NOTICE OF THE OCCURRENCE OF A PLEISTOCENE CAMEL NORTH OF THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

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JAMES WILLIAMS GIDLEY
Assistant Curator of Fossil Mammals, U. S. National Museum

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While collecting recent mammals for the U. S. National Museum during the summer of 1912, along the Yukon-Alaskan boundary, Mr. Copeley Amory, Jr., Collaborator in Zoology, U. S. National Museum, obtained a small lot of Pleistocene mammal bones from a locality about 50 miles from the mouth of Old Crow River, in the Yukon Territory. This little collection proves to be of more than ordinary interest and importance, since it contains one of the phalanges of a camel. The association of this specimen with isolated foot bones and teeth of *Elephas primigenius*, *Equus*, and *Bison*, with which it agrees exactly in color and degree of fossilization, pretty definitely determines it as Pleistocene in age.

The specimen in itself is insignificant, yet its presence in the collection proves beyond question the former existence of camels in this far north country. Hitherto the northern limit of their range in America was not known to extend beyond the Silver Lake (Christmas Lake), Oregon, locality, which place is but little north of the 43d parallel, although camels of several large species were very abundant on this continent during both the Pliocene and Pleistocene periods.

The finding of camel remains in the Pleistocene deposits of the Alaskan peninsula is not altogether unlooked for, but their occurrence so far within the Arctic Circle was scarcely to be expected. This verification of their former presence in that region, therefore, is of especial interest in that it vastly extends the known geographic distribution of this important group of mammals in America during the Pleistocene, while incidentally it adds proof in support of the supposition that milder climatic conditions prevailed in Alaska during probably the greater part of the Pleistocene period. It is also one more bit of evidence confirming the theory of the existence of a wide Asiatic-Alaskan land connection of comparatively recent date, which for a very considerable length of time served as a great highway for the free transmigration of mammals between America and the Old World.

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While this phalanx, a left of the proximal pair, is characteristically tylopoid and absolutely unmistakable as regards its group reference, it is not specifically determinable. It agrees approximately in size and proportions with the corresponding element in *Camelops kansas* Leidy, as that species is at present understood, but is flatter, and in this respect more nearly resembles the phalanges seen in the living genus *Camelus*.