

## Discovered Silver Says Capt. Bernier

Northern Territory Rich in Minerals, Declares Explorer

Quebec, Sept. 24.—Captain Joseph Bernier, the sixty-six-year-old veteran voyager, is safely back once more in Canada full of praise of Baffin's Land, and enthusiastic about the 40,000 miles of fishing rights which he says surround it. In addition, he tells of having discovered a "middle passage," which he found entirely free from ice.

His seventh and latest trip to the Arctic regions lasted altogether 446 days. He left Quebec on July 1, 1915, and returned Thursday with a valuable cargo of furs, which he had entirely disposed of before nightfall.

Captain Bernier was seen in the little desk house of his trim little ship "Guide," surrounded by friends glad to see him back again and listening to his yarns. The "Guide" is a short vessel of only 156 tons. She is double-plated and easily stands the ice pressure during the winter months. Her captain is a short, stout, sturdy French-Canadian, wearing a coarse blue jersey, with a close-cropped grey moustache, round face, brick red with much exposure, and bald head. He speaks excellent English, but with a slight French accent.

### SEARCHES FOR DAYS

Captain Bernier said that after leaving last July he had heard that the Cluett party, who were

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searching for the McMillan expedition, were in bad straits at Parker Snow Bay in the north of Greenland, so he made his way there and arrives on August 27, 1916. There he could find neither vessel nor party. Four days of diligent search revealed that the others had been there because some coal oil, lead and a number of furs were finally discovered.

At last Captain Bernier concluded that the Cluett party were



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probably on their way home, so he set sail for Pard's Inlet Baffin's Land, where Captain Bernier has an estate of 1,200 acres of land with four houses and camps.

It was only after a voyage of incredible hardship, through encountering bad weather and out-flowing ice, that Pard's Inlet was reached. Here the Bernier party spent all winter and summer trading with the Esquimaux, hunting and fishing.

"We left my chief officer in charge," continued Capt. Bernier, and sailed for home on August 27, coming down by way of the new-found "middle passage," without meeting a piece of ice.

"Where is that middle passage?" asked his interviewer.

"Better for me not to mention," was the reply. "Why should I tell my secrets to anyone?" It is sufficient to know that we arrived in the Straits of Belle Isle after sixteen days' voyage, having gone three days further west than we had wintered. We were detained in the Straits by strong gales, but arrived here to-day, with all hands well."

### BAFFIN'S LAND POSSIBILITIES

Asked what Baffin's Land was like, and its possibilities, Capt. Bernier described it as like the Yukon. "When people scratch the ground they will find what they need," he continued. "I found silver."

"Whereabouts?"

"I won't tell you, but the Government has my samples."

The Esquimaux, Capt. Bernier believes, will become good Canadians. "They can be civilized," he contended, "if we send out people, priests and ministers to them. The old people are hard to convert, but the young generation in thirty years will be just as good as the people here. We will have to tell them how to build houses and to provide for the future. Before we arrived some of them were starving for lack of proper tools."

"The Esquimaux had never heard of the war, but we had lots of magazines and illustrated papers with us, and they took much interest. We were able to give them an idea of the destruction and trouble that was going on."

**PROUD THEY CAN BURN THE EARTH**

In the mineral possibilities the captain has great hopes. Besides

the silver he discovered, he found traces of copper and iron pyrites, which if analyzed may be worth something. "There is plenty of coal," he declared. "I found many seams. Of course it would be scarcely worth carrying all that distance, but it should prove workable for those who live there. We have got the Esquimaux to use coal now instead of oil. We brought them stoves. They are very proud to know that they 'can burn the earth' now."

But it is the prospect of a successful fishing industry away up north about which Capt. Bernier seems most enthusiastic. Salmon and halibut abound and there are many traces of cod.

"The whole area of the land I have annexed," he declared, "amounts to nearly 500,000 square miles. Asking only the three-mile limit round these you have 46,000 square miles of fishing rights." I noticed on the Newfoundland Banks that there was scarcely any. Yet you know how valuable fish is in Canada to-day."

Capt. Bernier will probably go back next summer, when he will see again his chief officer, Wilfrid Caron, who is left alone among the Esquimaux to supply their wants and watch the traps.

### Why Not Blame Yourself

(London Daily Telegraph)

The last person whom the consumer thinks of blaming is himself. He forgets that but for the insistence of his demand prices could not have been forced up so high. If by some happy miracle the whole nation turned thrifty overnight, and everyone woke up tomorrow with an overpowering desire to spend just as little as possible, and everything luxurious and unnecessary ceased to appeal to those with whom it had hitherto been a "darling sin," there would be a universal slump in prices within a week, and within a month the Chancellor of the Exchequer would find himself almost embarrassed by the new money seeking investment.

### The Spirit of France

(The London Times.)

France paid, too, and paid heavily; but now, after fifteen months have gone, takes that for which she paid. Now the weight of artillery is with her. But it is not only artillery. The spirit of France lives in the "extraordinary patience of the French soldier, which, combined with his excellent physique, makes his mind and body so untired in spite of the tremendous mental and bodily strain of the war that he seems today just as full of energy and even more determined than in the first enthusiasm of the rush into Alsace and Lorraine." Verdun was always the key to the defence of France. In the last few days one after another of the bastions of that defence, which Germany won in the spring of 1916, have been regained. There is in this the whole hope and confidence of the Alliance. What Germany has won and still holds she will in due course be made to restore; that and more also.

### Russians on The Offensive

Petrograd, Sept. 24.—Russian forces on the Riga front, in the region south of the Pskoff high road, yesterday took the offensive, and after a fierce struggle occupied the German positions in the sector of Silzeme, the Russian war office announced to-day.

The Germans sustained severe losses and left 400 corpses on the battlefield. The Russians took sixty prisoners and 10 machine guns.

## No Advance in 3 Years

With war-time prices so terribly high for nearly every article of food, it must be a particular satisfaction to those who love good coffee to know that there has been no advance in the price of Red Rose Coffee for three years—and the great increase in the sale of Red Rose Coffee this year shows that the price is appreciated.

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## Red Rose Coffee



## How British Troops Were Saved

WITH THE BRITISH FORCES IN SALONIKI, Aug. 10.—

(Correspondence)—This is the story of how the geese of Kale Zir gave the warning and saved a British detachment.

When the Bulgars left their native fastnesses, and came down into the plains, the advance was halted by a certain famous river and a his toric lake. A British company was holding the Upper Lake, for it was divided into two parts connected by the river. The company was charged with responsibility for the Upper Lake and five miles of the connecting stream as far as Kale-Zir. They had absolute command of the lake, thanks to the motor-boats, and a crossing there was inconceivable, but the river flowed through a mass of reeds and swamps and forests, most parts of which appeared absolutely impenetrable from the British side. A feeling of comparative safety prevailed the British camp.

Then one evening the orderly officer set out from the camp on his bicycle to visit two outposts up the river, nearly two miles from the camp. It was very dark. As he neared the sentry he heard the movement of wings, and distinguished flock after flock of ducks flying from their night rest among the reeds.

"Looks odd," he remarked to the sentry. Then, to a sergeant, "I'll take one man, sergeant, and we'll cycle down the path and have a look."

The path ran a quarter of a mile along the marsh and then died an abrupt death in a stifling fence of reeds. The officer and his orderly dismounted and listened. They could discern over in the swamp a long line of men in single file.

Back at the picket post the orderly sent a man to warn the camp, while he remained behind to keep the enemy raiders under observation. The raiders were 200 strong, under the command of a German officer. They kept to the path un-

til just before it came into a clearing. Then they halted and prepared to attack. They got into a loose sort of open order and came on quickly. At that moment the British officer fired four shots. Immediately a light over the British camp appeared. The glare was dazzling. There was a moment's silence and then a roar of fire. It was a complete surprise. The raiders were bunched close, and must have had fifty casualties in the first fusillade. They made no attempt to resist, but flung everything away and made for the maize fields.

The first person picked up was the German officer in charge of the enterprise, who had been hit in the thigh. Altogether there was 25 dead and 58 wounded, while 35 more surrendered during the morning at different places and more kept giving themselves up for several days. Probably not more than five or six ever got back to the Bulgar lines.

### Can Go Too Far

John Barrymore, the actor, was talking about the styles in women's clothes. "You know the new fashion," he said, "bronze silk stockings and high-heeled bronze shoes worn with a very short skirt? Well, a young Philadelphia lawyer, in his desire to do justice to this new fashion as displayed by a very beautiful girl leaned too recklessly out of his office window, fell to the sidewalk and broke his arm and a leg. This teaches us that in following the fashion we can go too far."

### A Cheap Sport

U. S. Secretary of War Baker tells a story of a country youth who was driving to the county fair with his sweetheart when they passed a booth where fresh popcorn was for sale.

"My, Abner, ain't that nice?" said the girl.

"Ain't what nice?" asked stupid Abner.

"Why, the popcorn; it smells so awful good," replied the girl.

"It does smell kind o' fine," drawled the youth. "I'll jest drive a little closer so you can get a better smell."

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