

THE NORTH
POLE IS FOUND.DR. FRIDTJOF NANSEN
THE DISCOVERER.Reported to Have Successfully
Planted the Norwegian Col-
ors at the Upper Pole.

GREAT SENSATION IN SCIENCE.

A Chain of Mountains Reported to be the
Pole—The Details of the Trip Through
the Frigid Zone.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 13.—A telegraphic dispatch received here today from Irkutsk, Siberia, says that a Siberian trader named Kouchnareff, who is the agent of Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, the Norwegian explorer, who sailed in the Fram, June 24, 1893, for the Arctic regions, has received information to the effect that Dr. Nansen has reached the north pole, has found land there and is now returning towards civilization.

In April last the Figaro, of Paris, circulated a rumor that Dr. Nansen had found the north pole, and that it is situated on a chain of mountains. It was then added that he had planted the Norwegian flag there. The story was generally regarded as being without foundation.

On September 17, of last year, advices were received in London from the Danish trading station of Angmagalik, on the east coast of Greenland, that a ship supposed to be Dr. Nansen's Fram, had been sighted at the end of July, stuck fast in an ice drift.

Finally, on December 6, a dispatch from Christiania, Norway, stated that Dr. Nansen's wife received a letter by carrier pigeon reporting that the expedition was doing well. As no carrier pigeons were taken north by the Nansen party, this report was evidently inaccurate, but it was published for what it was worth.

Dr. Fridtjof Nansen is a distinguished scientist of Norway and an enthusiastic believer in the possibility of finding the north pole. He is about 35 years of age. He entered the university of Christiania in 1880, two years later went on a sealing trip to Denmark straits on the east coast of Greenland in the Viking. Later, in 1882, Nansen was appointed curator of the museum at Bergen, which position he retained until 1888, when he led a small expedition of six men to Greenland, crossing the southern part of that portion of the globe. It was probably during this trip that Nansen conceived the plan of making an attempt to reach the north pole in a vessel constructed specially for such an undertaking. In any case, after his return to Norway, Nansen took the preliminary steps toward fitting out his expedition and the Fram was planned and constructed. She is generally classed as a three-masted sailing schooner, but she had 160-horse power steam engine in addition to her sails. Her displacement was 800 tons and her sides were so constructed as to force all ice meeting the vessel to pass underneath her, thus preventing "pinching" and "screwing."

The Norwegian parliament allowed Nansen about \$52,000 to fit out his craft, and, in addition, he was assisted in his work by many private subscriptions, including one of \$5,000 from King Oscar. The Fram was launched October 26, 1892, at Laurvik, near Christiania.

A Norwegian paper describing the fitting out of the Fram said: Bread is the principal nourishment of Nansen and his people. The bread is a kind of biscuit, large and round, white and very compact. The ration of each man is to consist of, four biscuits a day. This, at least, was given out when the expedition left Norway. Silk is used as the most suitable material for tents, as it shuts out the cold better than anything else.

The cabin of Nansen's ship, the Fram (Forward,) is heated by means of an English petroleum stove which consumed three litres of petroleum

per day. As the explorer has taken along with him a sufficient supply of this fuel to last him eight or nine years, there will be no lack of heating material. The library of the expedition consists of 1,000 books, half of which are scientific works and the other half novels, poetry, etc.

The crew numbers twelve men, and all occupy the cabin, which measures only thirteen square feet. There they dwell, eat and work. The suits they wear cannot be penetrated by water.

The expedition sailed from Christiania June 24, 1893, the doctor's plan being to make for the new Siberian islands and head north until the Fram, by being embedded in the ice, would be compelled to sail along the west coast of any land which might be found.

On August 23, 1895, Dr. Nansen sent a dispatch from Vardo, reporting that on the 2nd of that month he was about to sail into the Kara sea, and that the Fram had behaved splendidly up to that stage of the journey, especially in forcing her way through the ice.

A London dispatch, dated March 4, of last year, announces that a letter dated Kjollenford, February 24, had reached Hammerfest, Norway, announcing that a telegraph inspector at a station in the mountains between Lebesy and Langfjord had seen a balloon moving in a southerly direction, and believed that it was possibly carrying dispatches from Dr. Nansen, but until the foregoing dispatch no further news of the balloon of Dr. Nansen had been received.

Dr. Nansen's companions were: Capt. Otto Sverdrup, shipmaster; Sigurd Scott Hansen, lieutenant in the Norwegian navy and director of the astronomical meteorology and magnet observations; Henrik Blessing, surgeon and botanist; Theo. C. Jacobsen, mate; Peder Hendriksen, harpooner; Anton Amundsen, chief engineer; Lars Peterson, second engineer; Hjalmar Johnsen, officer in the Norwegian army, fireman; Bernard Nordahl, officer in the Norwegian army, fireman; Bernard Nordahl, electrician; Ivan Mogstad, carpenter, and Adolph Juell, steward.

Dr. Nansen, according to lieutenant David L. Brainerd, U. S. A., who accompanied the Greeley expedition as assistance officer, bases his theory of the current which he relied on to carry him through the Arctic regions on the fact that the trend of the Jeannette was gradually in the direction of the pole and that pieces of drift wood, etc., have been found on the east and west coast of Greenland and along the east coast of Ellsnere and Grinnell land which from their appearance and character seem to indicate that they had drifted from the Siberian coasts. Other articles, such as a large stopper or plug for a powder horn, a coasting stick, a cane, etc., evidently the work of Alaskan Indians, have also been found in the same places.

The Lawyer and the Bible.

"I was trying a case at Geneva once before Judge Wilson," said Lawyer Pat McHugh, to the Chicago Inter-Ocean. "The lawyer on the other side, who was a great talker, strongly warned the jury of the danger of receiving hearsay evidence, which he described as often misleading and unreliable, saying that, no matter how honest witnesses were or intended to be, there was always a chance of their having misunderstood a man's meaning and language. For example he quoted or pretended to quote, copiously from the Scriptures, giving the four evangelists' accounts of the crucifixion, which he described in detail. At length the judge said:

"Will you be kind enough to give the references?"

"I am quoting from the Holy Bible," said the lawyer.

"Yes, yes," said the judge, "that's all right; but we want your references, page, chapter and verse, if you please."

"And I repeated the demand. The lawyer turned upon the judge and myself what was intended to be a look of withering pity and contempt, and said:

"May it please the court, I am addressing the jury. If I were addressing the court or counsel I might say it necessary to give references for what I quote; but I am addressing religion and God-fearing men, who read their Bibles with care and devotion, and who know exactly where to find the quotations I give without having to be helped out by chapter and verse as if they were unlighted infidels."

"The judge and myself hung our heads under this scathing rebuke, and the jury were so tickled with this flattery of their Scriptural lore that the lawyer won the case."

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

A Few Dispertinent And Impertinent Remarks on the Situation or Some Other Ation.

From Our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17th, 1896.—The Reed tariff bill is apparently as dead as a last year's bird nest, and it was killed by republican senators at that. The scheme of the high tariff republican senators was to take up the coinage substitute for the tariff bill, which was reported to the Senate from the Finance committee, vote that substitute down with the aid of anti-silver democrats, and then with the aid of Populists to pass the tariff bill without amendment. But it struck a snag in the shape of a republican revolt as soon as the very first move to carry it out was made, and the revolt was led by the Chairman of the Republican National Committee—Carter, of Montana—who, with three other silver republican Senators voted against taking up the tariff bill. The high tariff republicans are now engaged in trying to beg or bulldoze the revolting silver republicans into line and carrying out the decree of the republican caucus by voting to pass the Reed tariff bill without amendment, but there are no indications of their succeeding.

The vote in the House—215 to 90—against the free coinage substitute for the House bond bill makes it certain that whether the Senate passes the free coinage substitute or not, free coinage is as dead for this session as the Reed tariff bill, and that brings forward the question, what is this Congress going to do anyway? It looks now as though the republicans would spend the time not devoted to passing the regular appropriation bills in manoeuvres for or against the various presidential candidates, and that the final result of the session would be the appropriation bills.

Representative Talbert, of S. C., who made a little "break" several weeks ago on the secession question, turned the tables very nicely on Representative Hardy, of Ind., who tried to goad him into saying something more about secession by abusing South Carolina. After Mr. Hardy had used up his stock of epithets, covering South Carolinians from John C. Calhoun to the present Congressional delegation, Mr. Talbert effectually squelched him by remarking that he was glad that Canada had been heard from—Hardy was born in Canada, and did not serve in the Union army. Later Mr. Talbert took occasion to say that he had noticed that those who had taken no part in the war were loudest in their proclamation of patriotism and their denunciations of those who had fought against the Union, and amid the laughter of the House he quoted the expression that "those who are invincible in time of peace are generally invisible in time of war."

Secretary Herbert gave the House Committee on Naval Affairs the benefit of the knowledge he has acquired during his long service on that committee and since he became Secretary of the Navy, at the last meeting of the committee. He stated without qualification that the United States can today beat the world in the building of warships so far as efficiency goes, although it has not quite distanced all countries in the race to lower the price of construction, but he believes it will in the near future. Already we are building warships cheaper than either France or Germany has been able to do, and almost as cheap as Great Britain does. Mr. Herbert told the committee that in addition to the specific recommendations in his annual report, he was in favor of any and all proper methods of strengthening our navy.

While it is generally recognized that Senator Quay's candidacy for the republican presidential nomination was announced solely for trading purposes, some of the friends of the other candidates are afraid of him. They know his ability as a political schemer and they are afraid that he may be able to sneak that nomination for himself. A republican who has before given me correct information concerning moves made by Quay says of his latest: "Quay is trying to bring Reed to terms. He is for Reed and has so declared himself to Reed, but for once he found out that he committed himself too soon, for when he wished Reed to give him certain promises the Maine man utilized his Yankee cunning by adroitly dodging. Then it was that Quay determined to become a candidate himself. With Pennsylvania's vote behind him he will compel Reed to voluntarily make him all and more promises than would have at first satisfied him, or he will make a dicker with some other candidate, and Tom Platt is in the same boat with Quay."

IN SPAIN.

We Received a Letter From Our Special Correspondent in Spain.
(From our Special Correspondent.)

GRANADA, SPAIN, Feb. 1st, 1896. The one great charm of travel in Spain is the absence of fellow tourists. The "Nectar of romance and adventure" has not all been drained by curious Americans and discontented English and one finds the people as musical, picturesque and unclean as could be wished. The local color and life have withstood the comparatively little invasion of travel, and though Granada with its incomparable Alhambra has been the goal of more curiosity and sight seeing than other Spanish cities it retains many of its purely characteristic and delightful features. One of these is the gypsy camp in the outskirts of the city. We drove there late one afternoon and saw the gypsy in his native lair. Cervantes alone describes these people as, "Just as God made them and oftentimes worse." Education has never laid her rule or ferule on them; honesty and morality have passed them in despair, and if the proverb affirming the proximity of cleanliness and godliness is true the gypsies are "way off." It has been enough for them that they live and they have never asked those enigmatical questions: whence, why and whither. Their houses are caves and we were allowed to go through one. The first room was the kitchen and the last and choicest one the abode of the pigs. There were many of these compartments about the size of a steamer state room, and as one groped his way by the aid of a small candle into the depths of the hill, the smell became painfully prominent. The pigs, though, like the gypsies, were contented and the fact of being kept in the parlor or spare room added no arrogance to their amiable manners. Evidences of certain luxurious tastes were to be seen in the cave such as a piece of carpet before each bed on the earth floor, and a stovepipe running up from the kitchen fire place. Indeed artistic taste was also manifest for hanging over the bed in one of the rooms was a highly colored advertisement of a German beer.

When we left the cave we were told that we could see the real and genuine gypsy dance for the modest sum of seven dollars, but we declined. Our interpreters after a consultation with the gypsies told us that our economy would be respected and the dance given for five dollars. As we drove regretfully away we were again informed that though it was a great sacrifice and altogether unparalleled in the annals of history we might see it for three dollars. We accepted this proposition though it developed that we really paid four dollars, the last one being in redemption of a counterfeit dollar that had been substituted for the good one we had given. The coin was probably a product of gypsy ingenuity and so far as I know, the transaction may be one of their established ways of making an honest dollar, so to speak. The dance however, was quite worth the experience. Accompanied by our two guides and two policemen who, it was explained were necessary for our safety and, who only added to our general feeling of insecurity, we went up a dark alley, a darker flight of steps and into a tiny room where the orchestra and dancers were assembled. The orchestra consisted of three men who played the guitar, mandoline and tambourine. The dancers were four ugly women and a pretty one all gorgeously arrayed in bright calicoes and with artificial flowers in their coarse dark hair. The services opened with a frightful song that nearly deafened the audience, which on account of the size of the room was within two feet of the singers. Then the women danced together,—an active, sprited dance such as Kirafy labors in vain to get. This was followed by a sort of *danse du centre*. There were several graceful figures danced by the women and then one, "La Hata" by the tambourine

player and the pretty girl which was quite the prettiest of all, and would compare favorably with the best dances on the American stage. During the performance I wondered that some enterprising American had not imported them all to America and made his fortune by putting them on the stage. One does not find such abandon, animation and natural grace in the dancers who learn on chalked squares while they count one, two, three, one, two, three. The pretty woman had a four months old baby in the room, and the little creature actually waved its arms when the mother danced as though already interested in its future employment. The father had been sent as a soldier to Cuba, the mother cheerfully explained and the cares of maternity and widowhood sat lightly on her mind. It was only another demonstration that women don't always weep while their husbands war, and her devotion to the tambourine player led me to think she might be preparing for the future "If the worst should come to the worst" in Cuba.

We escaped from this place with our lives and we were not robbed; the latter because we decided to give them all we had and save them the exertion of taking it. As we drove away I looked among the children for some of those that common report says the gypsies steal, but I saw none, and judging from the number that have been sent in the natural and approved way to the camp, I see no reason for thinking that the gypsies find it difficult to resist the temptation of stealing others. I should be glad to think they experienced the same lack of temptation about more portable and desirable articles, with all their depravity though they are an interesting picturesque people.

STATE NEWS.

Fayetteville is contemplating, on electric lights.

The penitentiary was offered 3,100 acres of the farm near Wadesboro, but it leases only 2,200.

Senator Jeter C. Pritchard is now at his home in Marshall. He is at his home this time to defend several parties in murder cases.

James James, a convict from one of the Western counties, has been pardoned out of the penitentiary. The reason is that he is a consumptive.

Governor Carr has pardoned Alice Traves, colored, and Wm. Webster out of the penitentiary. They were from Guilford county and both were consumptives.

There was a serious cutting affair in Gaston county last week in which Charlie Ramsey, cut a man named Passour in the abdomen, across the breast and on the a. a.

The Florence Mills, Forest City, N. C., are to be enlarged. An addition will be built in which will probably be placed about 1,000 spindles and 100 looms.—Textile Excelsior.

An executive reward of \$50 was paid for the arrest of Newton Mace, who murdered United States Deputy Marshal Whitt in Madison county and who after the first capture escaped from jail.

The trustees of the University yesterday settled the fraternity matter by a compromise, though the freshman now claim a victory. Freshmen will be permitted to join fraternities in October of the second year.

Last week two white men "Bloom" Baker, and one Rose, and a negro attacked and killed an Indian named Ned Will-not two or three miles from Whittier, N. C. The men escaped but later the negro was caught. A reward of \$2000 has been offered for Baker and Rose.

There is an opening here for a canning factory, and we hope some of our citizens will organize a company and get ready for business by the time the corn, tomatoes, berries and peaches can be grown. Let us have the factory. It can be made to pay handsomely.—Mt. Airy News.

For the description of all important cities, time of all trains, population of all Railway stations, etc., see the Rand-McNally Railway Guide.