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COOK BRANDED AN IMPOSTOR

THE DANISH COMMITTEE RE- JECTS HIS CLAIMS.

Rector of Copenhagen University Says the Degree Conferred Upon the Explorer May be Withdrawn A Danish Explorer, Member of Examining Committee, Declares Cook's "Papers Convict Him of Being a Swindler."

Copenhagen, Dec. 21.—The report of the special committee of scientists which the University of Copenhagen appointed to scrutinize Dr. Frederick A. Cook's claims that he had discovered the North Pole was submitted to the consistory of the University this morning, endorsed by that body and given to the public.

The report shatters completely, almost contemptuously, the American explorer's title to such discovery, and fills the officials and people of Denmark with chagrin at the figure Denmark is made to assume in the eyes of the scientific world. The public was prepared for a verdict of "not proven," but did not expect its recent hero to be branded as an impostor. Many still cling to the belief that Cook acted in good faith, but harbored a delusion.

Explorers and scientists almost unanimously have lost faith in Cook's honesty, while one of his warmest supporters, Knud Rasmussen, helped to frame the report. The evening papers attack Cook and severely reproach him for hiding, which they regard as a sign of a guilty conscience.

May Cancel Honor.

The honor of the University, Dr. Salomonsen, when questioned as to the possibility of the university cancelling the degree which it conferred on Dr. Cook, said that no decision had been reached, but he thought that the degree could be withdrawn in the same way as a government could deprive a person of an order obtained under false pretenses.

Commodore Gustav Holm, the Arctic explorer, and a number of the committee said: "Cook's claim that he made the observation 89 degrees 59 minutes 46 seconds near the pole proved immediately that he was a bad observer, but nothing indicated that he was a swindler. Now his papers convict him of being a swindler. We examined Cook's observations first, and agreed unanimously that they were worthless. It is not unlikely that Loose made the observations. He is a clever man, just the sort that Cook could use."

Professor Olufsen, secretary of the Danish Geographical Society, said: "It is the saddest event in my life. As an explorer there seems to be no doubt that Cook is absolutely unreliable."

The National Tidende, while deploring that the university conferred the degree in a moment of enthusiasm, finds consolation in the fact that others honored Cook when he returned to civilization.

"The President of his own country and its envoy at Copenhagen," says the paper, "were the guarantors for him. Denmark did not blunder alone. Our country must now leave this sad affair to America and Cook."

The Findings.

First—The report of the expedition sent to the university by Dr. Cook is the same as that printed in the New York Herald during the months of September and October last.

Second—The copy of Cook's notebooks does not contain any original astronomical observations whatsoever but only results.

Third—The documents presented are inexcusably lacking in information which would prove that the astronomical observations therein referred to were really made; and also contain no details regarding the practical work of the expedition and the sledge journey which would enable the committee to determine their reliability.

The committee, therefore, is of the opinion that the material transmitted for examination contains no proof that Cook reached the Pole.

The report is signed by all six members of the committee, who were assisted in their inquiry by Knud Rasmussen, the explorer.—Baltimore American.

BIG SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE.

Our Imports Expected to Reach More Than \$260,000,000.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Every American who takes his cup of coffee might like to know that in the ten months of this year he has helped use just \$64,000,000 worth, or \$45,000,000 pounds, and that eight-ninths of it came from South America. Brazil furnishes more than 600,000,000.

Coffee is only an indication of the proportions which the trade between the United States and South America has assumed this year. All previous records for South American imports will be passed, according to the calculations of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor. The total value of all the imports will be more than \$260,000,000. The imports in general show an increase of 40 per cent. over last year.

In return our exports to South America will probably equal if they do not exceed the high mark made in 1907, when they touched \$86,000,000.

STATE NEWS.

A bank has been organized in Hookerton, Greene county, with a capital of \$15,000.

Salisbury had a thirty thousand dollar fire Friday night. While rushing to the fire on one of the hose wagons, R. H. Pender, a railway clerk, was thrown off and instantly killed.

Spencer Hughes, aged 77, of Lee county, was thrown from his buggy in a runaway one day last week, receiving injuries from which he died.

New Berne is talking about building a Union Depot in the near future. Plans are on foot to build a two-hundred thousand dollar cotton mill at Bladenboro. This will be the first mill of its kind in Bladen county.

Mr. Isaac S. London, editor of the Siler City Grit, is authority for the statement that during the past year Siler City has shipped 45,000 rabbits to the northern markets.

William Sutton committed suicide at his home in Lenoir county last Friday by shooting a pistol ball into his brain. He was 37 years old and leaves a wife and two small children.

Prof. E. C. Brooks, of Trinity College, has been appointed head-master of Trinity Park School at Durham, to succeed Rev. Harry M. North, who has been appointed pastor of the Edenton Street church at Raleigh.

Dr. S. A. W. Haines, a practicing physician of Rutherford county, has been sent to the penitentiary at Atlanta for fifteen months for violation of the internal revenue laws. He happened at a blockade distillery just once too often.

Senator Overman has introduced bills for public buildings at Washington, Shelby and Rocky Mount. An appropriation of \$80,000 is asked for each place.

The United States Senate has confirmed the nomination of Thos. J. Jackson to be postmaster at Dunn.

Mr. R. D. W. Connor, Secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission, has been appointed a delegate from the United States to the International Congress of Archivists which is to be held next May in Brussels, Belgium.

Revenue officers raided the bedroom of W. A. Curtis, a negro who runs a pool room in Raleigh, one day last week, and found 250 bottles of whiskey and some 500 empty bottles. He was evidently preparing for an hilarious Christmas.

The Norfolk and Southern's five-and-a-half mile trestle across the Albemarle sound has been completed.

Frank Fry, 15-year-old son of Mr. Govan Fry of Hickory, accidentally shot himself Tuesday afternoon while hunting and died instantly. The boy was crossing a fence and in some manner the gun was discharged, the load taking effect in the throat. The gun was a single barreled, 12-gauge shotgun. It is said that the boy always carried his gun cocked.

Peary is undoubtedly a great explorer and has won a secure place in the history of his nation, yet many are inclined to believe his manners are not much improved since that day when he sent that message from the bleak Labrador coast that Dr. Cook had handed the public a gold brick. His only comment upon the findings of the Danish scientists, was in effect, "I told you so."

BELGIUM'S KING DIED FRIDAY

A PROMINENT FACTOR IN EURO- PEAN POLITICS.

The King Was Born in 1835 and Ascended the Throne in 1865. He was the Founder of the Congo Free State in Africa. Prince Albert Succeeds to the Throne.

King Leopold, of Belgium, died at Brussels early Friday morning. He had been critically ill for several days and an operation was performed as a last hope. He survived the operation but a short time. Prince Albert, a nephew of Leopold, succeeds to the throne of Belgium.

King Leopold was born in 1835 and succeeded his father as King in 1865. Though the ruler of one of the smallest European States, he was a prominent factor in European politics. Though a pleasure-loving monarch, he was a hard worker, a good business man and exploited public improvements. He was best known, and unfavorably, to the country at large as the founder of the Congo Free State in Africa, which was under his personal sovereignty. He was harshly criticised for alleged heartless cruelties in the Congo. It was declared that his work was not that of a colonizer imbued with the desire to uplift the inhabitants from their depraved and benighted condition, but that his sole aim was to advance trade and gather gold at the expense of the life and liberty of the blacks. Tales of horrible cruelties practiced, of slavery and murders innumerable were told. That there was some foundation for these stories there can be little doubt. That King Leopold's agents resorted to severe measures to bring about the end they sought was not wholly denied, but the King's friends denied that he deliberately set about to wring money from the natives, to exploit the country because of his greed. The fact remains, however, that the cruelties were practiced and the King could have prevented them had he desired to do so.

PRICE OF EGGS GOES UP.

Cold Weather and Bad Roads Reasons for Highest Advance in Years.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—An advance of four cents a dozen was made in the price of eggs by members of the Butter and Egg Board yesterday, bringing the cost of fresh-laid eggs to a point not attained in years at this season. Cold weather and bad country roads, impeding the movement of supplies, were given as the reasons.

Housewives who have been paying 38 and 40 cents for "prime first" will be compelled to pay 42 and 44 cents a dozen today.

Marriage at Benson.

Benson, N. C., Dec. 22.—This evening at 7 o'clock at the residence of the bride, Mr. R. E. Morris, of Delaware, and Miss Susan Holmes, of this place, were married, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. N. H. Gibbs. The bride wore a lovely creation of white serge with orange blossom ornaments. The groom was attired in the conventional black.

The bridesmaids were Misses Laura Canada, Nora Hawley, and Bessie Johnson. Mr. E. N. Matthews was best man. The other waiters were Mr. J. C. Warren and Mr. Rosmal Smith. There was a large crowd in attendance, including many visitors from a distance, some of whom were Mr. N. O. Shelburne, of Norfolk, Mr. C. G. Wiggs, of Selma, and Mr. J. L. Britt, of McCollers. After the ceremony the entire crowd was invited to Mr. I. C. Hall's residence where an elegant supper with all the delicacies was served. Afterwards music and games of all kinds were indulged in until the wee hours. The bride and groom will make Benson their home, where Mr. Morris is engaged in business. Mr. Morris is a brother of our well known townsman, Mr. Wingate Morris.

The Senate has confirmed, without opposition, Judge Horace H. Lorton, of Tennessee, to be a Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

ATKINSON TO PAY PENALTY

BROKE DOWN AND CRIED WHEN VERDICT WAS RENDERED.

Several Sent to Roads at This term Among them John Hudson. A Verdict of \$5,000 in Railroad Case.

After deliberating for about six hours, the jury returned a verdict of murder in the first degree against John Atkinson, charged with the murder of Gerney Davis, of Kenly, on the 23rd, of September.

The trial of Atkinson began last Thursday at eleven o'clock and the State had rested its case by four o'clock in the afternoon. There was no evidence offered in behalf of the defendant.

The evidence as offered by the State was in substance as follows: Gerney Davis came to Kenly about a week or two prior to the murder, for the purpose of working with the Dennis Simmons Lumber Company, and was boarding at Atkinson's house. Atkinson soon began to suspect an intimacy between Davis and his wife. Upon questioning his wife, she denied it.

Coming home from his work on the afternoon of the 23rd, of September he saw his wife coming out of the woods near their home. He asked her as to why she was there, she admitted that improper relations existed between her and Davis. Atkinson then went to his house got his pistol and went in search of Davis. He found him at the church. One of the ministers was singing when he entered the door. He waved his right hand and told the preacher to stop singing. The preacher stopped, and Atkinson turning to Davis said, "What was that you did to my wife," and immediately opened fire on him. He fired four times, three of the shots taking effect though only one was sufficient to prove fatal, the other two being only flesh wounds. Atkinson then turning, walked out of the church. Davis was then taken to the office of Dr. Coleman, where his wounds were dressed, but he died the next afternoon. Atkinson was arrested and placed in jail. With six others he succeeded in breaking jail but was captured several days later about six miles from Kenly.

When the jury returned their verdict Atkinson broke completely down and cried like a child. He was then taken back to jail where he remained till Saturday, when he was brought in to the court room to receive his sentence. Just prior to receiving the sentence he was asked if he had any thing to say why sentence should not be passed upon him.

He then told of the whole story, which although told by a negro and in very bad English, was full of pathos, and created much sympathy in his behalf with those who heard it. After finishing his talk, he again took his seat and received his sentence without showing the least emotion.

Although many murders have been committed in this county, not since August 1899 has there been a verdict of murder in the first degree when Tom Smith was convicted of the murder of Charles Cawthorn.

State vs John Moore. False pretense. Not guilty.

State vs J. T. Lee, promoter. Appeal from costs. Judgment reserved.

State vs John Campbell. False pretense. Defendant pleads guilty. Twelve months on road with leave to hire out.

State vs Joe Williams and Walter Wallace. House breaking. Not guilty.

State vs Henry Williams. A. D. W. Guilty. Eight months in jail with leave to hire out.

State vs William Nunn. R. W. L. Guilty. Six months in jail and assigned to the roads.

State vs Troy Rayner. C. C. W. Defendant pleads guilty. Judgment \$10.00 and costs.

State vs Frank Simms. Appeal from the Mayor's court of Selma. Guilty. Judgment suspended upon payment of costs.

State vs Len Chappell. Appeal from J. P. court. Guilty. Judgment suspended upon payment of costs.

State vs Arthur Lee. C. C. W. Judgment reserved.

State vs William Boylan. A. D. W. Judgment suspended upon payment of costs.

State vs David Bulls. R. W. L. Guilty. Six months in jail.

State vs John Majett. Dis. Mortgaged property. Guilty. Judgment that Majett pay to W. T. Kirby, landlord the sum of \$20.00 and the costs.

State vs Tom Powers. Resisting officer. Guilty. Ninety days in jail and assigned to the roads.

Of the cases tried here last week in which judgment was reserved have been disposed of as follows: John Hudson who was found guilty of retailing without license was first given a sentence of eight months on the roads, but this was later changed to seven months. Great pressure was brought to bear on the Court in the case, but the road sentence was allowed to stand.

D. J. Y. Thurston, who was convicted of a similar offense, was sentenced to 12 months in jail, after serving 60 days of sentence in jail, to be hired to his son in Burlington for the remainder of the term.

Owen Ashford was convicted of larceny and given a sentence of six months on the roads.

Robert Stanley who was convicted of an assault with deadly weapon, was ordered to pay a physician's bill of \$25 and to pay \$50 to the prosecuting witness and to pay the costs in the case.

On account of the death of Miss Delia Wellons, sister of Mr. Jas. A. Wellons, court adjourned for the day Tuesday, and all cases in which Mr. Wellons appeared were continued to the next term of the Superior Court.

All day Wednesday was consumed with the trial of Lillie Caudill and husband T. R. Caudill, vs A. C. L. R. R. Company. Mrs. Caudill was injured on the 24th of December, 1907, while attempting to get off the train at Benson. As she stepped from the top step of the car the train gave a sudden jerk, throwing Mrs. Caudill to the ground. She suffered only slight external injuries, but so frightened was she from the fall, that she became a complete nervous wreck. The plaintiff sued for \$10,000; the jury returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiffs for \$7,000. Attorneys for the defendant made motion to set the verdict aside, as being excessive and for a new trial for errors committed in the charge. The Judge took the motion and notice of appeal under consideration, and to announce his decision on January 4th.

Court adjourned last Wednesday.

Death in Benson Jail.

Monday night, December 13, Mrs. Nancy Ingram of Boon Hill, passed away, at about 65 years. She was stricken with paralysis about fourteen months ago and had been practically helpless ever since. For the greater part of the time during the last month of her life she was unconscious. She was buried at Selah churchyard in Wayne county.

Mrs. Ingram was a member of the friends and neighbor. She leaves a Methodist church and was a good mother and wife. She was the mother of three children—Mr. C. M. Ingram, of Duplin, Mr. Zeb Ingram, of Boon Hill, and Mrs. Loma J. Tyner, also of Boon Hill. She left about thirteen grandchildren.

The surviving members of the family desire to thank the neighbors and friends for their kindness and devotion during the long illness of their loved one.

The President's Promises.

President Taft based his campaign for election upon two claims or professions, one that he favored a genuine downright revision of the tariff and the other that he would carry to completion the policies initiated by President Roosevelt. What he accomplished with the tariff is known to all men.—New York Journal of Commerce.

Death in Sanders Chapel Section.

We learn that Mr. Pink Woodall died Tuesday morning at his home in the Sanders Chapel Section, age about 50 years. He leaves a wife and four children. He was a member of Sanders Chapel Methodist church and lived a consistent Christian life. He was a good man, a good neighbor and a kind friend. He will be greatly missed by those who knew him best.

GINNING FIGURES SHOW LOSS

ONLY 9,362,222 BALES GINNED TO DECEMBER 13.

More than a Million and Half Less Than the Amount for Corresponding Period Last Year.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 20.—Census reports 9,362,222 bales cotton ginned from the growth of 1909 to December 13. Compared with 11,900,565 bales for 1908.

The proportion of the crop ginned to December 13, 1909, is 90.9 per cent. of the crop on the same day of 1908. Round bales included this year are 139,967, compared with 215,059 for 1908. Sea Island, 85,184 bales for 1909; 80,316 in 1908.

The number of bales of cotton ginned from the growth of 1909 in the several states compared with the corresponding date of 1908 follows:

State.	1909.	1908.
Alabama	986,099	1,582,953
Arkansas	642,784	847,271
Florida	59,247	64,741
Georgia	1,765,119	1,887,663
Louisiana	274,554	308,808
Mississippi	959,016	1,134,947
North Carolina	682,034	616,736
Oklahoma	514,715	494,984
South Carolina	1,086,655	1,134,183
Tennessee	221,471	302,077
Texas	2,203,333	3,368,183
All other States	5,709	63,943

The distribution of the Sea Island cotton for 1909 by States is: Florida, 26,871; Georgia, 4,886; and South Carolina, 10,727.

The statistics in this report for 1909 are subject to slight corrections when checked against the individual returns of ginners being transported by rail. The corrected total of cotton ginned this season to December 13 is 8,818,886 bales.

GENERAL NEWS NOTES.

City of Walla Walla in the State of Washington has gone "wet" as a local option election.

Three men lost their lives in a fire a Brooklyn, New York, Tuesday. Congress adjourned Tuesday for the holiday recess. It will reassemble January 4th.

Mrs. Sarah E. Walls, of Suffolk, Va., died Tuesday of Pellagra.

Judge Lorton is expected to take the oath as an associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States on January 3rd.

The President has appointed Robert Bacon, of New York, to be Ambassador to France. The Senate has confirmed the appointment.

William J. Calhoun, of Illinois, has been appointed Minister to China. It will be remembered that the President's first appointee, Mr. Crane, of Chicago, was recalled upon the eve of his departure from San Francisco to China because he talked too freely. Mr. Calhoun will hardly make the same mistake.

AUSTRALIA'S BIG WHEAT CROP.

Has 25,500,000 Bushels, 13,000,000 of Which is Available for Export.

Sidney, New South Wales, Dec. 21.—The New South Wales government statistician estimates the wheat yield for the year at 25,500,000 bushels, which exceeds the yield of the previous year by 10,000,000 bushels.

Between 13,000,000 and 14,000,000 bushels will be available for export.

Mr. Roosevelt's Escapes.

Although Roosevelt has ventured into the zone of sleeping sickness, bubonic plague, and tribal hostility he can felicitate himself on escape from the hook-worm, pellagra and Peary-Cook controversy.—B Transcript.

If Republicans in the growing lukewarm toward ident in consequence of tariff, it is no more have been expected. I report sentiment among publicans that move to pledge tariff Taft's campaign revision as r he wrong s Adrich, bu' good his adelphi