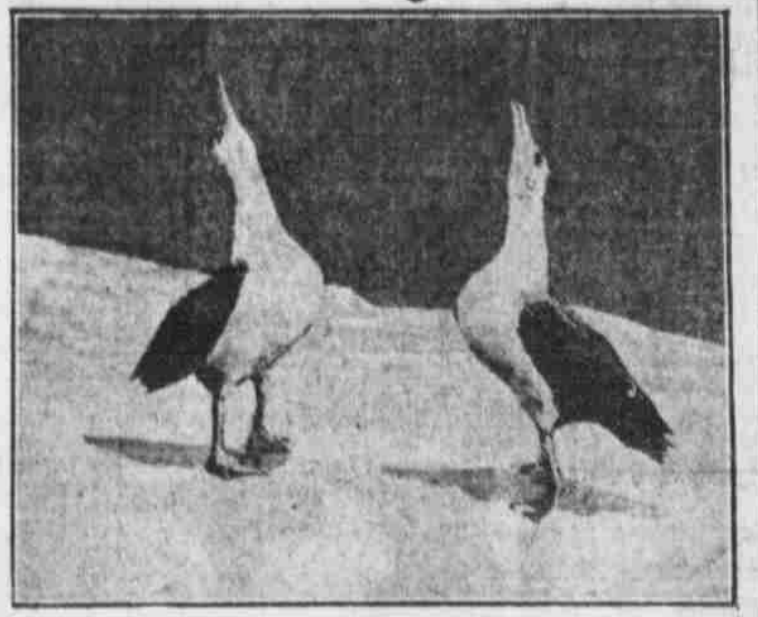


Stefansson To Prove The Frozen Arctic Humanity's Birthplace?



The Sea Otter of the Arctic, Whose Favorite Food Is the Giant Crab Shown to the Right, Which Is a Survival of the Earliest Crustacean Forms.

The Evidence Upon Which Science Bases Its Newest Theory That the Cradle of Our Race Was Somewhere in the "Circum-Polar Basin," Where the Explorer Has Discovered His New Land

By W. H. Ballou, Sc. D.

THE fact that Stefansson, the renowned Arctic explorer who had been unheard of for nearly a year and a half, is still alive and courageously pursuing his research work in the Arctic regions has revived the hope in scientific circles that before very long he may return with the solution of some of the riddles of that vast area.

Although both the North Pole and the South Pole have been "discovered," it is nevertheless a fact that millions of square miles in both the Arctic and Antarctic have never been trodden on by modern man. The main object of the Stefansson expedition was to explore these unknown regions because they are believed to hold the answer to many questions which have long engaged the attention of scientific men.

One of these interesting questions was recently referred to by Professor Henri Fourrier, of the Sorbonne. "When the work of polar research is so organized and systematized that scientists will be able to live at the North Pole all the year round," he declared, "it will speedily be found that the birthplace of humanity, the traditional Garden of Eden, was there. Life originated in the North Polar region, and spread from there throughout the world."

This theory finds acceptance among a great many of America's foremost scientists and is based upon a number of extraordinary bits of evidence which have been brought to light during the last decade, but it is hoped that Stefansson's research will further strengthen the foundation upon which it rests. The region which the Stefansson expedition set out to explore covers about a million square miles north of western Canada, north of Alaska and north of eastern Siberia, and it is this very region, particularly that part which lies north of Siberia which is generally believed to have been the cradle of the world.

The evidence of man's origin in the polar regions has not been obtained directly from under the great ice-cap, but from around its edges, more particularly in northern Asia. In the region extending from Tibet to near the pole the fossil remains of mammals, birds, plants and reptiles have been found from time to time, and these are very significant.

Dr. W. D. Matthew, at a recent meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences, at the American Museum, said: "The great mass of evidence in favor of adaptation to progressive arid climate and of dispersal from the northern land regions, is derived from the recorded history of the mammals during the Tertiary and Quaternary and from comparison of their former and present geographical distribution. It has long been recognized that the present distribution of mammals is due chiefly to migration from the great northern land mass, and the connection of this southward march with progressive refrigeration in the polar regions."

"With a clearer perspective of geologic time and far more exact records, it is evident that most of this development and dispersal of mammalian races has taken place since the Eocene epoch of the Tertiary, although remnants of an older dispersal on the same lines are probably traceable in the present habitat of monotremes, marsupials and primitive insectivores. "In view of the data obtainable from historical record from tradition, from the present geographical distribution of higher and lower races of men, from the physical and physiological adaptation of all and especially of the higher races, it seems fair to conclude that the center of dispersal of mankind in prehistoric times was central Asia, north of the great Himalayan ranges, and that when by progressive aridity that region became a desert, it was transferred to the bordering regions."

"We may further assume that the environment in which man primarily evolved was a temperate and more or less arid one, progressively cold and dry during the course of his evolution. In this region and under these conditions, the race first attained dominance which enabled it to spread out in successive waves of migration to the most remote parts of earth."

Man and contemporary mammals were the last and highest expression of evolution of life. Before them by millions of years, reptiles had sway, and before reptiles, fishes. So all fossil evidence collected relating to the period of man and contemporary mammals is labeled "recent."

The Haeckel table, as figured out by Gadow, places the origin of anthropoid apes and lemurs, the stock from among which prospective man probably an ancestor also of the gibbon, sprang, in the Eocene-Miocene period of 2,500,000 years ago. Miocene times were hot ones, when much of the earth was a tropical jungle.

In the Asiatic-polar region, however, the conditions were sub-tropical, as Knowlton has shown from fossil plants collected entirely around the Arctic Circle region, and others by mammal and invertebrate fossils. In consequence, more animal life evolved under more favorable conditions on the northern Asiatic sector, and has continued to evolve there for the same reason almost continuously since. Also at that time, vast areas of the earth were under shallow seas, which later and since have mostly evaporated, because of changes of climate.

The hot Miocene changed into the cooler, more arid Pliocene period, according to Haeckel-Gadow, so that the ancestral ap-



Whole Carcasses of Mammoths Are Found Preserved in the Arctic Ice—This Striking Drawing by Biron Roger Shows One of the Gigantic Beasts, Which Could Only Live in Tropical Climate, Being Submerged in a Frozen Marsh During the Beginning of the Glacier Epoch.

thropoids and contemporary mammals, had increasingly better times for development in the northern Asiatic-polar territory where they were entrenched, and they began to spread around that region into northern Europe.

What caused this slow change of climate, first cooling off this region, then congealing it? Astronomy answers, "an increasing eccentricity of the earth's orbit." The tables of eccentricity may be found computed by P. F. Kendall in Wright's "Man and the Glacial Period." These tables show that 200,000 years ago the eccentricity of the earth's orbit was three times that of to-day. Woodruff said: "The widespread story of the deluge must be a the Earth" and summarize this feature as follows: "Omitting the elevations of the crust, one degree of latitude being equivalent to 250 feet of elevation, the essential feature of glacial times was the increase of eccentricity and the position of the earth in perihelion in Summer instead of Winter as at present."

There were then long severe Winters and very short, terribly hot Summers, the latter causing tremendous floods on the south edges of the glaciers. These floods, or perhaps one of them of vast dimensions, gave rise to the story of the flood. As Woodruff said: "The widespread story of the deluge must be a modified tradition from glacial times, when terrific floods occurred each Summer. They must have made such a profound impression as to leave traces in myths long after migration was forgotten."

Another thinker has assumed that the traditions of these same floods gave rise to the flaming sword story, by which Adam and Eve were driven out of the Mesopotamian Garden of Eden. The human mind, ever since it began to possess some organization, has tried to think out the reasons for things, same as ordinary minds do to-day, without the scientific bolster of evi-

Northern Albatrosses in Their Love Dance—A Curious Form of Bird Life That is Profuse in the Lands Being Explored by Stefansson.

dence. Hence we have myths substituted for evidence from the earliest recorders down to the unknown who was always telegraphing the fall of Port Arthur during the Russo-Jap war.

The Haeckel-Gadow table puts the existence of Pithecanthropus erectus, our earliest discovered ancestor at 600,000 years ago. His skull shows him to have been higher than the apes, but lower than man. His descendants, according to the same table were 350,000 years developing the man brain.

In other words, the Adam and Eve of science on that Asiatic-polar rim, achieved full development of huge physique and large skull with perfected brain 250,000 years ago. What caused it? Just excessive cold and nothing else, say scientists. All concede that the population of the world at that instant was far greater than that of to-day. Mankind of the lowest, most brutal, apish types had spread all over the earth's warmer regions to get away from the cold into regions automatically producing food, with climate adapted to primeval life. Up in the Asiatic northland, however, the men who remained, developed brains and self reliance because of and in spite of the cold. They had to think or perish.

The summary of this evidence from the works of Huxley, Le Conte and others is thus given by Dr. Charles E. Woodruff: "Our pre-glacial ancestor, in that Asiatic sub-tropical climate, which extended nearly to the pole, may have had so little trouble in getting food that it was the active, agile, intelligent ones best fitted to escape the enemies of the times who were best adjusted to the environment and who survived in greater numbers. Now what a change occurred in the very slow and gradual approach of the long cold! What a struggle began with a wiping out of species which could not find fit variations adjusted to the change, and what a mortality there must have been among our most stupid ancestors, and therefore what a rapid evolution of brain when the most intelligent survived, and no others in each generation! Is it not possible then that brain developed during the cold and as a result of it?"

The section entirely around the Arctic Circle has been continuously inhabited by man, since man evolved. Before, during and after the ice ages—and the last one is not yet all gone—the polar region, whether sub-tropical or congealed, has been mastered by man, under whatever conditions, and against all hazards.

In those regions which we characterize as awful, man has been accompanied by other mammals, birds, reptiles, invertebrates and plants. In former times, before the glacial age, evidence shows that land was continuous around the Arctic Circle. Water gaps have since been made in the Circle by the weight, in other words, the Arctic Circle people who first evolved the perfected brain have left the original habitat of man and his ancestors continually peopled.

On the northern Asiatic sector, it is not too much to assert that there are still existing tribes to-day, not a whit different in form, physique and brain from the men of 160,000 years ago. In the Lapp of to-day we have almost typical first men, white men, blond men. In the people of darker skins or redder or browner skins—the nigrescenced people—we have offshoots who evolved color changes because of the violet rays of the sun causing snowburn, snow blindness, etc., and to meet environmental conditions so as to deceive enemies, according to Charcot, Unna, Hammer, Bowles, etc.

These peoples, the nigrescenced races, which include negroes, East Indians, and all not white, made the mistake of their lives in not remaining white and blond, since they have in consequence become the under dogs of the races, subjected by those who remained white, also have been victims of disease and epidemics, and have been depleted time and again because of intermarriage. Still many of them survive entirely around the Arctic Circle and illustrate to us that the Fourrier proposition of a Polar Garden of Eden makes it possible for the human race to be rehabilitated at a time when more southern conditions exterminate us, whether by wars or disease.

In other words, the polar region is not only the birthplace of brain and brawn, but the stabilizer and rehabilitator of mankind. Its estimated populations of to-day are some 10,000,000 people, of whom most are Asiatics.

Among the latter, particularly in northern Siberia, are many men of huge stature and large skulls, who have never been defeated in battle, conquered or who have ever surrendered, always fighting to the death. The Russians, after several centuries of attempted conquests by Cossacks, gave up, and took over a mild control by diplomacy and bribes. The Russians realized that if these huge natives were exterminated there would be none left to do the Arctic Circle work, that of reindeer propagation, fur collection and fisheries. Cold means nothing to them, the nine months of Winter, Arctic blizzards, the absence of sunlight, never for an instant interfere with their travel or occupations.

They are pure, typical and primitive carnivores, with strength comparable to a gorilla's, able to throw a reindeer stag by his horns and to master the most ferocious beasts in hand to hand conflicts; men, women and children dressing in furs that would make New York billionnaires envious. We speak of the menace to the world of rousing the Chinese, forgetting that if these Arctic Asiatics were ever aroused a worse calamity might befall the more southern peoples than even the Teutons have dreamed.



A Strange Drawing of the Extraordinary Creatures Long Supposed to Live in the Arctic Seas—These Legends, Science Thinks, Are Survivals of Racial Memories of Actual Fights of Earliest Humanity in That Region with Monsters.