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FRANK L. HOOGS.....MANAGER
THURSDAY.....DECEMBER 28, 1905

The Northwest Passage

A quest of five centuries has finally been rewarded with success, in this the beginning of the twentieth century. The Northwest passage has been sailed. It does exist. This passage has been one of the lures and legends of Arctic exploration for five hundred years. Attempts to find it have resulted in some of the greatest tragedies of the Arctic region or of the history of exploration. Accounts of these efforts, are some of them, the classics of Arctic Adventure.

The Northwest Passage is the name that has been given to and has clung to the belief that somewhere along the northern coast of North America there was a passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific, which would prove a shorter course from Europe to the East Indies than the long and tempestuous one around the Cape of Good Hope. It was quest for this passage that prompted many of the sixteen and seventeenth century voyages which resulted in valuable discovery along the Atlantic coast of North America. This was the real object of some of Sebastian Cabot's voyages, and likewise of some of those of Henry Hudson. Parry and Ross and Franklin, of distinctive and essentially Arctic explorers, sought specifically the Northwest Passage. Dr. Kane, likewise sought it, though merely as an incident, the direct object of his endeavor being to demonstrate his theory of an open polar sea.

The Northwest Passage has been sailed, and by Captain Roald Amundsen, in the sloop Gjoa of forty-seven tons, with a crew of only seven men. The boat, its build and advantages was thus described by Amundsen, sometime before he started.

The vessel of the expedition is the Arctic ocean sloop Gjoa. This boat, which already on many occasions has proved its staunchness, has now been further strengthened with large cross-beams in the hold, connections between these, the deck beams and the keel, and finally sheathed with two-inch planks as a protection against the ice. The boat is now also furnished with a petroleum motor, by the aid of which it can make a speed of about four miles.

The Gjoa is of about forty-seven registered tons, about seventy feet long from stem to stern and twenty feet broad. This vessel may seem very small, and it is probably one of the smallest which has ever started on an extended polar expedition; but it is done with full consideration. Many will perhaps say we cannot force the ice with such a small vessel, and that the room will be too small for both the members and stores. To this I will answer that it has never been my intention to try and force the ice with the Gjoa. I have concluded to use patience and slip through when opportunity offers. The passages and straits through which we must seek our way to reach our goal are all small and narrow and generally filled with drift ice. The many attempts which have been made in forcing them have all failed. Thus what has not been attained with large vessels and force I will try to attain with a small vessel and patience.

Amundsen seems to have reasoned well. The Gjoa made the trip successfully. Craft and crew are safely wintering at present at Herschel island in company with the ice-bound fleet of Pacific whalers, whence they will sail for this port with the opening of the spring.

While Amundsen's achievement proves that a northwest passage between the Atlantic and the Pacific actually exists, it also proves that the route is of no value for commerce, for by the time the Gjoa will sail into the Pacific ocean she will have spent three years in the voyage. He has, however, relocated the position of the magnetic pole, originally discovered by Sir John Ross, which is esteemed a matter of great value to navigation generally; and, possibly, by the time a full account of the voyage is published it will be revealed that he has made discoveries of importance to geographical science. These are, however, the only fruits which Amundsen's venturesome voyage has produced, except the undying fame it will give him in the annals of Arctic exploration.

The re-location of the magnetic pole may be of special interest now in view of the Carnegie expedition to observe magnetic variation, and of the world-wide effort that is now being made to determine something more than we now know of the laws of magnetic variation, an effort of which the magnetic station at Sisal is evidence and testimony.

County Government

The meeting of the Board of Supervisors last night marked the end of the first six months of administration of County government here. The end of the period finds the system working very smoothly and the meeting last night, with its quick business procedure and entirely harmonious management of public affairs, was one upon which the chairman and members of the Board are to be congratulated. They have weathered the difficulties of inaugurating the new system and appear to be in smooth water. To be sure there was some storm at first and some inharmonious was threatened, but there seems to have been a general devotion to the work in hand, which has made the members all pull together for public interests.

Under the County system Oahu is spending an immense amount of money on road improvements and the appearance of our roads shows that very excellent work is being done. The coming months will see an end of the financial stringency with which County government here began, so that there will be even more to spend. There is every reason to believe that it will be well spent and if matters proceed as well as they are doing now, talk of doing away with the County system is likely to die out. Of course there will be some changes as legislatures meet from time to time, but Oahu, at least, is making a success of the County experiment.

To Change Day For Inauguration

The agitation for a change of the date of presidential inaugurations, which has been going on spasmodically for a good many years, has got as far as to be the subject of consideration by a committee consisting of fifteen residents of the national capital and the governors of most of the States and Territories.

The committee has reached the conclusion that the last Thursday in April should be fixed upon as the date for inauguration. There can, we imagine, be no doubt of the wisdom of a change which takes the date out of the month of March, usually a cold and blustery month, and places it among the first days of spring, when the temperature is more equable and the chances of danger from exposure are very perceptibly less. From one inauguration to another we hear of deaths from exposure, and it is well that this source of danger to our public men should be removed, while the fixing the date within the month of April would gratify the historic sense, the first President having been inducted into office on the last day of that month.

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the Russian throne may be insane. No doubt about it.—Los Angeles Express. The anarchist can take a look at Russia and see what the style of government he favors is really like—Washington Star.

President McCall's offer to return \$235,000 to the New York Life is not exactly proof of innocence.—Detroit Journal.

A report from Seoul says the Korean emperor has agreed to Japan's terms. Evidently there are humorists in Seoul.—Chicago News.

"Would be a graceful thing for the republic of Panama to recognize the independence of the Isle of Pines.—Atlanta Constitution.

On the year's showing St. Petersburg is now about five strikes and six riots ahead of Chicago, almost a commanding lead.—Detroit Journal.

King Christian of Denmark has five thrones in his family. That seems to be introducing the McCurdy idea into Europe.—New York World.

It is taken for granted, since the new king of Norway has chosen the title of Haakon VII, that there have been six other Haakons.—Kansas City Times.

The Czar is naturally anxious to restore order and have everything going on smoothly before the arrival of Colonel Bryan next summer.—Kansas City Journal.

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Those Russian prisoners in Tokio who are anxious to get back home do not seem to know when they are well off.

Bob Fitzsimmons got licked and now his wife wants a divorce from him. Still there are people who believe that a pugilist's life is one of joy!

Dr. "Elijah" Dowie who was partially paralyzed has recovered the use of his voice. He never lost his sense of touch.

A matter which the Supervisors might well regulate is that of the sweeping out of business premises. In most cities the sweeping of dust into the streets is absolutely prohibited. The sweepings have to be taken to the back of the stores and there placed in receptacles but even if this rigid ordinance could not be applied here, at least a time limit could be imposed. As it is now some stores are swept out as late as nine o'clock in the morning. Half-past seven should be the very latest hour allowed.

Somebody claims to have discovered that Rubiyat and the Book of Ecclesiastes are substantially the same thing in different language, which nicely fits in with the good old saying "There is nothing new under the sun."

There are 125 criminal cases on the calendar of the approaching term of the First Circuit Court, a fact which indicates that there is a great deal for Justice to do locally. But of course law will do the most. Justice has long been blind according to the wise ones. Modern law is making her deaf and dumb also.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

When Platt was ruler in the land, And graft was coming thick, In passing through his able hand, Did any of it STICK? DID ANY OF IT STICK? DID ANY OF IT STICK?—Chicago News. Advocates of the present style of football will find that the President is great at interference.—Chicago News. It is suggested that the pretender to

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No. 1—\$1.55 per cubic yard.
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No. 3—\$2.05 per cubic yard.
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ESSENTIAL FEATURE LACKING.

The palmy days of the automobile must be waning. There was a 90-mile an hour clip at the latest races, but not one chauffeur was killed.—St. Louis-Globe Democrat.