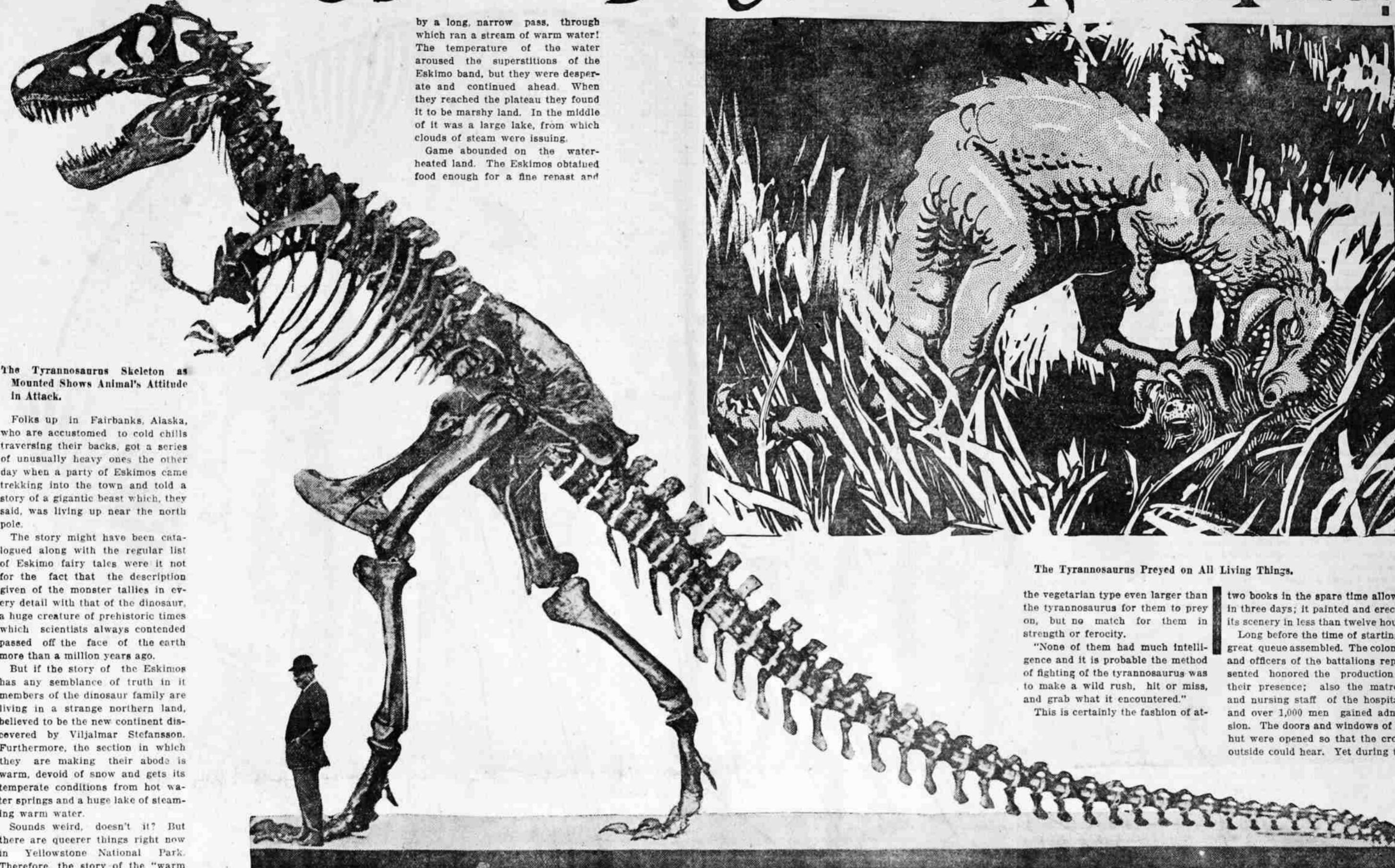


Magazine Feature Section

Is the Deadly Dinosaur Dining near the North Pole!



The Tyrannosaurus Skeleton as Mounted Shows Animal's Attitude in Attack.

Folks up in Fairbanks, Alaska, who are accustomed to cold chills traversing their backs, got a series of unusually heavy ones the other day when a party of Eskimos came trekking into the town and told a story of a gigantic beast which, they said, was living up near the north pole.

The story might have been catalogued along with the regular list of Eskimo fairy tales were it not for the fact that the description given of the monster tallies in every detail with that of the dinosaur, a huge creature of prehistoric times which scientists always contended passed off the face of the earth more than a million years ago.

But if the story of the Eskimos has any semblance of truth in it members of the dinosaur family are living in a strange northern land, believed to be the new continent discovered by Viljalmar Stefansson. Furthermore, the section in which they are making their abode is warm, devoid of snow and gets its temperate conditions from hot water springs and a huge lake of steaming warm water.

Sounds weird, doesn't it? But there are queer things right now in Yellowstone National Park. Therefore, the story of the "warm country near the north pole" and of the "big demons" said to be living in it cannot be branded as "impossible."

WAS KING OF BEASTS.

Among those who heard the tales of the Eskimos was Henry C. Coe, Jr., son of Henry C. Coe, a famous New York physician. The story soon found its way to New York and then to the American Museum of Natural History. Officials of that great institution declared, after hearing of the "northern monster," that the description fitted in every detail that of the tyrannosaurus, a gigantic flesh-eating reptile of the cretaceous age, who in his time was the "king of beasts."

The tyrannosaurus was a member of the dinosaur family. A skeleton of one just has been mounted in the American Museum. It is forty-eight feet in length and eighteen feet high. Also it has a head like a barrel, and double rows of long, sharp teeth. While officials of the American Museum expressed themselves as being more than doubtful as to the truth of the story told by the Eskimos, they still, figuratively speaking, "held an ace in the hole" by quoting from "Hamlet."

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, Than thy philosophy ever dreamed of."

Now for the tale of the Eskimos. Several weeks ago a straggling band of them trailed into Fairbanks. A grizzled old man led them. He carried a piece of frozen flesh about a foot square. His band had skins to trade, and one of the white men who was dickered with them asked what they intended doing with the piece of frozen flesh. The old man drew back in apparent alarm.

"Him great luck-giver," he said. "We no sell him."

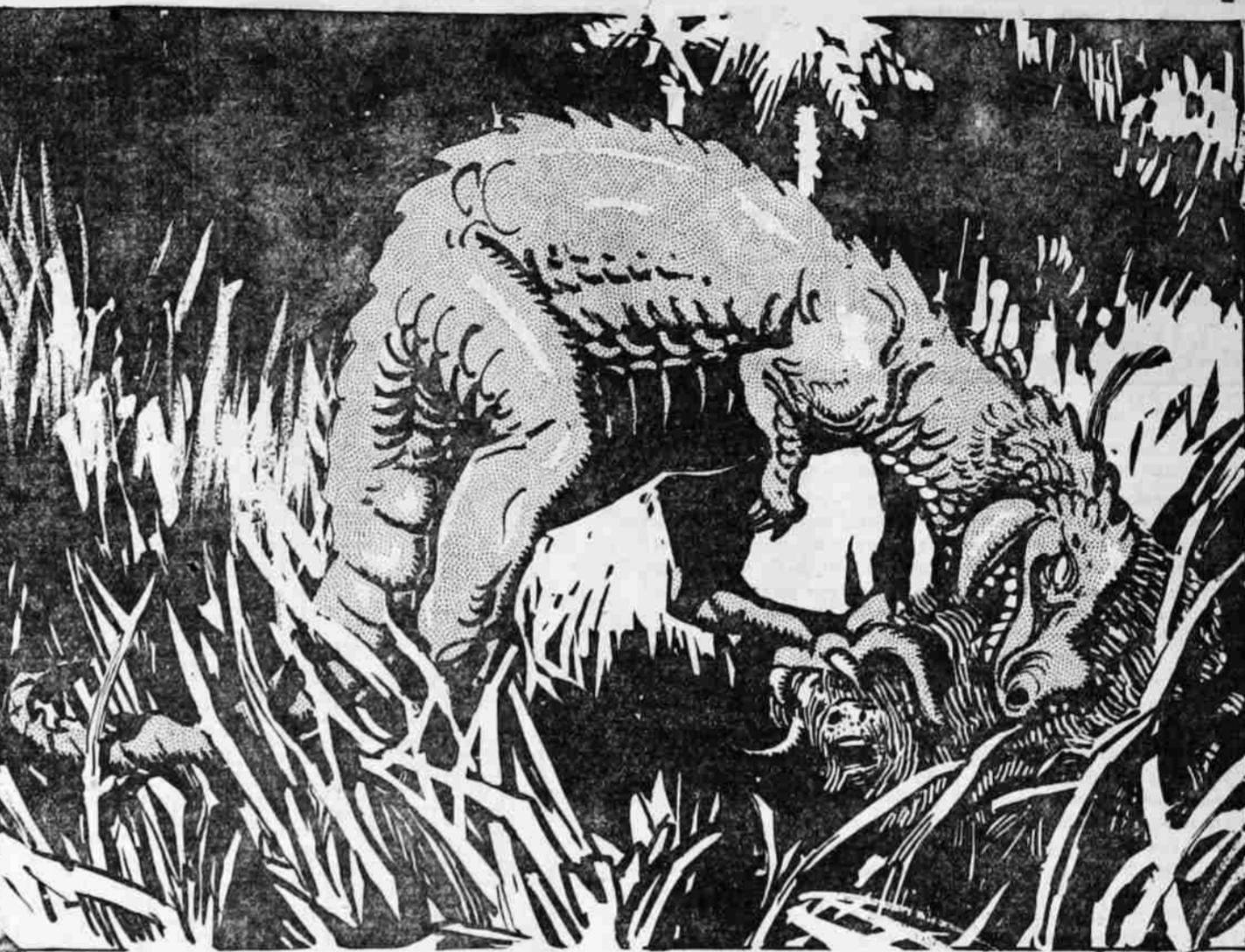
"Ugh! Far, far up," was the somewhat mystic reply. "No flesh, no bird that flies, no anything. Him come from big demon. Big demon kill two of our tribe. Him bring great luck."

SWEEP TO STRANGE LAND.

It was with difficulty and much patience that the trader got from the Eskimos the story of the frozen

by a long, narrow pass, through which ran a stream of warm water! The temperature of the water aroused the superstitions of the Eskimo band, but they were desperate and continued ahead. When they reached the plateau they found it to be marshy land. In the middle of it was a large lake, from which clouds of steam were issuing.

Game abounded on the water-heated land. The Eskimos obtained food enough for a fine reast and



The Tyrannosaurus Preyed on All Living Things.

the vegetarian type even larger than the tyrannosaurus for them to prey on, but no match for them in strength or ferocity.

"None of them had much intelligence and it is probable the method of fighting of the tyrannosaurus was to make a wild rush, hit or miss, and grab what it encountered."

This is certainly the fashion of at-

two books in the spare time allowed in three days; it painted and erected its scenery in less than twelve hours.

Long before the time of starting a great queue assembled. The colonels and officers of the battalions represented honored the production by their presence; also the matrons and nursing staff of the hospitals, and over 1,000 men gained admission. The doors and windows of the hut were opened so that the crowd outside could hear. Yet during this

This Skeleton of a Tyannosaurus Came From Hell Creek Beds, Montana, and It Is Known That All That Part of the Country Had a Tropical Climate and Was Covered with Tropical Vegetation.

piece of flesh, which was the story of the "big demon."

The old Eskimo said that more than a year ago he and about fifty others were living on Thetis Island, off the northern extremity of Alaska. One day his son and eleven other men of the tribe went on a fishing expedition which carried them over the ice of the Arctic ocean. There was a sudden breaking up of the ice—one of those catastrophes of the far north which are the dread of every arctic explorer.

On a huge floe the Eskimos were carried out to sea. They had a few fish with them. They also had a firemaking machine, but very little else. They devoured the fish raw and remained huddled together on the floe, fearful lest it should split up again and hurl them into the icy water. For many days they drifted in the Arctic ocean. The days stretched out into weeks, and the little band had given itself up for lost when far off through the northern mist land was sighted. The floe drifted in that direction.

The Eskimos saw not only land, but mountain ranges—a strange, new country to them. Making their way ashore they found signs of game—of the musk ox, the arctic fox and reindeer. Having their own primitive weapons with them, they managed to get food enough to keep them alive, and at the same time wandered inland, hoping to find human beings.

For many days, they said, they tracked through the mountainous country. Finally they reached the top of a particularly high ridge and there surveyed their surroundings. To their great joy they saw far off in the distance a land which to them appeared to have fertility in it. They began the journey toward it.

This is according to the tale of the old Eskimo. The two men then aroused the other members of their party. All agreed that some 200 yards from them there dropped about in the marshy land a tremendous beast, which paused now and then to utter a peculiar whining sound—the noise that had attracted the attention of the Eskimo leader.

Being superstitious in the extreme, the Eskimos decided finally that the god of fortune had blessed them with comfort and then cursed them with false vision.

To propitiate the god they told off two of

of their number to approach the monster and speak to it in the hope it would vanish. The two young

Eskimos started off reluctantly.

As they advanced toward the "demon" it turned, eyed them for only a few moments and charged. The men easily dodged it, whereupon it turned, made a second charge, gave its tail a tremendous alligator-like twitch and felled the Eskimos. Then it deliberately hopped up to the prostrate and unconscious pair and finally disappeared entirely as they neared it.

The high, flat land was reached

PLATEAU A GRAVEYARD.

All of the remaining Eskimos still believed that they were laboring under some sort of a spell, that the monster was not real, that their companions had not been killed but would be restored to them by their "god of fate" as soon as they left the land of the hot water. So they crawled down from their rock eminence and crept away from the plateau. But in the snowy wastes food became scarce and finally they were compelled by hunger to return.

This time the "demon" was not in sight. The Eskimos killed what game they wanted and stocked up with plenty of food. Some of it they "cached" on the rock stretch on which they had slept. Then they proceeded to explore the plateau. It seemed to be an "animal graveyard."

Bones lay on all sides. Evidently the "demon" had more of its kind,

for in every direction were huge

three-toed marks which could have

been made by nothing but a monster of the species that had devoured the two men.

During one of the hunts by the Eskimos they came upon the dead body of a "demon." From it they cut a huge section of skin and flesh, to take with them as proof of their astounding experience. Then, over near the edge of the hot water lake, they saw a live "demon" pursuing a musk ox. It ran with a motion which the Eskimos described as a "tumbling rush." Without difficulty it overtook the panic-stricken musk ox and, as it had done with the two men, bowled the animal over with its bulky tail, then ate it.

That sight was too much for the little Eskimo band. They had seen enough. They voted to go back to the land of snow and ice and take no chances in the "domain of the demon."

So with the food they had "cached" they made their way off the fertile plateau, put back into the snowy mountains, wandered till the midnight sun disappeared and finally reached the ocean. There, footsore and heartsick, they put themselves on an ice floe and prayed to the "god of fate" to blow them back to their land. After many weeks they reached

ed it and returned to Thetis Island, where they told their wonderful story. Then, to silence all doubters, they produced the piece of hide and flesh which had been taken from the dead "demon."

"And so we make him demon skin the good luck giver for tribe, and it bring plenty of luck," concluded the old Eskimo who told the story at Fairbanks.

Now, what do scientists say of it all? Dr. W. D. Matthews of the American Museum of Natural History made this declaration:

"There is no possibility of the race of dinosaurs or any other creatures of that period existing on earth today. There may be parts of the earth where the mammoth or the mastodon could exist, but not so the great dinosaurs."

Asked concerning the characteristics of the beast, and especially the tyrannosaurus, his remarks sounded remarkably like the description given by the Eskimo.

"It was the largest of flesh-eating monsters of the cretaceous period, which means that it lived three or four million years ago," said Dr. Matthews, "and it preyed on all living things, even the other dinosaurs, whether flesh-eating or vegetarians."

Concerning its fighting qualities and methods he said:

HAD LITTLE INTELLIGENCE.

"Their battles were mighty, and a fight between two of the tyrannosaurus type must have been a fearsome spectacle. The evidences are that they fought usually over some conquered and fallen animal. Our specimen, which is the only one mounted, is forty-seven and a half feet long, eighteen and a half feet high, as posed, and I may say the pose was selected for the mounting after a very careful study of the way the bones ought to be put together and the animal's habits as we know them."

"This skeleton," continued the doctor, "came from Hell Creek beds, Montana, and it is known that all that part of the country was in the time that these monsters lived close to sea level, had a tropical climate and was covered with tropical vegetation. There were huge animals of

tack told about by the Eskimo, but Dr. Matthews smiled when reminded of it.

At any rate, the story of the "great demon" is being told in all the igloos of northern Alaska these days, and Eskimo mothers are saying to their youngsters who insist on going out when the ice isn't any too solid in the Arctic ocean:

"Be careful, oh, little child. The god of fate may frown, and then the wind will blow and you will be carried to the land of the great demon."

And straightway the "boy" runs into the igloo, crying lustily, for all the Eskimo children believe the "demon over the water" isn't a living thing, but a ghost, and can travel anywhere in any length of time. Selah!

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English Tommies Welcome Hamlet on the Firing Line.

Recently "Hamlet" was performed by soldiers of the British expeditionary force within a few hours' distance of the firing line. An officer of high standing who saw the play off the situation: "Our men do not live by bully beef alone; they need some food for the mind, and there is nothing better for them than the great thoughts of our great writers."

The play was performed in costume, with scenery painted in camp, and with not a word misplaced or forgotten in the rendering.

Four scenes were chosen—the ghost scene, the room in the castle where Hamlet decides on revenge, the great soliloquy, and the graveyard. The cast was chosen on the spot, neighboring towns and libraries were scoured for copies of the play, as there was no time to send to England. Luck turned our way, copies were secured, and in a town close by was a branch of a Paris theatrical costumer. Horatio looked more like Henry VIII. than the friend of Hamlet, while Hamlet's costume reminded one more of Mme. Tussaud's than of Sir J. Forbes-Robertson, but on active service one cannot be particular.

The company got itself together in an hour; it learned its parts from

growing excitement we were shutting out the thought that any one of our company of actors and stage hands might be called on duty any minute, for most of them were standing by waiting to go to the firing line.

The curtains were drawn and, instead of the usual respectful silence that greets the opening of a scene in Hamlet, there were yells of full-throated applause.

Hamlet was embarrassed by the cheers of the gods at the splendid fresh colors in the scenery, for many of these men had not seen stage colors since they left home, and for the time being Hamlet's scenery outshone Hamlet. Before the play was half through we breathed easily and knew the experiment to be justified.

The life behind the scenes was distinctly of the emergency type. A careless gunner smudged out of existence a whole tower of Elsinore with his shirt sleeve. Men accustomed for many months to obey suddenly found themselves in command. One was told to stitch up a hole in silk hose with a darning needle, another wanted a belt. "Give him a puttee." "My face is too white for the footlights." "Here, stick on some red distemper," and I believe the red distemper is still "stuck on."

Couldn't Stop Crying.

A benevolent old man, seeing a little tot weeping, went up to it and said: "Now, be a good boy and stop your crying."

"I can't," sobbed the child.

"But why can't you?"

"I can't!"

"Well, here's a penny; tell me why you can't be a good boy and stop crying."

"Cause I'm a girl!"

A Baseball Term.

He—"One out, and all the bases full; here's where we work the squeeze!"

She—"Oh, Harry, it's so public here; I wish you wouldn't please

Would He?

Jinks—"Would you marry a girl as pretty as a picture?"

Binks—"Yes, if she has a good frame."