

DR. COOK'S OWN STORY OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE POLE

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE

food and camp equipment were loaded, and off we started on the morning of August 21 for man's ultima thule.

It was a beautiful day, with a light air from the sea. Passing inside of Littleton Island, we searched for relics along Lifeboat cove. The desolate cliffs of Cape Hatherton were a blaze of color and light, but the sea was refreshingly cool, with fleets of blue towering bergs to dispel the fire of arctic midsummer.

As we rushed in comfort past the ice-polished and wind-swept headlands the sea was alive with birds, seals and walrus, but little shooting was done, for we were bent on enjoying the quiet sport of motor boating.

ARRIVAL AT ANNOOTOK.

As we passed the sharp rocks of Cairn Point we located nine tents in a small bay under Cape Ingfield.

"Look, there is Annootok!" said Tungan, our native guide. Looking up Smith sound we noted that the entire channel beyond was blocked with a jam of hard blue ice. The northernmost limit of motor boating had been reached. A perpendicular cliff served as a pier to which to fasten the boat. Here it could rise and fall with the tide and the drifting ice did not give much trouble.

A diligent exploration of the town disclosed the fact that we had reached not only the northernmost town, but the most prosperous settlement of the Greenland shore. The best hunters had gathered here for the winter bear hunt.

Their game catch had been very lucky. Immense catches of meat were strewn along the shore. More than a hundred dogs voiced the hunt force, with which Eskimo prosperity is measured, and twelve long-haired wild men came out to meet us as friends.

The wealth in food and furs of this place fixed my determination on this spot as a base for the polar dash. We were standing at a point within seven hundred miles of the pole. The strongest force of men, the best teams of dogs and an unlimited supply of food, combined with the equipment on board the yacht, formed an ideal plant from which to work out the campaign. The seeming hopelessness of the task had a kind of weird fascination for me. Many years of schooling in both polar zones and in mountaineering would serve a useful purpose.

CONDITIONS RIPE FOR DASH.

Here was my chance. Here was everything necessary, conveniently placed within the polar gateway. The problem was discussed with my colleague. Mr. Bradley generously volunteered to land from the yacht the food, fuel and other supplies we had provided for local use. There was abundant trading material to serve as money.

My own equipment aboard for sledge traveling could be made to serve every purpose in the enterprise. The possible combination left absolutely nothing to be desired to insure success.

Only good health, enduring weather and workable ice were necessary. The expenditure of a million dollars could not have placed an expedition at a better advantage. The opportunity was too good to be lost. We, therefore, returned to Etah to prepare for the quest.

Strong efforts had been made to reach the pole from every available quarter. Only the angle between Alaska and Greenland had been left untried. In our prospective venture we aimed to pierce this area of the globe.

If we failed in our main effort we would at least make a track over a blank spot. With the resources for transportation which the Eskimos offered I hoped to carry ample supplies over Ellesmere Land and along the west coast of the game land.

There was reason to suppose that we would avoid the troublesome pack agitated by the Greenland currents. The Eskimos were willing to trust to the game resources of this region to feed and fire the expedition en route to the land's end.

SPLENDID ADVANTAGES OFFERED.

If their faith proved correct it offered me a series of advantages denied to every other leader of polar expeditions, for the movement would not only be supplied at the expense of the land which it explored, but men and dogs would be taken to the battle ground in superb training, with their vigorous bodies nourished by wholesome fresh meat, not the nauseating laboratory stuff which is usually crowded into the unwilling stomach.

Furthermore, it afforded me a chance to test every article of equipment in actual field work, and, above all, after a hard campaign of this kind, I could select with some chance of success the most likely winners for the final race over the circumpolar sea.

A compact was made with the little men of the farthest north to push the venture into the boreal center. When it was noised about at Etah that preparations were in progress to try for the pole most of the men on board the yacht volunteered to serve.

Captain Bartlett, skipper of the John R. Bradley, said that he also would like to stay, but, if compelled to return, he required at least a cook and an engineer to take the yacht back to Newfoundland.

The situation was eased when the captain was told that but one man was wanted. No group of white men could possibly match the Eskimo in his own element. The willing hands of a tribe of 250 people were at my disposal. More help was not required.

But a companion and a general overseer was in demand for this post. Rudolph Francke was selected. Annootok was to be the base of operations.

But there is no harbor near this village to facilitate a rapid landing of supplies, and to hasten the departure of the yacht on her homeward run everything for the polar campaign was brought on deck while the vessel was still at anchor in Etah, and below all was prepared for the expected storms of the return voyage.

STARTING FOR ANNOOTOK.

Late in the evening of September 1 the entire village of Etah was taken aboard, the anchor was tripped and soon the Bradley's bow put out on the waters of Smith sound for Annootok. The night was cold and clear, brightened by the charm of color. The sun had just begun to dip under the northern horizon, which marks the end of the summer double days of splendor and begins the period of storms leading into the long night. Early in the morning we were off Annootok.

The weather was now changed. A strong wind came from the sea. With shallow water, unknown rocks and much ice drifting about no comfortable berth could be found for the yacht. If the overloaded decks were to be cleared at all it must be done quickly.

The launch and all the dories were lowered and filled. Eskimo boats were pressed into service and loaded. The boats were towed ashore. Only a few reached Annootok itself, for the wind increased and a troublesome sea made haste a matter of great importance. Things were pitched ashore anywhere on the rocks where a landing could be found for the boats.

The splendid efficiency of the launch proved equal to the emergency, and in the course of about three hours all was safely put on shore in spite of threatening winds and forbidding seas.

POLAR REGIONS AS THE EXPLORERS FOUND THEM

What Dr. Cook Says.

AT THE POLE.

"An endless field of purple snows. No life. No land. We were the only pulsating creatures in a field of ice."

ON THE WAY UP.

"Beyond the eighty-sixth parallel the ice fields became more extensive and heavier, the crevices fewer and less troublesome, with little or no crushed ice thrown up as barriers. From the eighty-seventh to the eighty-eighth, much to our surprise, was the indication of land ice."

"For two days we traveled over ice which resembled a glacial surface. The usual sea ice lines of demarcation were absent and there were no hummocks or deep crevices. There was, however, no perceptible elevation and no positive sign of land or sea."

"At latitude 88 deg. 21 min. we were now less than 100 miles from the pole. The pack was here more active, but the temperature remained below 40, cementing together quickly the new crevices."

FURTHER NORTH.

"The ice steadily improved."

RETURN FROM THE POLE.

"With fair weather, good ice and the impulsion of the home run long distances were at first quickly covered."

"Below the eighty-seventh parallel the character of the ice changed very much, and it became evident that the season was advancing rapidly."

"HARD WORK." "Much of our hard work was lost in circuitous twists around troublesome pressure and high, irregular fields of very old ice."

CURIOS ATMO SPHERIC EFFECTS.

"When the sun was low the eyes ran over the moving plains of color to dancing lions. The mirages turned things topsy-turvy. Inverted mountains and queer objects ever rose and fell in shrouds of mystery but all this was due to the atmospheric magic of the midnight sun."

GAME PROCURED.

"In this march (i. e., over Ellesmere land) were procured 301 musk oxen, seven bears and 335 hare."

"In the next few days (i. e., near Heiberg Island) bear came along as life savers."

"We found ourselves far down in Crown Prince Gustave sea, with open water and impossible small ice as a barrier between us and Heiberg Island."

"In the next few days bears came along as life savers."

"Cape Sparbo was picked as a likely place to find life."

"Game was located with the bow and arrow, the lance and the knife. The musk ox, bear and wolves yielded meat, skins and furs."

What Mr. Peary Says.

AT THE POLE.

"It all seems so simple and commonplace. As Bartlett said when turning back. 'It is just like every day.'"

"Five miles from the pole all my wire, 1,500 fathoms, was sent down, but there was no bottom."

ON THE WAY UP, SOUTH TO SOUTH PARALLEL.

"The going was the best and most equable of any I had had yet. The floes were large and old, hard and clear and surrounded by pressure ridges, some of which were almost stupendous."

"The surface, except as interrupted by infrequent ridges, was as level as the glacial fringe from Hecla to Columbia, and harder."

SOUTH PARALLEL TO POLE.

"It was like the great interior ice cap of Greenland."

"In twelve hours we made forty miles. There was no sign of a lead in the march."

RETURN JOURNEY.

"We would try to double march on the return."

"As a matter of fact, we nearly did this, covering regularly on our homeward journey five outward marches in three return marches."

"Just above the eighty-seventh parallel was a region some fifty miles wide which caused me considerable uneasiness. Twelve hours of strong easterly, westerly or northerly wind would make this region an open sea."

EASY GOING.

"Some of the pressure ridges were almost stupendous. The biggest of them, however, were easily negotiated, either through some crevice or over some huge brink."

CURIOS ATMO SPHERIC CONDITIONS.

"For the first time since leaving land we experienced that condition frequent over these ice fields of a hazy atmosphere, in which the light is equal everywhere, all relief is destroyed and it is impossible to see any distance."

GAME PROCURED.

"Hunting parties were sent out on September 10 and a bear was brought in on the 12th and some deer a day or two later."

"On October 1 I went on a hunt with two Eskimos and returned to the ship in seven days with fifteen musk oxen, a bear and a deer. Later in October I repeated the trip, obtaining five musk oxen, and hunting parties secured some forty dogs."

Cook Had Bullet to Cheat Starvation; Hunted Game With Arms of Stone Age

First Interview, Given on Board Steamer Bringing Him to Civilization, Translated from Copenhagen Politiker—Graphic Narrative of Struggle Against Ice, Snow and Hunger to Attain Fame and Maintain Life.

A copy of the Copenhagen Politiker for September 4, which has just been received by Emil Bonnelyke, a patent attorney of Washington, contains a remarkably graphic interview with Dr. Cook. It is the first interview given by the discoverer of the north pole to any newspaper after he reached civilization on his return from the pole, and was obtained by a correspondent of the Politiker, the leading newspaper of Denmark, who went to Skagen, in the northernmost part of Denmark, in a steamer and there met Dr. Cook. Mr. Bonnelyke is a native of Copenhagen. He received the paper from his brother, who lives in the Danish capital. Through Mr. Bonnelyke's kindness The Evening Star has received a translation of the Politiker's interview.

COOK'S FIGHT FOR FAME AND LIFE IN FAR NORTH.

The correspondent states that he found Dr. Cook sitting in the cabin of the vessel which brought him to Skagen. The sun shone brightly through a porthole. It fell upon Dr. Cook's head and cast a halo about his brown hair," writes the Politiker's correspondent. "His eyes were as bright and blue as the summer sky. He was clad in a faded blue linen shirt, brown trousers and black boots. His skin was tanned a deep brown. "I noted that he is of medium height. His frame indicates great strength and endurance. His face was clean shaven but for a short mustache. After he had presented Dr. Cook with a bouquet of flowers from Denmark and a batch of American newspapers the correspondent then asked him to talk of his experiences. Dr. Cook jumped into his story at once. Many things he spoke of have not been mentioned in the American newspapers. Ready to Die by Own Hands. He and the two Eskimos with him saved the three cartridges with which to commit suicide should all hope depart. They fought the arctic wolves, bear, walrus and musk oxen practically barehanded. Thirty-eight musk oxen they killed with lassos, their bows and arrows having been broken in the conflict. "We went out to hunt them," says Dr. Cook, "armed as were the men of the stone age. Once when they had killed a walrus and enjoyed their first square meal in many days, a bear came and devoured the remainder of the walrus, which they had buried for use the next day. Upon another occasion they were within sight of a supply station they had built and stocked on their way toward the pole, but a broken ice field could not reach it. They drew their trail, canvas boats upon a floating iceberg and there rested for forty hours until the icebergs course was changed that it bore them to land. Dr. Cook's Story of Travel. "I came to Novat September 17, 1907," the Politiker correspondent quotes Dr. Cook as saying. "We established a food depot there. The Eskimos helped us in every way. The women and children sewed the fur clothes that we wore on our trip. February 19, 1908, we started north. I had 11 sleighs, 10 Eskimos and 113 dogs. We got across Ellesmere Land comfortably, sleeping at night in snow huts that we built. The weather was cold—50 degrees below zero, Fahrenheit. "The polar sea was reached by the expedition in good shape. It had been pleasant up to that time. It took one month to cross Ellesmere Land and Grant's Land. There were plenty of musk oxen, polar bears and snow hares. Interested in World's Progress. At this point Dr. Cook's mind wandered away from the narrative of his experiences. He was silent a moment. Then he turned to the correspondent and asked: "But what has been happening in the world all this time? Tell me." "Bleriot has crossed the English channel in an aeroplane," said the correspondent. "So they have conquered the air, too," exclaimed the conqueror of snow and ice. "Who did that?" The correspondent told him it had been accomplished by the Wright brothers, Americans. This pleased Dr. Cook so that he made the correspondent tell him all about the progress of aviation. Brought back to his story, he asked: "Where were we? Oh, yes, I recall. Progress Toward Pole. "Well, we finally reached the coast of Heiberg Land. There six Eskimos went back with six of the sleighs, and the rest of us started across the Polar sea in canvas boats. There were four Eskimos and forty-four dogs. We had provisions for eighty days. "Sixty miles north across the Polar sea and we landed at Itukituk, near Arville. Two more Eskimos and forty-two dogs were left at the point. Two of our dogs had died, but I made ready to make the remainder of the trip with two Eskimos and twenty dogs. Here another interruption occurred, when a Danish torpedo boat halted Cook's vessel. An officer magnificently congratulated the crew and Cook. Dr. Cook and the correspondent went

back to the cabin and the story was taken up again.

Real Troubles Begin.

"From Itukituk we had 120 miles to go," continued Dr. Cook. "Here our real troubles began. The weather was severe. An ice fog settled over us. The dogs staggered over the rough, uneven ice."

"After twenty days of this we struck an ice bridge between the mainland ice and the Polar ice. Over this we crossed comfortably, making twenty miles a day. A wind blew from the south and made the would-be bad."

"After while the sun came out and I could take observations. I found we were at the 84th degree. There was new land to the west, but not a trace of life anywhere. At the 88th degree the screw ice began to mass. The wind was in the southwest and the ice drifted to the south and east."

"And then the day came. It was April 21, 1908. When I awoke it was dark. The clouds were black and there was no sign of the sun to come out. When it appeared we started."

"The only fifteen seconds from the north pole, within actual sight of it."

"Skalk!" Said Cook at North Pole. "What were your thoughts?" the correspondent asked Dr. Cook.

"I don't know," the explorer said. "I think I just thought, 'Skalk!'"

"Skalk," in the Danish tongue, is the equivalent of the German "Gesundheit," the French, "A Votre Sante," the American, "Here we are!"

In other words, Dr. Cook said to himself: "Here's to you, Cook, old boy. You've pulled it off, and you're here!"

After they had gone a short distance Dr. Cook took two more observations and pressed forward again. At last he found he was on the 90th degree, the top of the world, the jumping off place. The ice was full of cracks, but Dr. Cook suffered no uneasiness of mind.

Cook Shouted and Danced.

"I shouted and danced," he said. "The Eskimos did not even smile. They looked solemn and awed and continually snuffed their noses. The dogs alone were unimpressed."

"At last I merely stood silent. I was weak and tired. Reaction had set in. I could not know that had any sensation whatever beyond a sort of numbness."

"When thought came I realized that I stood with the whole world lying south of me."

"What o'clock was it?" Dr. Cook countered in response to the correspondent's query.

"Why, there was no calculable time at all. There is no time at the pole."

Appearance of the North Pole.

"Will you excuse me if I ask a foolish question?" inquired the correspondent. "Millions of ignorant people in the world want to know what the pole looks like."

"It might look like a ten-cent piece," Dr. Cook replied. "It might look like anything, like nothing. Everywhere there is ice—nothing but ice, ice, ice. There is no water at all, only unlimited ice, with more drifting ice than at the eighty-seventh degree."

"For the first two days, it was hard for me to tear myself away. I felt amused as I thought of what the modern skeptics would say. I knew many would never believe I had been there."

"You see, I could not prove to some persons that I had been to the pole when the seas had nothing there."

Here Dr. Cook showed a prophetic sense.

Forecasts Skeptical Criticisms.

"I can say that I bought up the Eskimos and that I could have sat quietly somewhere in the northern country and cooked up a daily record. But if the doubters really want to know the truth let me tell you the whole story."

"I believe I would never have consented to stand back of the pole and find the brass tube I buried there."

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BRIDGMAN BACK HOME

Business Prevented His Waiting for Peary's Coming.

SAYS COOK GRABBED PRIZE

Polar Commission Congratulations Especially Please Him.

HE CONSIDERS IT RECOGNITION

Negroes Plan Dinner to Henson.

Wife to Be First to Greet Cook on Arrival.

NEW YORK, September 17.—When Herbert L. Bridgman, secretary and treasurer of the Peary Arctic Club, returned to his home in Brooklyn late yesterday from Sydney, N. S., he found unopened on his desk a number of cablesgrams of congratulatory messages to Commander Peary, among which was the following, dated Uccle, Belgium, September 8, and addressed to him in Mr. Bridgman's care:

"Peary: International Polar Commission addresses sincerest congratulations to their member. "CAGNI, "NORDEENSKJOLD, "LE COINTE."

Uccle is a suburb of Brussels, and is the seat of the Royal Belgian Observatory, of which M. Le Cointe is the director. Capt. Umberto Cagni, Italian leader of the Duc d'Abuzzi's polar expedition, is president of the international polar commission; Dr. N. Otto G. Nordenskiold is its vice president, and has led a Swedish expedition into the arctic; while M. Le Cointe is its secretary.

Recognition, Says Bridgman. With the weight of these names behind it, the cablegram assumes scientific importance, Mr. Bridgman pointed out, of the first magnitude. It is, he said, the "O. K." to the Peary claims of the highest qualified body of international experts in the world.

The international polar commission was appointed May 29, 1906, by the delegates of 121 nations who met in Brussels to constitute the international polar congress and make a permanent organization, but its members are geographers and scientists of the first rank.

Dr. Bridgman, as a staunch supporter of the Peary claims, is naturally very happy to have the stamp of its approval on the commander's work.

Dr. Cook while at Copenhagen received telegrams of congratulation from Brussels and invitations to lecture there. Mr. Bridgman is insistent that none of them had come officially from the international polar commission, and that the message dated September 8 and made public yesterday was the first scientific recognition of the discovery of the pole yet accorded to either claimant of a world-wide body of international authorities on the subject.

Other Messages Received. The following additional messages from geographical societies of importance were also given out by Mr. Bridgman: "Edinburgh, September 9, 1909. "Bridgman, "Secretary Peary Arctic Club, Brooklyn, N. Y. "Warmest congratulations on Peary's safe return. "SCOTTISH GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY. "Rohan, France, September 8, 1909. "Bridgman, "Peary Arctic Club, Brooklyn. "Admiral Peary, magnificent success Peary. "HULLOT, Secrétaire General, "Societe Geographique, Paris. "Rome, September 8, 1909. "Secretary Peary Arctic Club, Brooklyn, N. Y. "Please convey Peary our warmest congratulations. I hope he will accept our invitation to lecture in Rome when visiting Europe. "MARQUESE COPPELLI, "President Societa Geografica Italiana. "Peary Arctic Club. "The members of the American Geographical Society rejoice with you and send their warmest congratulations upon your superb achievement. "ARCHER HUNTINGTON, "President American Geographical Society. Peary May Give Away Stores. The following message from Peary to Bridgman was received yesterday: "Asked me to lecture in Rome when visiting Europe. "Bridgman, Brooklyn. "Surgeon of Grenfell Hospital here asks can he buy for hospital some of expedition supplies left over. Shall I sell or present to him? "PEARY."

Permission had been telegraphed Peary. Mr. Bridgman said, to make a present of those left-over supplies to the hospital. It was learned last night that a meeting of the Peary Arctic Club will be held early next week to decide whether the club will launch a formal campaign in the purpose of sending an expedition to Etah to take the testimony of Eskimo witnesses.

Money may also be appropriated for the purpose of sending an expedition to Etah to take the testimony of Eskimo witnesses.

Mr. Bridgman declined to discuss this plan in the interests of the club take up cudgels against Dr. Cook.

"There is nothing to be given out on that subject," he said, "until the scheme has been passed by the club."

Dinner Not a Partisan Affair. The committee of the Arctic Club of America which has been arranging for a dinner of welcome to Dr. Cook September 23 announces that the occasion "should not be regarded as a partisan affair." Supporters of both Cook and Peary, it was said, will be present.

Among those who have been invited to attend are Admiral Dewey, Walter Wellman, Speaker Joseph G. Cannon, John Hay and Mr. Charles E. Hughes. Whiteley Reid, President Hadley of Yale and President Lowell of Harvard.

Mr. Bridgman was greatly disappointed over Peary's delay in reaching Etah. He said that he did not stay there longer because nothing remained for him to do there in the interests of Commander Peary or the Peary Arctic Club.

His business affairs here demanded his attention, and he also had a lecture engagement to fill which he did not feel like cancelling. Mr. Bridgman will lecture Tuesday night in the Metropolitan Temple, Manhattan.

Gen. Hubbard of the Peary Arctic Club, who has been at Bar Harbor, will return to town today. It is expected that he will confer with Mr. Bridgman and other members of the club as to plans for the return of Commander Peary and the care of the explorer's ship, the Roosevelt.

Mr. Bridgman said yesterday that he had no news concerning Peary other than that which had already been wired down from the north and published.

Why Bridgman Hated Back. "I have been asked several times today why I returned to my home before we welcomed Peary at Sydney. Business compelled me, of course. It has several important matters requiring immediate attention here, and I could not neglect them. I did not return, as some have suggested, to combat what statements Cook may make when he reaches here. Peary will take care of that on his arrival.

"What has angered me more than anything else in this question is the public misunderstanding of the whole matter. If the millions of people who have taken sides on the subject would try to acquaint themselves with the actual facts all doubt would be dissipated.

"Cook's action in cloaking his start for the north with mystery was despicable."

THE THIRD INSTALLMENT OF DR. COOK'S STORY WILL BE PRINTED IN THE STAR OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19.