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BOTH EXPLORERS TALKING

Dr. Cook Communicates by Wireless With Friends.

READY TO PROVE HIS CLAIMS

Peary on His Way to Sydney—Tells of Arctic Holidays—Says Cook Could Have Reached the Pole.

On Board the Steamer Oscar II, at Sea, Sept. 17, via Marconi Wireless Telegraph to Cape Race, N. F.—“Tell the people of America to have the fullest confidence in my conquest of the Pole. I have records of observations made by me which will prove my claim. I shall be glad again to set my foot on American soil.”

This was the brief message of Dr. Frederick A. Cook, sent to his countrymen as he neared home from the steamer Oscar II, bound from Christiansand, Norway, for New York.

Dr. Cook discussed the assertion of Commander Peary that he (Cook) had never reached the North Pole. When he departed for the North Dr. Cook said he left a depot of provisions at Annotok, north of Etah, in charge of Rudolph Francke and several Eskimos. Francke had instructions to go south aboard a whaler and return later. This he did, but missed the returning vessel owing to a slight illness. He was then taken aboard Peary's ship, the Roosevelt, and proceeded north.

Commander Peary found my supply depot at Annotok,” Dr. Cook continued, “and the Eskimos in charge told him that I was dead, which they fully believed to be true at the time.”

Peary placed two men in charge of the depot, Boatswain Murphy and another, Harry Whitney, the New Haven hunter, also remained there. Murphy had orders not to search for me, but was told he could send Eskimos northward the following spring from the relief depot.

Whitney Given The Facts.

“When I returned from the Pole, unexpectedly, Harry Whitney was the first to see me and to tell me what had occurred. Whitney was placed in possession of the facts concerning my journey to the Pole on condition that he would not inform Commodore Peary or his men of them. At the same time the Eskimos who had accompanied me north were told to maintain the strictest silence.”

“When I went into the depot there was a dispute between myself and Murphy, who delivered to me written instructions he had received from Peary, although he himself could neither read nor write. These instructions showed that he was making a trading station of my depot, the contents of which had been used in trading for furs and skins.”

Dr. Cook said he was intensely annoyed at this alleged wrongful use of his supplies and threatened to kick out Murphy and his companions. Finally, however, he consented to their remaining at the depot, as there was no other shelter in the vicinity for them.

“On one occasion Murphy asked me abruptly, ‘Have you been beyond 87 degrees?’ Dr. Cook said, ‘But I was determined not to let Peary know of my movements, and replied evasively that I had been much farther north. From this statement has been concocted the declaration that I had said that I had not reached the Pole.’”

Dr. Cook declared that neither Harry Whitney nor his (Cook's) records are on board the steamer Roosevelt and that therefore Peary's information concerning him emanated from Boatswain Murphy, who knew nothing of his movements. Dr. Cook said also that he had made arrangements for the two Eskimos who went with him to the Pole and Knud Rasmussen, whom he met in Greenland, to go to New York and confirm the story of his discovery.

Dr. Cook is thoroughly enjoying his rest aboard ship after the strenuous days at Copenhagen. He sleeps 10 hours each night and spends a long time daily in writing and in walking the decks and conversing with the American passengers, who have all been formally presented to him by Benjamin Trueblood, president of the American Peace Society of Boston.

All the passengers are impressed by the sincerity of Dr. Cook, as indicated by his conversing with them in regard to his discovery of the pole. He said that the Danes, with whom he lived for several months, are acquainted with the whole story of his exploit; that he also has provided the Danish government with the fullest proofs of his achievements and that he is now prepared to lay these proofs before a competent body in America.

Dr. Cook expressed astonishment that the news of the discovery of the pole had created such a sensation, and is anxious to learn what specific declarations Commander Peary has made to minimize his exploit in order that he may formulate replies to them. It is his hope that he will arrive in New York before Commander Peary gets there.

In a lecture in the saloon of the steamer Dr. Cook, with the aid of a map drawn by an engineer, gave an outline of his route to the pole.

“The journey was nothing really wonderful,” he said, “I used no new devices or inventions. I had however, every necessary instrument, kept these to pure necessities.”

“The reason for my success is that I returned to the primitive life—in fact, became a savage—sacrificed all comforts to the race for the pole.”

The Eskimos generally kept up their courage, but Ahwah, two days before we reached the Pole, despaired and said ‘It is good to die; it is impossible to go beyond.’ However, I cheered him up and he never complained afterward, undergoing all hardships with cheerfulness.”

The long winter night was utilized by Dr. Cook in writing. He used a primitive stone writing desk and lay prone while at work with his manuscript. Meanwhile the Eskimos sewed and sang. The temperature in the snow hut was rarely above the freezing point. Polar bears abounded, making exits from the hut dangerous.

Has Confidence in Cook.

Zurich, Switzerland, September 17.—Dr. DeQuervain, chief of the Swiss scientific expedition to Greenland, who was the first European to meet Dr. Cook in Greenland after the American explorer returned from the north, and to hear his narrative of the discovery of the North Pole, has arrived here. Dr. DeQuervain says that after having tested Cook's figures and statements to him he is convinced that Cook reached the North Pole.

Activity on Roosevelt.

Battle Harbor, Labrador, September 17—via Marconi wireless.—After a week of rest for the crew of the Arctic steamer Roosevelt, on board of which Commander Robert E. Peary is making his way south, there is bustle and activity on all sides as the men put the finishing touches to the vessel preparatory for the start for Sydney.

One of the first things Commander Peary did was to go to the quarter deck of the Roosevelt and face a battery of cameras.

When the pictures had been taken Commander Peary and the newspaper reporters all went ashore, where the explorer became the target for a broadside of questions. Peary sat with his back to the single window in the gable end of the attic, the newspaper men grouped in front of him. Some of them were mounted on piles of fish nets, others were seated on barrels and a number squatted on the floor. In addition, the crews of the steamers and sailing vessels in port, the local merchants and fishermen and a gathering of small boys filled the rude hall and listened to what might be termed Commander Peary's first public lecture since his return from the pole.

In explaining to the newspaper men what he considered the scientific value of polar exploration, Commander Peary said he had taken soundings of the sea from Cape Sheridan to the pole which supplemented similar data taken on the other side by Nansen and Sagni. Continuing, he argued that north polar exploration is much more difficult than the same work in the Antarctic. In the Arctic the work must all be done in one season, while at the South Pole it is not necessary for exploring parties to turn back to winter quarters.

Holidays in the North.

Commander Peary described the celebration of Christmas Day, the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day and St. Patrick's Day in the far North. On Christmas they had special dinner and a distribution of presents. There were also running races for the members of the party and Eskimo men and women for which prizes were given.

Describing the flags he had raised at the pole, Commander Peary made particular mention of the silk American flag given him by his wife fifteen years ago, and which he had carried on every one of his Arctic expeditions, leaving a portion at the most northerly points attained. The remnant of this flag, raised at the pole, consisted of one star and a section of the blue field and a part of the red and white stripes.

Peary Admits Cook Could Have Succeeded.

Battle Harbor, Labrador, Sept. 18.—“It would be quite possible for Dr. Cook's party or any expedition to arrive at the North Pole by any one of a hundred routes and for me to find no trace of it. If our paths lay far apart,” said Commander Robert E. Peary when he was furnished by an Evening Journal corre-

spondent with the latest information concerning Dr. Cook's claims and the present status of the controversy which has interested the civilized world.

While Peary would not concede that Dr. Cook had reached the Pole, he admitted that it was feasible for a competitor to do, without his knowledge if they travelled by widely separate trails.

“I am holding my proofs,” said Peary, “to submit them to the International Polar Commission and thus controvert Dr. Cook's claims. When I started north I believe I was a member of that commission, which, as I understand it, has final authority in all Polar matters. I am sure Dr. Cook never informed the Commission of his intention of trying to reach the pole.”

“With the same equipment that we had on this voyage, and equally favorable conditions, I could make the Pole two out of three times.”

Why Whitney Remained North.

Asked how Harry Whitney happened to remain in the North, Commander Peary said Whitney was one of a party of sportsmen who went as passengers on board the steamer Erik. The party included Whitney, W. Norton, of New York; a man named Harned and G. J. Crafts, of Washington, who came for the purpose of taking magnetic observations for Dr. Bauer, head of the department of terrestrial magnetism of the Carnegie Institute at Washington.

At Etah, where it was determined to land a party and supplies for the relief of Dr. Cook, particularly in view of the fact that Rudolph Francke was being invalided home, Whitney asked if he might remain on the station to hunt walrus and polar bears in the Spring and make a trip to Ellesmere Land with Eskimos after musk oxen. This was decided on.

In order to provide against the contingency of the Roosevelt not coming down from the North in the Summer of 1909, in which event he would be obliged to remain in the Arctic for two years, Mr. Whitney made arrangements for a ship to come up for him this Summer.

“Whitney had no doubt as to this ship coming north,” said Peary, “and when the Roosevelt was sighted at Etah August 17 last, Whitney started out at once in a sledge for the Roosevelt under the impression that she was his ship.”

“On the arrival of the relief vessel Jeanie, Whitney was transferred from the Roosevelt to her, and he is now probably engaged in hunting bears somewhere along the west side of Baffin Bay or David Strait.”

Dr. Cook is Annoyed.

On board Oscar II, by United Wireless Telegraph, via Boston, Sunday, “To the Associated Press:

“My desire to get on American soil increases with every mile laid behind by the Oscar II. The vessel is doing her best record, although delayed occasionally, making 400 miles in the last 24 hours.”

“Commander Peary's unfortunate accusations have disclosed another side of his character. The specific records of my journey are accessible to every one who reads, and all can decide for themselves when Peary publishes a similar report.”

FREDERICK A. COOK.

According to the captain's observations at midday, the Oscar II will arrive at Sandy Hook at about noon Monday, unless something unforeseen arises. This will bring the vessel to quarantine between 2 and 3 o'clock.

Dr. Cook appears to exercise great restraint, but can hardly repress a natural annoyance at impeachment of his veracity, without proofs. He requested The Associated Press to make public the following:

“Commander Peary has as yet given to the world no proofs of his own case. My claim has been fully recognized by Denmark and by the King of Sweden, the President of the United States of America, has wired me his confidence, my claim has been accepted by the International Bureau for Polar Research at Brussels; most of the geographical societies of Europe have sent me congratulations, which means faith and acceptance for the present, and almost every explorer of note has gone forward with warm and friendly approval.”

Proofs Open to All.

“A specific record of my journey is accessible to all, and every one who reads can decide for himself. When Peary publishes a similar report, then our cases are parallel. Why should Peary be allowed to make himself a self-appointed dictator of my affairs? In justice to himself, in justice to the world and to guard the honor of national prestige, he would be compelled to prove his own case; he should publish at once a preliminary narrative to be compared with mine, and let fair-minded people ponder over the matter while the final records by which our case may be eventually proved are being prepared.”

GULF PORT STORM

Wreck and Ruin in The Wake of Equinoctial Tempest

WATER HIGHER THAN FOR YEARS

Storm That Has Lashed the Waters of the Gulf of Mexico Into Fury Swoops Down Upon Cities and Towns in Its Northward Path and the Howling Gale That Accompanies It Steadily Increases in Force.

Memphis, Special.—Fragmentary reports from points in southern Louisiana and Mississippi evidence that a severe tropical hurricane was sweeping along the Mississippi-Louisiana gulf coast Monday night damaging shipping, wrecking the more frail structures and seriously impeding railroad traffic. New Orleans, apparently the center, was cut off from communication at 4:30 in the afternoon.

At the office of the Illinois Central railroad here announcement was made that Train No. 6, of that road, due to leave New Orleans at 4:30 in the afternoon had been detoured over the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley route via Baton Rouge, the tracks of the Illinois Central route between New Orleans and Kenner, being under water and many miles of track are washed away.

From Biloxi and Seranton, on the gulf coast of Mississippi, meagre reports tell of the damage to shipping and buildings along the beach and, so far as could be ascertained late Monday night, there has been one life lost.

Natchez, Miss., was cut off from communication by wire. Before communication was lost the wind had attained a velocity of 50 miles an hour. The power plant was out of commission, putting the city in darkness. A number of trees were uprooted and several buildings unroofed.

In western Louisiana, at Crowley and Jennings, considerable property damage has resulted. The greatest damage is to the rice crop.

Although it had been raining heavily at New Orleans through Sunday night, there were no indications of a gale, further than might be deduced from a falling barometer, till about 9:30 o'clock Monday morning, when the gulf wind, great in its intensity, swept over the city.

So strong was the force of the wind that the waters of the Mississippi, backed up from the gulf a hundred miles below, rose three feet at New Orleans levee. The neighboring lakes were agitated till they all overflowed, covering the adjacent lowlands. The waters from Lake Borgone were added to the volume of the flood, but when the latest dispatches came out of New Orleans there were outlying parts of that city covered with water, while the winds had damaged several buildings.

The direction of the wind was northwest and its area was great, for it reached far up to the northernmost line of Louisiana, west of the Mississippi river. An early blow destroyed the tracks of the Louisville & Nashville road along the coast west of New Orleans and this latter gust wiped out the tracks of the Illinois Central north of the isolated city.

The last train to reach Memphis from New Orleans was the through Illinois Central that arrived here at 8:15 Monday night. It had left New Orleans soon after 9:45 in the morning. Coming north through Louisiana and Mississippi the train passed through continuous rains almost as far as Jackson, Miss., but there were then no reports of unusual winds. The storm came up soon afterward.

Good Offices of Wireless.

Beaufort, N. C., Special.—Wireless telegraph again played an important part in relieving distress at sea, for through this agency prompt assistance was Monday furnished to the Clyde line steamer, Carib, bound for New York to Wilmington, N. C., and Brunswick, Ga., with passengers and cargo, which lay at anchor all Sunday night in a disabled condition off Cape Hatteras.

Baths in Acid River.

Pittsburg, Special.—Hundreds of Pittsburg youths and adults are suffering from a scourge of boils, the result of swimming in the Monongahela river. Acid from the mills have so contaminated the water that the police have decided to end the bathing season. Life Guard James Gallagher is covered with huge boils and is in a serious condition. Physicians attribute the epidemic solely to the acid in the water. Thousands of dead fish daily float down the Ohio river. Foreigners at the steel car plants pick these fish from the stream and carry them home for food.

PRESIDENT WESTWARD

At Minneapolis and St. Paul—Greetings From the Sick Governor.

President Taft arrived at Minneapolis at 8 a. m. Saturday, and with the shadow of death hanging over the Governor of the State, received a cordial, but not demonstrative welcome. The critical illness of Governor Johnson, probably the most popular executive Minnesota has ever known, entered deeply into the spirit of the day and dreaded eventualities threatened for a time during the morning seriously to curtail the program of entertainment both here and in St. Paul.

President Taft was deeply affected and said: “I unite with you in a fervent prayer to God that he may be spared to you and to the country. With his ability, his courage, his great common sense, he cannot be spared. He is too valuable not alone to the people of this State, but to the people of this country, who doubtless will insist in time that he shall serve them.”

At Fort Snelling, 21 guns were fired in honor of the President.

An automobile ride over the business portion of the town was taken. The party then crossed the river to St. Paul.

After a brief speech the President was driven to the State Capitol where it had been intended that a public reception should be held. This feature was called off on account of Governor Johnson's illness and the President appeared for only a few minutes on the south balcony to express to the great crowd on the terraced lawn his gratitude for the cordial greeting.

Gov. Johnson grew very much better apparently and sent the President the following telegram:

“Heartily and sincerely welcome to the State of Minnesota. Greatly regret my illness prevents my presence at your reception.”

JOHN A. JOHNSON.

President Taft replied to Governor Johnson's telegram, the answer having been transmitted by telephone. President Taft's message said:

“My Dear Governor Johnson:

“I am greatly distressed to hear of your serious illness. I miss your smiling and courteous personal greeting, which I have had every time I have come to the State heretofore, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your message of welcome, sent when you are on a bed of pain.”

“I fervently hope and pray that your wonderful strength and fortitude will make your recovery speedy. My compliments and respects to Mrs. Johnson, whose visit in Washington I remember with much pleasure.”

WILLIAM H. TAFT.

Later the President met a number of prominent Japanese and exchanged compliments.

President Taft leaving the “insurgent” States of Minnesota and Iowa behind him, crossed the Missouri river Monday and stopped in Omaha for the afternoon and evening on his way to the Pacific coast.

He found at Omaha a street car strike. To avoid possibility of trouble Mayor James C. Dahlman ordered that no attempts be made to run cars during the President's stay. The strike did not prevent the gathering of a great crowd in the downtown districts and there were times when the President's automobile had difficulty in making its way through the cheering throng.

He was taken on an hour's ride over the city especially to the schools where he was greeted by the thousands of children.

At Des Moines he made an open-air address, touching chiefly the subject of trusts.

He declared that he knew of no way in which a distinction could be made between “good” and “bad” trusts for he regarded all combinations to suppress competition and to maintain a monopoly to be in the same category.

He forecasted some legislation for Congress that he would recommend in his message. He said: “When I look forward to the next session and realize how much there is to be considered I tremble lest the session will not be long enough and that it will not be possible to do all that has been promised.”

Regarding the anti-trust law, he said:

“I am strongly inclined to the view that the way to make the anti-trust law more effective is to narrow its scope somewhat, so that it shall not include in its prohibition and denunciation as a crime anything but a conspiracy or combination or contract entered into with actual intent to monopolize or suppress competition in interstate trade.”

He reviewed a parade of the thousands of troops, afterwards made a speech. A great military carnival marked by extensive manoeuvres and balloon and aeroplane flights, was commenced and will continue through the week.

TAR HEEL CHRONICLES

News Gleaned From All Parts of the Old North State.

Lover's Cruel Treatment.

Rockingham, Special.—J. M. Norton, a young white man who gave Lambertson as his home prior to his coming here a few months ago, is badly wanted by the local authorities. Norton came here some time ago and got work at the Hannah Pickett cotton mills. A few weeks later he wrote to his sweetheart, Maggie Godwin, of Benson, to join him here, promising her to marry her immediately upon her arrival. By some pretext he delayed the matter and finally utterly refused to fulfill his promise. He frequently beat her. Finally she could stand the treatment no longer and she sought the protection of the law. Norton skipped and has not been apprehended.

To Build Interurban Line.

Salisbury, Special.—Leslie M. Shaw, former secretary of the treasury and Patrick Hirsch, a financier of New York, were here Friday consulting with local business men in regard to building an interurban trolley line in Piedmont North Carolina. It is said that the proposed line will connect the cities of Greensboro, Winston-Salem, High Point, Salisbury, Concord, Charlotte and a number of smaller towns and will handle both passengers and freight. A franchise has already been secured for the line through the counties of Rowan and Cabarrus.

Killed by Runaway Horse.

Selma, Special.—Mr. Burt Lowrey met a horrible death Tuesday morning about one mile from Selma on the Smithfield road. While driving across the railroad his horse became frightened at an approaching train. Mr. Lowrey, who was 85 years old, unable to control the horse, alighted from his buggy and went to the horse's head. The horse became unmanageable, jumped over Mr. Lowrey, his hind feet striking him in the breast, causing instant death.

Killed at Cotton Gin.

Charlotte, Special.—Herman Beatty, 12 years old, while playing toy near a shaft at E. R. Spurrier's cotton gin Wednesday, was caught and wound around the shaft. One arm was torn off, his side was severely bruised. He lingered five hours in agony till relieved by death.

Greensboro Woman Dies of Pellagra.

Greensboro, Special.—Mrs. J. R. Richardson, of this city, died last week of pellagra. Mrs. Richardson had been sick with the disease for a long time. She was 35 years old. There have been four cases of pellagra reported here and this is the second death. The other two cases are chronic and do not show much change.

Big Illicit Still Destroyed in Montgomery County.

Troy, Special.—Sheriff McKenzie captured a blockade still last week in Rocky Springs township of 125-gallon capacity and poured out 900 gallons of beer and a quantity of whiskey. Sheriff McKenzie has captured several recently, but this is the largest ever seen in this section.

Serious Affray at Wilson.

Wilson, Special.—Wednesday morning on Goldsboro street a cutting affray took place that may end with a fatality. Burt Moore, a young man who works on the Williams farm after an exchange of words with Berkley Webb and others, seriously cut Webb in the throat and made his escape while Webb is at the Wilson sanitarium in a critical condition.

Fifty Bushels of Peanuts to the Acre.

Lexington, Special.—Mr. Sid Weaver, a farmer living near Lexington, makes a specialty of peanuts. Last year he raised 110 bushels on two and one-half acres and this year will gather 150 bushels from three acres. He displayed excellent specimens of his crop on the streets here last week.

Injured by Blast.

Concord, Special.—Owing to a premature blast, Mr. John Shoe, who was digging a well near Brown's Mill, was badly injured Tuesday. Mr. Shoe was in the well and had prepared the fuse. He threw down a hammer which struck a flint rock, sending forth a spark which ignited the powder, the explosion following. He was severely injured and it is thought that his eyes were put out. Mr. Shoe is about 50 years old and has a wife and family.