

DR. FRED COOK ADMITS FRAUD

Grinning and Defiant He Meets Interviewers on Steamship Named After Man Who Never Told Lie.

STILL INSISTS THAT HE DID CLIMB MT. M'KINLEY

Alleged Explorer of North Pole Goes to Hotel Where Eighteen Months Ago He Spun His Discovery Yarn.

New York, Dec. 24.—Dr. Cook, the alleged champion faker of the world, came gaily and openly back to America Thursday night on the North German Lloyd steamship—O, nerve of steel!—the North German Lloyd steamship George Washington!

That was only an incident of the picturesque effrontery that marked all the sly-eyed, smiling Doc said and did in the public eye as the George Washington swept up to her Hoboken pier and afterward when he went to the Waldorf-Astoria—went back to the very same suite in which he had sat and talked and talked a year and a half ago in the perpetration of what he himself asserts, has been called the "most monumental hoax in history."

Since he left the country after his north pole fake was exposed in November, 1909, the doctor has been back to the United States once. That was seven weeks ago. But then, under an assumed name, he sneaked back as he had done away, entering the country by way of Quebec and spending three weeks conferring with the editors of a magazine which intends to give the doc the use of its columns to show just what form of mental mix-up he was in when he came to the conclusion he was the immortal hero of the Arctic.

Women Put Him to Flight.

The thirty-five old woman in a Newburg, N. Y., hotel saw through the doctor's wheedlers, his favorite Hawshaw form of disguise, and that put him on the run. So he left the United States on the run again and, by the way, from the same port, Quebec, and on the same steamship, the Virginia, on which he made his flight when the denunciation of scientists, the challenges of Peary and the jeers of the public "got on his nerves."

Well, there was nothing the matter with his nerves when he got back. From his manner he might have been coming back as the discoverer of the other pole, such was the grinning confidence of his demeanor. He had made up his mind to come completely out of hiding, and as the steered in the main saloon of the George Washington, facing the reporters, his smile ever uppermost, his eyes were blinking defiantly, his hands thrust in his pockets were jingling some of the coin that accrued to him from his lecture tour as the hero of the north pole and his aspect was wholly that of the smart adventurer, asking "What are you going to do about it?"

Cheerfully Admits Fraud.

He admitted he had never discovered the pole and the action of the University of Copenhagen savants, who threw out his claim to the discovery of the pole in disdain, was to be accepted. But if he had any understanding that this admission involved the acknowledgment he had taken honors that belonged to another man and had accepted big sums of money from the public by assuming the false guise of an international hero, Doc Cook was not displaying it in any fashion.

He wore the same grin, the same sly twinkle in his eyes that he had when he fooled the public of New York and stood bowing to his cheers, his neck garlanded with a huge horseshoe of roses. Needless to say there were no garlands for the doc last Thursday night; no shrieking whistles of acclaim; no cheering crowds. The only thing that might be regarded as a decoration peculiarly applicable to the doctor's vicinity were the Yuletide drapings of the George Washington's main saloon, for these were of ever-green goods.

Just How the Doc Looked.

In the saloon he stood under the full light, very well clad in a dark gray suit, a handsome jewel in his scarf and a ring glistening on his finger. His face was broken and the eyes that gave so intense an expression of cunning to his blue-gray eyes were deeper than ever. He gave out a formal typewritten statement and asserted that he would say no more, but the reporters noting that this statement merely declared he was going to set forth his complete tale in a magazine, expressed their dissatisfaction. "O, well," said the doc with a grin. (Continued on page 2)

CHRISTMAS MUSIC IN CITY CHURCHES

Splendid Programs Have Been Arranged for the Occasion in the Leading Edifices.

The music in the city churches tomorrow will be of the usual Christmas nature. At St. Lawrence's six masses will be celebrated, making an almost continuous service from 6:30 o'clock to the last mass at 10 o'clock. At high mass at 6:30, the following musical program will be given:

Organ prelude.....Adeste Fideles
Kyrie Eleison.....Millard
Gloria in Excelsis Deo.....Millard
Credo.....La Hache
Offertory.....Adeste Fideles.....Novello
By the Choir.

Sanctus.....Millard
Benedictus.....Gounod
Agnus Dei.....Laprovost
"Holy Night," baritone solo.....Gounod
J. H. Martin.

At All Souls' church there will be the communion service and the singing of a Christmas anthem and other Christmas music. The afternoon service will be a carol service with the singing of the beautiful old Christmas carols.

At the Ora Street Presbyterian church the Christmas music in the morning will include a solo, "The Birth of the King," by Dr. C. E. Reed. In the evening a quintet of ladies will sing the chorus "The Star of the East."

At the First Baptist church there will be special music at both services. The evening will be given up largely to Herbert's beautiful Christmas cantata, with only a sermonette, a ten-minute talk, by the pastor, Dr. W. M. Vines. The program for both services follows:

Morning Service.
Prelude—Hark! the Herald Angels Sing.....Mendelssohn
Solo—O Little Town of Bethlehem.....Barney
Miss May Corcoran.
Offertory—Christmas Pastorate, Weiman
Postlude March.....Vincent
Evening Service.

Prelude—Holy Night.....Dudley Buck
Hymn—Joy to the World.....Hymn—Hark! Ten Thousand Harps and Voices.

Cantata Part I.
The Prophecy.....Binet
Offertory—Bergues.....Binet
Cantata Part II.
The Fulfillment.

Postlude—Hozanna.....Wachs
Soloists: Miss May Corcoran, Miss Pearl Shope, Miss Blanche Lofrain and Ed Moore.

There will be no special music at the Christmas church, nor at the First Presbyterian. Dr. R. F. Campbell, pastor of the Presbyterian church, will preach a Christmas sermon tomorrow evening: Judah, of 12 evening sermons.

At the Central Methodist church there will be two Christmas anthems sung at the morning service:

Sing, O Sing, This Blessed Morn.
Rogers
There Were Shepherds.....
Soloist: Mrs. Jas. G. Stikeleather.
Harker
Soloists: Mrs. J. M. Burns, Zebulon F. Curtis.

MEREDITH LYDA GETS A 12 YEARS' SENTENCE

Special to The Gazette-News.
Henderson, Dec. 24.—The jury in the case of Meredith Lyda, charged with the murder of his father, this morning returned a verdict of guilty of murder in the second degree, and Judge Long imposed a sentence of 12 years. The mother, brother and sister of Lyda, indicted as accessories, are acquitted.

The special term of Superior court adjourned at 9:30. A second bill sent in by the solicitor against Joe Cairnes, accused as the slayer of a woman of the Hillmore estate, was returned by the grand jury as a true bill.

Alabama Marble Co. Plant Destroyed

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 24.—A message from Etowah, Ga., tells of the destruction by fire last night of the Alabama Marble company mill, a concern owned by New York capitalists. Loss is estimated at \$500,000.

Bob-Sled Collides With Iron Post; Six Injured.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Dec. 24.—Two boys and four girls were seriously injured when their bob-sled collided with an iron post.

Detective Shot and Killed.

Chicago, Dec. 24.—Detective Jesse Gilman was shot and killed during a revolver fight with Gregori Grant, whom he was attempting to arrest.

Lucky Baldwin's Gold Could do Anything Against a "Poor, Defenseless Woman"



LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 24.—"Lucky Baldwin's gold could do anything against a defenseless woman."

This was one of the parting shafts launched at opposing attorneys, and to the jury by Mrs. Lillian Turnbull before she ended her testimony yesterday in the contest of her daughter, Beatrice, for nearly one-fourth of the \$11,000,000 estate left by the old tycoon.

The record of the woman's testimony at the trial of her \$75,000 suit against Baldwin has been destroyed, and the attorneys for the estate were endeavoring to secure her present version of that testimony, preparatory to introducing evidence for impeachment, when she replied as quoted to a question as to what reason there might be for so many forgeries of her letters.

Seventeen more of her alleged letters were introduced and she declared every one of them "base, atrocious

forgeries, perpetrated by a villain in the employ of that treacherous man, James R. Wood."

Wood is the Boston detective employed by Col. Albert Pope, whom Mrs. Turnbull previously declared "sold me out to Baldwin."

One letter contained this sentence: "I resisted Lucky Baldwin more than I did Colonel Pope, for I loved Colonel Pope. I shall never betray his name. A woman never betrays the man she loves. Never."

Mrs. Turnbull declared she never wrote this, although it is quoted as part of the evidence in the decision rendered by Judge Charles Slack, who presided in the seduction case. Mrs. Turnbull said she did not testify regarding her alleged marriage by contract to Baldwin in the former case because she had not been asked.

"Did you testify that there had been a promise of marriage," was asked.

"No," Mrs. Turnbull replied. "I

did not so testify. I did say there had not been a promise of marriage, which was true. Mr. Baldwin married me without making a promise. He did it out of hand as quickly as he could write the contract."

Mrs. Turnbull was also asked whether prior to her meeting with Colonel Pope she had not met a man named John Osborn and taken him out to "do Boston" for an entire week.

"I did not," replied the witness.

"In your previous case, did you not admit that a picture, introduced in evidence, was of you and Osborn in a loving attitude?" was asked.

"I remember a picture that Osborn said was of himself and me," she replied, "but as a matter of fact the woman in the picture was the daughter of Osborn's landlady. Incidentally, Mr. McNab, that was the picture that nearly cost Lucky Baldwin his life when it was shown. My sister shot him then."

THEY HAVE BEEN SLAIN TO MAKE OUR HOLIDAY

Tempting Displays by the Marketmen of Turkeys, Chickens, Pigs, Mutton, Beef, etc., etc.

Very little uncooked or unprepared food looks really appetizing, but the arrangement of the various fish, fowl and fowl in Central market at this season of the year very nearly approaches the appetizing state even if it does not quite do so. The market men understand the displaying of their wares as well as the other merchants and it does seem that they have tried themselves for the Christmas time.

Rows and rows of turkeys of all sizes hang head downward from poles overhead; some others are trussed and shaped ready for the baking pan, each one so many pounds of potential cheer. One wonders where so many turkeys come from, sacrificed to festivity; one also wonders—when he asks the price—at there are people who have the money to buy them. They are nice chickens, too, drawn and plucked, hanging modestly beside the giant cousins, calculated to suit the purse of many, if not the desires and appetites.

At one stall on a large trencher, a fat little pig reposes, his skin scraped clean and white, his feet tied under him and a bright red apple between his jaws. He looks as though he would be equal to the occasion on any board, and add dignity to it at that.

A little further on two sheep have been transformed into succulent mutton, by the simple process of shedding their life's blood. On their broad, fat backs some artistic hand has wrought in blood—or red paint—a conventional design over which waves a woolly tail.

Of the more prosaic, common, every day beef and pork it is not necessary to speak. It has long been a debated question whether a man eats to live or lives to eat. After a trip through Central market with its generous provisions of beef, pork, mutton, turkeys, chickens, rabbits, fish and other things, it would seem that the preponderance of argument is in favor of the statement that we live to eat.

3000 Presents for Children and Grand Children

Montclair, N. J., Dec. 24.—Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Dodd, who have 14 children and forty grand children, will distribute 3000 Christmas presents among them.

King George Will Participate in Horse Racing.

New York, Dec. 24.—American horsemen are interested in the announcement that King George of England will follow the example of his father by active participation in racing.

Lower Express Rates in Canada.

Ottawa, Dec. 24.—The Canadian Railway commission directed a 30 per cent decrease of the limitation to the lower tariff rates within three months

CITY "DADS" SETTLE CLAIMS FOR DAMAGE

Central Market Will Be Closed All Day Monday—Other Matters Attended to by Board.

The most important action of the board of aldermen in weekly session last night was the settlement of several claims against the city, incident to street improvement work. The claim of W. A. Wilson for damage to his property on Magnolia avenue was settled for \$200, upon report of the street committee. In the matter of damage to Mary Murphy's property on Magnolia avenue, the street committee recommended that the city limit in her yard and pay her \$10; also construct a retaining wall. This report was adopted.

The matter of a sewer assessment against a lot which Mrs. George W. Pack had purchased on Holland street was referred to the sewer committee for investigation. When Mrs. Pack purchased the property, according to J. G. Merrimon, her attorney, she did not find a record of this lien. The bill is for \$60 and interest.

The market committee reported that Central market would be closed the entire day Monday after Christmas.

The light committee recommended an arc light placed on South Grove street and a 40-candle power tungsten on South French Broad avenue, opposite Dr. E. R. Russell's residence.

The special tax committee, which had under investigation the matter of selling frozen cream or milk in packages, recommended that R. M. Hammond be granted a license upon payment of \$20. The committee was under the opinion that if the packages were sealed at the place of manufacture and not to be opened until in the hands of the consumer, it would be sanitary.

The amended vaccination ordinance was passed on second and final readings at a meeting of the joint health board.

The matter of the location of a retaining wall at Mrs. Hunter's property on Ora street, was referred to the street committee.

The property owners in the vicinity of Turner street asked that the board open up the street. Street Superintendent Bostic reported that Turner street was a private one, owned by G. L. Tennent. He said that the city had opened the street several years ago, awarding damages to Mr. Tennent but these had never been paid. The matter was referred to the corporation counsel.

Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 24.

A Merry Christmas to All Our Readers.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IN THE AIR TODAY

Clear, Crisp Morning Brought Forth Hundreds of Relaxed Shoppers—Stores Crowded.

POSTOFFICE DOES BIGGEST BUSINESS IN ITS HISTORY

Elaborate Preparations Making for Dinners Tomorrow—Market and Stores Closed Monday.

Everybody went shopping today. The clear, crisp morning after the dismal drizzling, sleet, snowing weather of the past two days came as a welcome visitor to those who were compelled to complete their Christmas shopping today. On the streets there was a great rush of people elbowing their way to and fro from one store to another. At the postoffice there was a greater rush than has characterized the few days previous, as rich and poor, white and colored fell in line to send their little Christmas remembrances to friends and relatives.

The Christmas spirit was in the air today. At every turn one could see the prospects of happy times reflected in the merry faces of the little ones as they went shopping with their parents. This promises to be one of the best Christmases ever observed by Asheville people. The year as a whole has been a prosperous one and with bright outlook for business conditions the coming year, people have been liberal in their giving. The sales of the stores will surpass previous records it is believed.

At the Asheville postoffice it was stated today that the office is having the largest Christmas business in its history. There have been several thousand more packages handled already than up to the same time any previous Christmas. The carriers were delayed in getting out this morning because of the heavy mails and the late arrival of some of the trains.

The Southern express company two days ago found it impossible to deliver the packages with their own equipment and have added several dray wagons to take care of the overflow business in the city. The company will be engaged practically all the day tomorrow with delivering packages which arrive in the morning.

At the postoffice, the carriers, stamp and general delivery windows will be open from 9 to 11 o'clock and from 4:30 to 6 o'clock in the afternoon. The closing of the windows from 11 o'clock to 4:30 will give the carriers and clerks a little rest and time to enjoy their Christmas dinner.

Immense preparations have been made for elaborate dinners tomorrow and the sale of turkeys, etc., at the Market house has indicated that there will be a general "turkey" dinner for Asheville.

All of the stores of the members of the Retail Merchants association, the Central market, and west end markets will be closed Monday. There will be a general suspension of business. The banks will be closed, and the city ticket office will observe Sunday hours.

Passenger and Express on Pennsylvania Hit Head-on at Altica—Trainmen Killed.

Upper Sandusky, O., Dec. 24.—In a collision between passenger Train No. 15 and an express train on the Pennsylvania railroad at Altica at 2 o'clock this morning, six people were killed outright, and twelve seriously injured. The wreck occurred on a curve. The two trains crashed into each other head-on. Engineer Krebs of Fort Wayne, of the express train, and fireman Miller of Creston, were among the killed.

NO INAUGURAL BALL IN LINCOLN, NEB., JAN. 5

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 24.—Governor-elect Chester H. Aldrich is a Methodist church member and does not countenance dancing. Hence there will be no inaugural ball at Lincoln when he is inducted into office January 5. There will be a reception on that occasion, however, but dancing will be eliminated from the program of festivities.

Shot Himself and Then Resumed Conversation.

New York, Dec. 24.—After firing a .38 calibre bullet into his head, John Rice propped himself on an elbow on the floor of the Chatham club and calling for a telephone receiver calmly resumed a conversation with a young woman at the other end. "You should see me now," he said, "I'm in an awful mess." Rice will probably recover.

Molsant Does Stunts With Bleriot Machine.

New Orleans, Dec. 24.—For forty-five minutes and ten seconds this morning John B. Molsant, aviator, circled the city in a 60 horse power Bleriot monoplane. Going as high as 3000 feet Molsant had perfect control.

Six Persons Found Dead, Gas Furnace the Cause.

Kenton, O., Dec. 24.—Two women and four men were found dead in two rooms in a building in the rear of the opera house. The victims were overcome by gas fumes. The dead are: Clark Latham, Pearl Kennedy, William Kennedy, Harry Newcomb, Elizabeth Elzey.

Coal Mine Given Way.

Washington, Pa., Dec. 24.—A coal mine, abandoned 60 years ago, gave away, carrying down a large foundry. Thirteen severely injured. None will die. Loss \$25,000.

IMPERILS HIS LIFE FOR A \$10 WAGER

William Quince Bet Another He Could Swim East River and the Attempt Was Made.

COLD NUMBERED DURING ONE AFTER A MINUTE IN WATER

Chums Slid Down Floating Hospital's Hawser and Grabbed Him—Quince May Die.

New York, Dec. 24.—A bet of \$10 that he could swim the East River nearly cost William Quince his life Thursday night. In fact, his danger was not ended when he was dragged unconscious from the water, for in the Eastern District hospital it was said he might die from the effects of shock and exposure.

Quince is a cooper and lives at No. 94 Wythe avenue, Brooklyn. Next door lives a close friend, Jacob Schilbaum, also a cooper. A week ago Quince bet Schilbaum he could dive from the recreation pier at Metropolitan avenue and swim to the ferry slip at East Houston street, Manhattan. Schilbaum selected William Merritt, another cooper, as his umpire, and Quince chose for his Fred Baum and the umpires were to follow the swimmer in a rowboat.

At 7 o'clock the four men went to the recreation pier. Schilbaum, Merritt and Baum looked for the boat they had arranged to use, but could not find it. Quince told them not to bother about it; that he did not need to have a boat following him. He took off all his clothing, except undershirt and trousers, and dived off the pier.

Cold Took His Strength.

He had been in the water only a minute struggling against the tide when he felt the cold taking his strength from him. Then he yelled for help. He was heard by nurses on the floating hospital Lacksawanna, tied at the side of the pier. They ran to the bow and saw the man in the water but were powerless to aid him.

Schilbaum, Merritt and Baum stood on the pier and watched Quince. They did not go to his rescue because they had no boat. Fortunately an eddy or the swell from a tug swept Quince in toward the hospital boat. Baum slid down one of the great hawsers that held the Lacksawanna. The other men shouted to Quince to try to reach the line. Quince did, but when he got there he was so numbed he could not lift his arms to grasp the rope.

Baum, leaning down, grabbed him and called to Schilbaum and Merritt to come down and help. They promptly complied. As soon as the nurses on the floating hospital saw the men on the hawser they lowered lanterns on strings to light them in their work.

The shouting was heard by Patrolman Freestone of the Bedford avenue station, who was a block away. By the time he arrived Baum, Merritt and Schilbaum were on the hawser. It sagged and swung so much they could not raise Quince.

Hauled Up With Rope.

Freestone went aboard the Lacksawanna and lowered a rope. Then, one by one, the four coopers were hauled to the deck. Quince was unconscious. Merritt, Baum and Schilbaum, though they had not been submerged when on the hawser, were soaked through from the splashing received in their struggle to lift Quince.

The doctors on the floating hospital did what they could to revive Quince before an ambulance arrived. Quince's rescuers had to receive medical attention, but were able to go to their homes.

MEDICAL FIELD SERVICE.

Major E. B. Glenn of Asheville to Attend Instruction at Fort Leavenworth.

Gazette-News Bureau, Chamber of Commerce Rooms, Holleman Building, Raleigh, Dec. 24.

Governor Kitchin has nominated Major E. B. Glenn of Asheville, assistant surgeon general of the North Carolina national guard, to attend the field service medical school to be held at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., in April.

This service is given by the regular army medical corps and medical affairs of the various state military forces are given opportunity to attend, expenses of travel and subsistence being allowed.

Two Killed and 25 Injured in Train Wreck.

Kirby-Stephon, England, Dec. 24.—Two persons were killed and 25 injured in a wreck of the Scottish express near Hawes Junction. The express collided with the pilot of an engine and was derailed. Fire broke out in the wreckage, destroying the coaches.

U. S. Recovers \$3,000,000 From Sugar Refining Co.

New York, Dec. 24.—The American Sugar Refining company will soon bring the United States Government a check for \$3,000,000 in settlement of a further series of customs frauds, according to the Herald. This will bring the total amount recovered by the United States Government from the company to \$12,000,000.

Mrs. Sage Gives N. Y. Park Laborers \$5 Each

New York, Dec. 24.—Mrs. Russell Sage will give a Christmas present of \$5 each to every laborer in the City Park Department.