

DEN DANSKE ARKTISKE STATION.
DISKO, GRØNLAND,

July 3d 1919

Professor M. L. Fernald,

Gray Herbarium, Harvard.

Dear Sir,

In a letter from Mr. W. Elmer Ekblaw, geologist and botanist of the "Crocker Land Expedition", received to-day, I read:

Because the American Museum had incurred such heavy expense in the expedition they were unable to make a place for me on their staff when I returned with sufficient salary to meet the high expenses of the war. My University ~~tried~~ tried to make a place for me, but I finally have had to go into industrial work in order to make a satisfactory living. Almost nothing of my work has yet been published though I have a great deal ready for the press. I do not know whether all my reports will ever be published or not.

During his long stay in various places of North Greenland and during his long travels on Ellesmereland Mr. Ekblaw brought together large botanical collections, often under very trying conditions. I have not seen them, but Mr. Ekblaw was kind enough in letters to send abstracts of his records. I am thus rather well acquainted with the most important of his findings, but I can of course make no use of matter confided to me by a friend for any publication, before he has published it himself. When the expedition had to return via Danish Greenland, Mr. Ekblaw stayed here some 6 weeks and we had many discussions about his results and their importance

of his collections for the general understanding of the Flora of Greenland as a whole, a problem especially interesting for my studies. Also his collections will contain several verifications to earlier american lists, in which unintended confusion of the collections with such from South Greenland probably has arisen.

Here Mr. Ekblaw studied my herbarium and the scandinavian arctic botanical literature and he made collections of plants from South Disko for comparison. I daily witnessed his diligence and his delight in bringing a good result in this branch for his efforts during 5 long years of his life.

I cannot help, it seems to me an injustice towards Mr. Ekblaw that the results of his good service cannot be utilized, and it seems unwise for one of the greatest scientific institutions in the world to economize in the utilizing of the results, even when the expedition became ^{more} expensive than expected. The subsequent Danish expedition (K. Rasmussen) covered partially the same area. The collections of my late unfortunate friend Dr. Wulff are now in the hands of Dr. C. H. Ostenfeld and will probably soon be ready for publishing, while Mr. Ekblaw's, gathered long time before, are still delayed.

I allow me - without awaiting Mr. Ekblaw's approval - ^{an appeal} (to your great influence in that matter, trusting that a word of yours will acquire full consideration by the American Museum. It will be necessary for Mr. Ekblaw to revise his identifications at some large museum, perhaps also to get a little help in difficult matters. When here, he planned to elaborate his lists under your guidance and after their publishing make studies in the arctic herbariums of Copenhagen, Stockholm and Christiania and lastly write a book on the

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Flora and Vegetation of Ellesmereland and North Greenland
as a these for a doctor's degree.

Hoping, dear Sir, that you will not take this
appeal from a person not known to you in bad part, I remain,

With assurance of great esteem,

Yours truly,

Morten P. Porsild.



Porsild, Morten P. 1919. "Porsild, Morten P. July 3, 1919." *Merritt Lyndon Fernald correspondence*

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