

"Now followed a time when the lanes grew worse than ever, and we began to toil in grim earnest. Lanes and cracks went crosswise in every direction. The ice was sometimes uneven, and the surface loose and heavy between the irregularities.

"If one could get a bird's-eye view of this ice; the lanes would form a veritable net-work of irregular meshes. Woe to him who lets himself get entangled in it!

"Wednesday, May 29th. Yesterday I inaugurated a great change, and began with 'komager.' It was an agreeable transition. One's feet keep nice and dry now, and one is furthermore saved the trouble of attending to the Finn shoes\* night and morning. They were beginning in this mild temperature to assume a texture like our native 'lefser,' a kind of tough rye-cake. Then, too, one need no longer sleep with wet rags on one's chest and legs to dry them."

That day we saw our first bird; a fulmar (*Procellaria glacialis*).

"Thursday, May 30th. At 5 o'clock yesterday morning we set forth with the buoyancy born of the belief that now at last the whole network of lanes was behind us; but we had not gone far before the reflection of new

northwest coast of Franz Josef Land even in winter, this can easily be imagined.

\* Whereas Finn shoes are made of reindeer-skin with the hair on, "komager" are made of under-tanned hide without hair, generally from the ox or bearded seal (*Phoca barbata*), with tops of reindeer-skin. They are strong and water-proof. (See description of equipment.)