

being among other things an important cause of the cyclones passing across the Atlantic.

This may perhaps to some extent explain why I attach so much importance to our planned expedition, and would consider it to be a great loss if it should not be possible to undertake it. This is now, however, a question of money. The air-ship is placed at our disposal for the expedition in April and May 1930. The equipment is being prepared and also all other necessary preparations are advancing in a satisfactory manner. By a contract with the Hearst papers, and also contract for the news-rights in Continental Europe, a sum of about 210,000 dollars is secured. In addition we can reckon with the income obtained by the rights of the book to be written (by myself probably) about the expedition. In this manner we expected that we had sufficient to cover the expences of the expedition, an important part of which will be the insurance of the air-ship (about 125,000 dollars).

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Now it turns out, however, that the expences connected with the establishment of our station in Fairbanks in Alaska, will be considerably greater than we expected, and that some more money will probably be required for this purpose. The American Government, the Army-air corps has shown us the great favour of ~~be~~ being willing to lend us the 5000 steel cylinders which we need for the transportation of compressed gas (propan-gas). But we shall have to cover the expences connected with the transport of these cylinders from the east-coast to the west-coast of the United States, then filling with gas, and then transport to Seward and Fairbanks (by sail) and then after having been used back again. We shall also have to send (probably from Germany) a plant for developing hydrogen which must be erected in Fairbanks, and then a mooring-mast, which, however, is no big affair. We hope that the American Government (The Department of the Interior) may be able to see its way to give us some reduction of the freights to Fairbanks; but as matters now stand I am afraid that we may need additionally something towards 50,000 dollars to cover all expences, and I shall have to try to raise this sum.

Now I would be extremely thankful for your advice in this matter, and for your opinion whether you think there may be some possibility that the Norwegians in the States would be able to help us by subscribing something towards the expences connected with the establishment of our station in Fairbanks?

As you will understand, we have secured sufficient money to cover the chief part of all expences, we have the excellent air-ship and a scientific equipment which will be unique, and we will be able