

## LATEST SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

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## LONE GRAVE OF SAILOR IN ARCTIC ICE

### Explorer Finds Clue To Fate Of Franklin

**A** FEW rusty nails and cannon balls, some blue cloth, canvas and rotted wood discovered in the Arctic by Mr. Francis Kennedy Pease, the 28-year-old explorer, may throw new light on the fate of the Sir John Franklin expedition.

The expedition perished nearly a hundred years ago in attempting to make the North-West Passage.

Mr. Pease, who set out alone with a little Irish terrier from Liverpool last September, has just returned to England after six months in the Arctic.

He says that he found:

The grave of a white man believed to be the last survivor of the Franklin expedition, dated 1851, about 250 miles north of Fort Churchill; and

A cairn beneath which was buried the remains of a sea chest, other wood which appears to be from a

boat, patches of blue Navy cloth, canvas, old cannon shot and nails.

### INDIAN GRAVE

The relics are at present in the hands of the Canadian Government, and if Mr. Pease's conclusions are correct it means that a few of the Franklin survivors made their way at least 400 miles further south than has so far been supposed.

The position of Franklin's unknown grave, he says, is near the Back River, regarded so far as the farthest point south reached by the survivors.

"My first important discovery," Mr. Pease stated, "was near the Tha-anne River, where I found a grave made in the Indian fashion.

"It was made of logs of spruce trees piled in the shape of a tunnel, with both ends sealed by logs and earth.

"It bore Indian hieroglyphics meaning 'white man buried here, 1851.'

"There were no trappers in that part of the Arctic in 1851, when the last of the Franklin survivors are believed to have died.

"Eskimos recorded at that time seeing red-bearded men near Chesterfield Inlet about 250 miles north."

### ESKIMO'S STORY

Finally with an English trapper, Derek Graham, and an Eskimo named Kubloo, Mr. Pease reached a point about 100 miles further north.

"Kubloo," said Mr. Pease, "told me that his grandfather had seen part of Franklin's party in that region and that there was an old camp nearby.

"Two days later we found the cairn with the buried relics.

"With them were a few bones, but they appear to be of a dog or other animal."

One morning Mr. Pease left his ice hut to find that the ice on which his camp was built had become detached from the main column and was drifting out to sea.

"We were on a drifting island of ice about a mile square," he said.

"For three days we were at the mercy of the tides, always in danger of being blown hundreds of miles out to sea.

### **GOLD AND SILVER**

"Then the floe drifted back to the mainland. We lost half our stores and had to return to Fort Churchill."

During another part of his trip Mr. Pease charted several small lakes which would be suitable for landing machines for an Arctic air route.

He stated that he also found deposits of gold and silver for which he has staked provisional claims. He hopes shortly to return to exploit them and to find the grave of Franklin.

Franklin's vessels, the *Erebus* and *Terror*, were trapped in the ice off King William Island in 1846. Franklin died in 1847.