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A SNOW YACHT ON A DAKOTA PRAIRIE.

In the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN of November 14, 1885, we gave some interesting illustrations of sail skating, as practiced in the vicinity of Copenhagen, Denmark, and the enlivening sport which is to be had out of the ice boat, as the swift craft are managed by Hudson River ice yachtmen, has often been described; but the illustration herewith represents a decidedly new phase of exhilarating enjoyment in diversions of this kind. It is a practical snow yacht, constructed and used during the past winter by Dr. H. M. Wheeler, of Grand Forks, Dakota, our illustrations being made from photographs which he has furnished us.

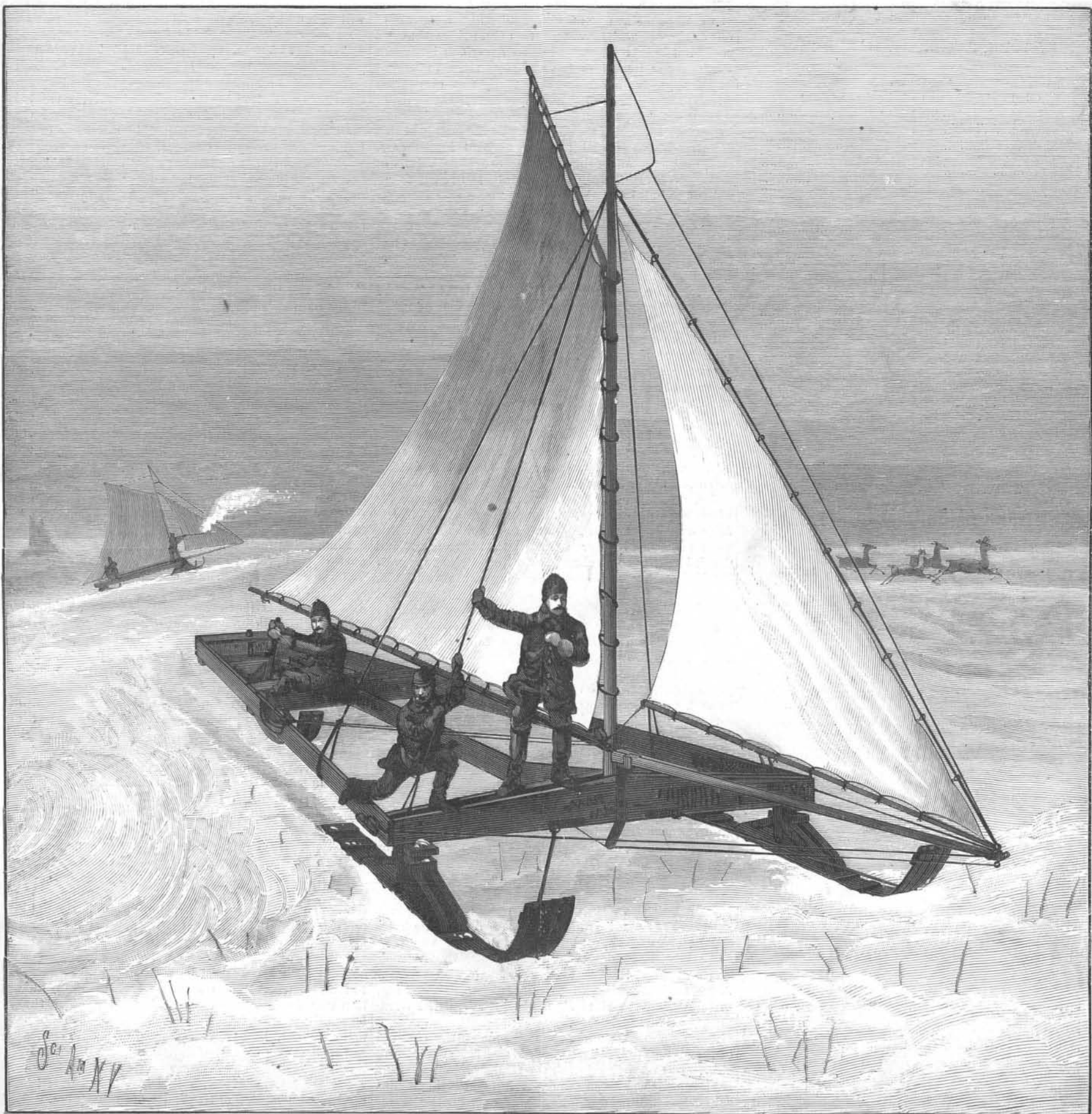
This snow yacht of the prairie is 32 ft. long and 14 ft. beam, with mast 20 ft., main boom 22 ft., gaff 12 ft.,

and jib boom 12½ ft. The frame is of 2 in. by 8 in. plank, set vertically. The runner plank double. The mast is set between 2 in. by 12 in. plank, that taper to 8 in. high at each side, and are 6 in. apart. The runners are strong toboggans; the front ones being 1 ft. wide, and made of ½ in. ash, 9 ft. on the run, and turned up 18 in. in front. They are hung to the runner plank with hinge joints, and stayed by malleable iron braces from runner plank to inner and front part of runner. The front runners are made of four 3 in. strips of ash, and have a central shoe 2 ft. long, projecting 1¼ in. to prevent drifting. The rear runner resembles the front ones, except that it is only 6 in. wide, being made of two strips of ash. The framework is 3 ft. across the stern, and the tiller is attached directly

to the rear runner, instead of to the rudder post, in which position it did not stand the strain.

The speed of this yacht is given by its builder as from ten to forty miles an hour; but this must be with the wind on the beam, as she will not gain much with the wind at a right angle, and hence cannot beat up to windward. When going about, it is done by wearing.

The past winter has afforded considerable sport to owners of ice yachts, but who can say that the blizzards of the Northwest are not hereafter to be relieved of some of their terrors by this snow yacht of the prairie, and that the new sport may not become as fashionable in the future as buffalo hunting was ten or fifteen years ago?



SAILING BEFORE THE WIND IN A SNOW YACHT ON A DAKOTA PRAIRIE,