

CHAPTER VII

That's Ice Ahead, Mister!

By this time her life had become fairly routine -- out from San Francisco for Nushagak ⁱⁿ each April, and back in September, year in and year out. Of course, there were little incidents here and there, like that on her 1907 voyage. That year Star of India got to the Nushagak River in safety, and came to an anchor. Ice was heavy, however, and on May 13, exactly a week after her arrival, a huge mass of it came ^{crackling} ~~cracking~~ and grinding down the river, rode up onto her anchor-chain and carried it away. Luckily, they had not ^{yet} sent down her ~~stays~~ ^{canvas}, and there were enough men left aboard so that they were able to make sail. ~~and~~ After a few hectic hours they reached a safe spot and let go the remaining ~~xxxxxx~~ anchor; finding the original one, and its 50 fathoms of chain, would have to wait until the ice was gone.

The 1909 voyage was no picnic, either. They left on April 10 and by May 1 were through the ~~Pass~~ Pass and up to solid ice, where Star of Iceland¹ and an unidentified bark joined them the next day. Then a snow-storm blotted out everything, clearing by May 4 to reveal that they had been joined by the steamer Kvichak, as helpless as themselves, and by the barkentine St. Daniel. Next to be added to their frustrated group were the wooden ship Berlin and their own fleet-mate Star of Italy. More snow came on May 7, but the ice opened a bit and they got into a little broken water. Another week and the whole Bristol Bay fleet was with them, and nothing in sight ahead but solid ice. A gale on May 16 loosened it up and they got through ^{to Nushagak; ice delays had} ~~when Star of India finally~~ cost them a fortnight's time. ~~came to an anchor, she had been delayed 15 days by ice.~~

The next year wasn't quite so bad. They made the Pass on May 1, 1910, in foggy weather; it cleared May 5, to reveal ice. At 11 o'clock that night they hit it -- and it was solid -- but they called all hands on deck ^{backed the} ~~the~~

¹The former British bark Willscott -- American registry through the courtesy of Hawaii!