the winters are dry. Visibility is good during all seasons. Flying is occasionally held up by blizzards, but the saving of time is so great that the loss of a day or two is negligible. Only one person has been killed by accident in remote northern flying.

The first regular air service was established in the summer of 1924 to give fast communication to an isolated mining community. One air transport company serving chiefly the mining areas has carried 23,341 passengers, 3,143,642 pounds of freight and 392,775 pounds of mail during a recent year. In 17,808 hours, 1,478,000 miles have been covered.

Four mining companies operating aircraft for their own use flew more than

527,000 miles in 5,392 hours during 1929. More than 11,000 hours were flown by forest patrol planes.

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ASTRONOMY

Pluto Discoverer Awarded British Medal and Prize

THE young assistant at the Lowell Observatory, C. W. Tombaugh, who first observed the trans-Neptunian planet, Pluto, is to be honored by the Royal Astronomical Society with the Hannah Jackson gift and medal.

This medal, which is accompanied by a cash award, is given at intervals of not less than three years nor more than seven, and is bestowed "for the invention of a new astronomical instrument or the discovery of a new astronomical body." The medal is of bronze and bears on one side the portrait of Sir William Herschel, who like Tombaugh began his astronomical career as highest awards of an astronomer.

The Society's gold medal is to be awarded to Dr. William De Sitter, Director of the Leiden Observatory in Holland. Perhaps the best known of his contributions is the prominent part he took in the early development of relativity, and his development of the "De Sitter universe" as a result. The gold medal is considered one of the highest awards that can come to an astronomer.

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MEDICINE

Fungus Causes Lung Disease Like TB

TWO types of fungi were found to be the probable cause of a lung condition resembling tuberculosis in a number of miners examined for evidence of that disease or of silicosis, Drs. R. R. Sayers and F. V. Meriwether of the U. S. Bureau of Mines have just reported to the U. S. Public Health Service.

The investigation was made in a group of lead and zinc miners. The persons having this fungus infection of the lungs did not complain of ill health and would not have seen a physician if it had not been for the routine examinations made of all the employees. In the course of this examination, the condition of the lungs was found. This resembled military tuberculosis, but no tubercle bacilli could be found. Further examination revealed the fungi.

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