

Mr. George W. Stose will complete the areal and economic surveys on the Pawpaw and Hancock quadrangles, in West Virginia and Maryland. He will be assisted by Mr. E. F. Burchard.

Wisconsin.—Professor U. S. Grant will make an areal and economic survey of the Mineral Point quadrangle, Wisconsin. The work will probably be done in cooperation with the state survey of Wisconsin.

BARON TOLL.

PRINCE KROPOTKIN contributes to the last number of the *Geographical Journal* an account of the return of the expedition sent to search for Baron Toll, under the direction of Lieutenant Kolchak. There appears to be little hope that Baron Toll and Dr. Seeberg have survived. The last news from them is a letter found in Bennett Island and dated November 8, 1902. It is as follows:

In company with the astronomer, F. G. Seeberg, and two hunters, the Tungus Nicholas Diakonoff and the Yakut Vassili Gorokhoff, on June 7, I left the winter harbor of the *Zarya* (Nerpichiya Bay of Kotelnii Island). We followed the northern coasts of Kotelnii and Thadéeff Islands, keeping our course towards Cape Visoki on New Siberia. On June 13 I took the course towards Bennett Island. The ice was pretty broken. On June 25, three miles from Cape Visoki, the ice was definitely broken. Preparing to take to our *baidaras* [leather boats], we killed our last dogs. From here we were carried on an ice-floe, for four and a half days, 48 miles in the desired direction. Then, having noticed that our ice-floe had drifted 10 miles southwards, we left it on July 31, and after having covered the remaining 23 miles in our *baidaras*, landed on August 3 on Bennett Island, at Cape Emma.

According to the survey of Seeberg, who has also determined the magnetical elements both here and on the journey—in ten places in all—Bennett island is a plateau, not higher than 1,500 feet. By its geological structure it appears as a continuation of the plateau of Middle Siberia, which is built up, here also, of very ancient marine deposits (Cambrian),

pierced by irruptions of basalt. In places one finds, under the sheets of basalt, deposits of brown coal with relics of vegetation, namely conifers. In the valleys of the island, bones of mammoths and other Quaternary-period animals, washed out of the deposits, are found occasionally.

As to the present inhabitants of Bennett Island, they are, besides the temporary visitor, the walrus, the polar bear and the reindeer. A herd of some thirty of the latter wandered on the rocky feeding-ground of the island. We fed upon them, and made out of their skins the fur cloth and the boots required for the winter journey. The following birds stay here: two species of *Somateria*, one sandpiper, one bullfinch and five species of gulls, including the roseate one.

As for migratory birds, we saw one eagle which flew south to north, one falcon which flew north to south, and geese whose flock went also north to south. Owing to fogs, we could not see the land wherefrom these birds came; neither could we see Sannikoff's Land, any more than during our last navigation.

We are going to leave here the following instruments: a reflecting circle with artificial horizon, a Krause's inclinometer, the anemometer, the photographic apparatus 'Norah,' and some others.

To-day we are going southwards. We have provisions for fourteen to twenty days. All in good health. $76^{\circ} 38' \text{ N. lat.}, 149^{\circ} 42' \text{ E. long.}$

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

LORD KELVIN celebrated his eightieth birthday on June 26.

MR. W. H. M. CHRISTIE, the astronomer royal, and Sir David Gill, of the Cape Observatory, have been elected corresponding members of the Paris Bureau des Longitudes.

THE University of Manchester has conferred the doctorate of science on Professor Bohuslav Brauner, Ph.D., of the Czech University of Prague, Mr. Ludwig Mond, F.R.S., and Mr. W. H. Perkin. Professor Dixon, in making the presentations, said Dr. Brauner was an old student of this university, and one of