

## COOK NEAR POLE

EXPLORER, ALONE IN ICE AND SNOW, WITHIN 500 MILES.

Started on Hunting Jaunt With Rich New Yorker—Writes of His Success.

New York, Oct. 15.—Dr. Frederick E. Cook, the Arctic explorer, is believed by Anthony Fiala to be close to the North Pole, if he has not already reached that object of many historic expeditions. No word has been heard from Dr. Cook since March 17 last. He was then on the polar ice north of Cape Thomas Hubbard, about 560 miles from the pole. He was the only white man with several Eskimos and a big equipment of dogs, sleds and supplies. When he wrote then he was on the eve of making a desperate dash for the pole over the ice.

Dr. Cook's attempt to reach the pole was unpremeditated. A year ago last spring he started on a hunting expedition with John R. Bradley, a wealthy New Yorker, who had hunted game in all corners of the world except the Polar region. Mr. Bradley bought a 170-ton Gloucester fishing schooner with an auxiliary gasoline engine, renamed her the John R. Bradley, and in this vessel went north, Dr. Cook being in command.

### One Man Try for Pole.

The hunting trip ended the latter part of August, 1907, and on the 27th the schooner had started from Annotok, on the northwest coast of Greenland, back for New York. Almost up to the last it was expected Dr. Cook would return with the party, but he decided to remain and make a one-man try for the pole. One of the crew of the schooner, Rudolph Franke, volunteered to stay at Annotok and watch the supplies. Franke has just got back. While at Annotok he received the following letter from Dr. Cook by Eskimo messenger:

"The Polar Sea, North of C. Hubbard, March 17.—Dr. Rudolph: Thus far it has gone very well, but the weather has been awful cold. We got no musk ox until we had crossed Ellesmereland, but since we have secured 102 musk ox, 5 bears and about 150 hares.

"The Eskimos will probably return slowly, for they like this land very well. I do not expect them to reach you until about the middle of May. If we are lucky, we will take a short cut back and will get to Annotok by the end of May. When the natives get back give them all one block of tobacco, and nothing more until I get back, except those that go away. Picillima and Egingwah will go away. Give them a knife and a hatchet each and any other thing we can spare which they want. If you get a chance, send to Igloodohoming and also to the island off North Star a box of biscuits and a can of alcohol.

"To the present I have seen nothing of Crokerland, and I am taking a straight course for the pole. The boys are doing well, and I have plenty of dogs. I hope to succeed. At any rate, I will make a desperate attempt.

"While I expect to get back to you by the end of May, still I wish you to be ready to go to Apconie, the island off North Star, where the whalers' steamers come, by the 5th of June, and if I am not back, go home with the whalers. I think, however, we will be back. Gather all the blue fox skins you can. These must be our money on the return trip. If you can get a few bear skins take them, also norwhal and walrus tusks, but do not give too much for them. The dogs that come back that belong to us turn over to Poncipa to feed and work. If Kudnu (the Dane) is still there, urge him to wait for our return either at Annotok or at North Star, for I am anxious to go to Upernivik at once on our return, and he can be of much use to us.

"There is likely to be much open water between you and Etah, so you had better send the trunk, the norwhal tusks and all things for the return to Etah at least, if not further, as soon as you can.

"I have regretted many times that you are not with us, but at the moment it seemed best to send you back, and, on the whole, you are more assistance to me at home, to guard and care for our things, than here in the field, in this awful cold and wind. I trust you are of the same opinion.

"So good-bye, and now for the pole. Yours cordially,

"FREDERICK A. COOK."

### Grape Vine Information.

New York, Oct. 15.—The Democratic national committee issued a statement last night quoting Timothy Healey, president of the International Brotherhood of Stationery Firemen, as authority for the allegation that Daniel J. Keefe had been promised by the president the appointment of commissioner general of immigration in return for Keefe's support of Taft. The national committee had promised to make known its informant if the charge was denied, as it has been by both Keefe and at the white house.

The national committee quotes Healey as saying that he was in Washington last Wednesday and that he was told by an "official of high standing in the government service" of Keefe's appointment, and that this official had his information from "a member of the president's cabinet and knew what he was talking about." Healey refused to give his informant's name, but adds: "Perhaps the offer was not made at the conference on October 3 last, but I believe it has been made."



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