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THE CASE OF DR. COOK.

It is now as unanimously conceded that Dr. Cook did not reach the pole as it was at first claimed that he did. But there was an element of doubt with everybody in the first instance and there is an element of doubt now.

No one could explain why, if Dr. Cook was honest, he did not at once satisfy arctic explorers that he had records sufficient to justify his claim. No one can explain now why he planned to profit by a fake discovery, he did not during his two years in arctic regions manufacture a record that would at least leave some room for dispute. If he was honest his conduct is unexplainable and if he was dishonest it is fully as difficult to account for him.

It is mere foolishness to discuss the matter on the assumption that he was not thoroughly acquainted with arctic conditions. The criticisms of Wellman, Kennan and others were beside the point, for Cook knew his country better than they did, and fully as well as Peary. He was scientifically trained as a young man, and had spent his life as an explorer. On this point Kellogg Durand of the Explorers' club, who believes Cook to be the victim of mental breakdown, is suggestive:

It is inconceivable that a man of scientific training who has been on eight expeditions into the arctic and antarctic regions should exhibit such complete ignorance of the rudiments of scientific knowledge. It is equally incredible that a man who has made exploration his métier for twenty odd years should go into the far north and creep into an igloo of snow and ice, there to remain in absolute inactivity for eighteen months or two years, without even attempting to reach the goal of arctic explorers of the past several centuries. Popular rumor notwithstanding, Cook was equipped to reach the great land. Scientifically trained as a young man, disciplined by eight successive expeditions into polar lands, stalwart and rugged of physique he might have made good his claim without surprise to his oldest friends.

If Cook were not a scientific man and had not known his country he could not have deceived the great Danish explorers. These men are not taken in by any but thoroughly informed men.

But how could Cook with his knowledge, and with two years' time, if he had decided to make a claim to the pole, present a record that has been discredited as unworthy of serious consideration? Any intelligent man could have produced a record that would at least have caused doubt. Cook, if he is the mountaineer-faker he appears to be, should have had a record that would have divided scientific men, and opened a controversy of years' duration out of which he would have reaped a fortune if not fame. He is, if anything, more unaccountable as a faker than as an honest explorer.

It will not be surprising if in the end the test of Cook will come back to his story of the ascent of Mount McKinley. He was not laboring under any stress of mind when he wrote the book in which he claimed to have performed that feat. The records, if he left any there, have not been disturbed. The ascent, if it should prove that the records are there, it will then be easy to believe that he made an honest trip to the north, and reached or nearly reached to the pole—his subsequent conduct to be accounted for by the privations of his polar life, and the disconcerting stacks upon his integrity. If the records are not there it will be plain that having lied in one instance, he has lied in both.

It seems now that Cook may come to be looked upon as half explorer, half faker, one of those "let it darn not, wait upon I would," sort of men who are never quite willing to abide by the limitations of the record; and yet never muster up quite courage enough to do a bold deed of crime. With ambition to be an explorer, and talent to be a romancer, he proves, with one of the great opportunities before him, to be not quite one or the other. He could have won fame by telling the exact truth of his polar trip, or he could have palmed off the most colossal fake of the century. As it is his merits as an explorer are overlooked, while his failure as a faker is such as to suggest an unbalanced mind—Register and Leader.

DIXIE.

The government music critic finds "Dixie" the most popular song in the United States. Anyone who has attended many large assemblages of people, where patriotic songs were heard, will readily agree with the chief of the Division of Music of the Congressional Library. "Dixie" was first sung from the stage of Bryant's Minstrels, at 472 Broadway, New York, on Monday, September 19, 1859. Its popularity was instantaneous. Many are unfamiliar with the words, which are as follows:

I wish I was in de land ob cotton,
Old times dar am not forgotten;
Look away, look away, look away,
Look away, Dixie Land.

In Dixie land whar I was born in,
Early on one frosty mornin',
Look away, look away, look away,
Look away, Dixie Land.

Chorus—
Den I wish I was in Dixie, Hooray,
Hooray,
In Dixie Land we'll take our stand,
To lib an' die 'ere, 'ere, 'ere,
Away, away, away down south in Dixie,
Away, away, away down south in Dixie.

Old missus marry "Will-de-weaver,"
Will was a gay deceiver;
Look away, look away, look away,
Look away, Dixie Land.

But when he put his arm around her,
He smiled as fierce as a forty-pounder;
Look away, look away, look away,
Look away, Dixie Land.

His face was as sharp as a butcher's cleaver;
But dat did not seem to greab her;
Look away, look away, look away,
Look away, Dixie Land.

De missus acted de foolish part,
And died for a man dat broke her heart;
Look away, look away, look away,
Look away, Dixie Land.

Now here's health to de next ole missus,
An' all de gals dat want to kiss us;
Look away, look away, look away,
Look away, Dixie Land.

But if you want to drive 'way sorrow,
Come and hear dis song to morrow;
Look away, look away, look away,
Look away, Dixie Land.

Jar's buckwhet cakes an' Injia butter,
Makes you fat or a little fatter;
Look away, look away, look away,
Look away, Dixie Land.

Den hoe it down an' scratch your head,
To Dixie Land I'm bound to trable;
Look away, look away, look away,
Look away, Dixie Land.

HOW TO MAKE TEA.

Tea is responsible for many ills, especially among women. While it is the simplest matter in the world to make tea properly, it is unhealthfully prepared more often than other food. Tea is absolutely unfit to drink when the brewing process has proceeded beyond a certain point and tannin is liberated, but if care is taken the evils of moderate tea-drinking may be reduced to a minimum. The old rule which calls for a teaspoonful for each person and one for the pot is unthinkably from the standpoint of the modern dietitian such a brew is ruinous to skin, stomach and nervous system.

To make tea properly and as nearly as can be hygienically, buy good tea, preferably black. Heat the receptacle in which the tea is to be made with hot water, use one teaspoonful or less of tea to a pint of boiling water, allow the water to remain in contact with the leaves five minutes, then pour off and use once. Never put the tea pot directly in contact with intense heat, a very safe and satisfactory way of making tea is by the use of the teapot, as very little tannin contaminates the beverage thus made. The abuse of tea is common and a far-removed source of serious nervous disease. The habit of giving tea and coffee to young children is little short of criminal.

While on the subject of beverage let me remind you of buttermilk. The caustics of three generations bartered on buttermilk as an invaluable aid to their charms. They used it as a wash and they drank it freely. It does not appeal to our modern ideas of cleanliness to bathe in it, we still consider buttermilk one of the most healthful foods.

Let me suggest a few luncheon menus for our girls who want to look wholesome and feel well. For instance, try a glass of sweet milk or buttermilk with Boston brown bread, between thinly cut slices of which cream cheese has been spread. If these sandwiches are made at home variety may be obtained by adding a little chopped sweet pepper, a few pistachio nuts, etc.—Dr. Jean Williams in Woman's Home Companion for January.

COMBINATIONS REACH ALL.

Then there is the relation of combinations to it all. They reach now almost everything. When we have a tariff, it was wrong to say we had a high tariff; the tariff was merely protective, and while it kept foreign goods, competition among some producers kept the price of our goods down. But that is in our favor, because of the work of the combinations to kill competition at home.

It used to be said that there was a consumer. What that meant, of course, was that everybody got a share of the benefits of the production to the American producer, everybody was better off for that condition, no one class got all the benefits, and no other class paid the bill for all of them. But when we come to the era of combinations, behind our tariff wall, to prevent competition at home while the tariff prevents competition from abroad, then we find ourselves facing this condition of constantly increasing cost of living. Eliminate competition, a producer and consumer at once become two different classes.

People Living Better.

Then there is the tendency of our people to more extravagant living. They have more necessities, or than they do, than formerly. Look at the automobile business. We have had hundreds of thousands of automobiles and people have bought them. How many people who couldn't afford them. Now see how that affects the price of leather. Every automobile requires a lot of leather. A sudden demand for all this coming from the automobile manufacturers of the whole world, added to the former demands for leather, makes the supply short, and the price goes up. The automobiles make shoes cost more, in that way.

And the illustration is merely typical of many other cases that could be cited.

The Remedy's Question.

The remedy? That's a great question. To answer it reminds one of the case of the young preacher who took for his subject "God and the universe." He said he would concede the argument to devote himself to the "God." That was rather a far-thing to do in this one. We may concede the increase of the cost of living, but how to cope with it is another question. For one thing, we must have legislation that will reinforce the combinations. I mean, that tariff, so adjusted as to protect combinations at home against competition abroad, must be lowered. The combinations are eliminating competition, as Sherman and Baile's two years ago saw that they would. It is

PREVENTED MANY STRIKES.

Excellent Work Done Under Canadian Industrial Disputes Investigation Act.

The chief feature of the beneficent Canadian act called the industrial disputes investigation act was the requirement that, in the event of a dispute in any industry known as a public utility, it should be illegal to resort to a strike or lockout until the matters in dispute had been made the subject of an investigation before a board of conciliation and investigation to be established under specified rules to be established under specified rules to be established under specified rules.

During the two years from March 22, 1907, to the end of March, 1909, 55 applications were received for the appointment of boards, under which 49 boards were set up.

On the 55 applications received 25 strikes were avoided or ended in 25 coal mines and four metalliferous mines, in 15 railroads and three street railways, in two bodies of longshoremen, in one body of teamsters and in one body of sailors, and in two industries not public utilities. There were two cases in which strikes were not averted or ended. Only two cases, therefore, out of 55 ultimately resulted in strikes, these two strikes being in perfect accordance with the wise terms of the act, which permit owners to lock out their men and workers to strike after the public investigation has been completed and its results published.—Charles W. Elliot, in McClure's.

NOT ALWAYS SAFE TO LAUGH.

Carlyle's Savage But True Reply to Imbecile Aristocrat Who Scoffed at Theories.

Edward H. R. Green, the noted young capitalist and statesman of Texas, and son of the equally-noted Mrs. Hetty Green, said in New York recently, in answer to the Wright aeroplane he was buying:

"I was the first Texan to own an auto, and now, I am the first to own an aeroplane. Of this distinction I am proud.

"Some people laughed at the first autos. They laughed at the first aeroplanes. Such people retard the wheels of progress, and sometimes they are crushed under those wheels.

"Such people remind me of an empty-headed duke who said to Thomas Carlyle at a dinner:

"The British people, sir, can afford to laugh at theories."

Carlyle, scowling at the duke, replied:

"The French nobility of a hundred years ago thought that they could afford to laugh at theories. But a man came and wrote a book called Jean Jacques Rousseau, and his book was a theory and nothing but a theory. The nobles could laugh at his theory, but their skins went to bind the second edition of the book."

RATHER A LEADING QUESTION.

Interrogation Calculated to Embarrass Anyone But a Newspaper Reporter.

When it was rumored that the late Elijah M. Haines would be a candidate for the speakership of the Illinois house of representatives, he was besieged by reporters for interviews, but he was non-committal. Finally, the reporter for a Chicago newspaper came to him along with a bunch of other reporters, and he was as aggressive and persuasive as John Cowin; and quite as handsome. He wore good clothes, too, and smoked cigars that spoke for themselves. He had a diamond in his tie, which rivaled the stars on the heavens for brilliancy. Before all of the reporters, Mr. Haines said:

"When I give out this interview, you shall have it in advance of all of these other reporters. Evidently you are a man in whom I can place confidence, because I see that you have secured the confidence of some big business man in Chicago, or elsewhere. That is a marvelous diamond that you wear. Where did you get it?"—Sun Day Magazine of the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

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