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SAN FRANCISCO, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1909.

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PEARY WANTS COOK TO TELL VERSION FIRST

Commander to Withhold Details of Own Expedition Till Rival Speaks Reiterates That He Is the Only White Man Who Ever Reached the Pole

NEW YORK, Sept. 14.—Commander Robert E. Peary, according to the dispatches from Battle Harbor, Labrador, today has assumed a less aggressive attitude toward his rival, Dr. Frederick A. Cook, and with Doctor Cook beyond the reach of wireless on the ocean, the flame of the north pole controversy must be fed by supporters of the two explorers, rather than by the principals.

Doctor Cook has held his tongue all along with the assurance that he would "make good" when the time came, but until today Commander Peary has flashed at intervals curt messages from Labrador questioning the achievement of the Brooklyn explorer. When interviewed today, however, Peary said that he declined to enter into further debate "until Doctor Cook has issued his full authorized statement." At the same time the commander emphatically reaffirmed that "I am the only white man who has ever reached the north pole."

Honors for Both With the situation as it stands, the world can but bide its time until Doctor Cook's arrival in New York, where he is due on September 21. Meanwhile plans for the reception of both explorers are being completed.

The time of the Roosevelt's departure from Battle Harbor is still indefinite and the vessel will reach Sydney several days after Doctor Cook reaches New York. Little if anything of weight on either side of the controversy was produced today. Herbert Bridgman, secretary of the Peary arctic club, who is in Sydney, declared as false the story that Peary had appropriated Doctor Cook's stores in the north, saying he had merely "saved" them.

Scientists have generally withdrawn from the debate. Commander Peary has intimated that the Roosevelt would not be allowed to participate in the Hudson-Fulton celebration naval parade if Cook's schooner, the John R. Bradley, was similarly honored.

ONLY WHITE MAN TO REACH POLE IS PEARY'S CLAIM

BATTLE HARBOR, Labrador, Sept. 14, via Wireless to Cape Ray.—"I am the only white man who has ever reached the north pole and I am prepared to prove it."

This statement was made to the representative of the Associated Press by Commander Robert E. Peary in reply to a question on the Peary-Cook controversy.

The Associated Press tug Douglas Thomas, after a stormy passage up the west coast of Newfoundland and through the strait of Belle Isle from Sydney, arrived at this lonely whaling and mission settlement at noon yesterday. A squall of rain was sweeping over the harbor as the Thomas steamed in, but with glasses it was possible to make out the hull of the arctic steamer Roosevelt moored in the inner bay. The Thomas broke out the "North Pole" flag, the same emblem that was flying from the mizenmast of the Roosevelt, and signalled: "The Associated Press congratulates you."

Signals His Thanks The Roosevelt then signalled the thanks of Commander Peary for this message.

The Thomas drew near to the Roosevelt. Captain Bartlett invited the Thomas to lie alongside and the correspondent to come on board without delay. The correspondent clambered over the weather beaten bulwarks and proceeded direct to the cabin to meet the man who has stood upon the apex of the world. The commander's greeting was cordial.

The correspondent at once began questioning the explorer regarding the merits of Dr. Frederick A. Cook's claim to having reached the pole. The commander declared positively that he would not further discuss this subject until the main point, whether Doctor Cook had actually reached the north pole or not, had been decided by others. He then dictated the following telegram to the Associated Press for publication: "I am the only white man who has ever reached the north pole, and I am prepared to prove it at the proper time. I have already stated publicly that Cook has not been to the pole. This I reaffirm and I will stand by it, but I decline to discuss the details of the matter. These will come out later. I have said that Doctor Cook's statement that he had reached the pole should not be taken seriously and that I have him nailed by concrete proof to support my statement. In six months you probably will get the whole story.

It would not be policy for me to enter upon a full debate with the subject as it now stands. To do so I would be giving out much information

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DEATH OF MCKINLEY OBSERVED AT CANTON Cortelyou Sends Annual Tribute of Flowers

CANTON, O., Sept. 14.—The eighth anniversary of the death of President William McKinley was observed quietly here today. A large wreath of carnations, roses and lilies was placed in the McKinley mausoleum by order of George B. Cortelyou of New York, who sends this annual tribute to the memory of the chief under whom he served as private secretary.

SENTENCED FOR FORGERY—Yreks, Sept. 14.—Declaring that he used the money to pay the expenses of his wedding, Albert C. Tomlinson of San Francisco, who married a prominent young woman of this city several weeks ago, pleaded guilty to forgery today and was sentenced to 18 months in San Quentin. Tomlinson was charged with forging the name of his employers to a money order.

MARS CAN HAVE LITTLE IF ANY AQUEOUS VAPOR

Professor Campbell of Lick Observatory Has Great Success in Photography

Results Do Not Prove That Life Does Not Exist on the Ruddy Planet

[Special Dispatch to The Call] SAN JOSE, Sept. 14.—Has Prof. W. W. Campbell, director of the Lick observatory, demonstrated that Mars is not inhabited? He does not maintain any such conclusion for his recent observations, but he raises the question with a certain element of doubt. Doctor Campbell did establish that water vapor either does not exist at all or is in very limited quantities on Mars. Naturally follows the query: Can forms of life as known on earth thrive under these conditions? Up to this point and no further will the director go. He has opened the door to new fields, but refuses to enter. The final task he assigns to others in these words: "These observations do not prove that life does not or can not exist on Mars. The question of life under these conditions is the biologist's problem rather than the astronomer's."

Professor Campbell has at the same time cast serious doubt upon another popular theory as to the stellar neighbor. The lack of water vapor suggests that the supposed canals in Mars may not be canals after all. It would appear that such a formation would create a water vapor capable of detection by the delicate instruments of the astronomers. Into this field also Doctor Campbell does not venture.

Returns From Mount Whitney Professor Campbell has just completed a synopsis of the results of the recent expedition from Lick observatory to Mount Whitney, the highest point of land in the United States. The expedition was made possible by William H. Crocker, the banker and regent of the state university. The report of Doctor Campbell indicates that it was highly successful.

The primary object of observation was the atmosphere of the planet Mars. The astronomers devoted themselves to the study of the question of water vapor about the celestial body. Conditions on Mount Whitney were "superlatively favorable," to quote Doctor Campbell. The height was chosen because it placed the astronomers above most of the water vapor about the earth and lessened the extraneous effect on the photographic plates.

The method of procedure was scientifically simple. It is known that no water vapor exists about the moon. The moon and Mars were photographed in the same manner under similar conditions. Water vapor is reflected in a planet by dark bands at certain definite positions in its spectrum. No such bands were revealed on Mars.

Some Vapor May Exist "This does not mean that Mars has no water vapor," writes Doctor Campbell, "but only that the quantity present, if any, must be very slight. Let us recall that we see Mars by reflected sunlight. The rays which reached our instruments passed from the sun into the Martian atmosphere, for the most part down to the surface of the planet, and then out again to us, thus passing twice through the planet's atmosphere and any water vapor it may contain."

"Even with this multiplying effect on Mars water bands in the Martian and lunar spectra were alike, and we conclude that any water vapor in the Martian atmosphere must have been much less extensive than was contained in the rarefied and remarkably dry air strata above Mount Whitney. "These observations," concludes Doctor Campbell, "do not prove that life does not or can not exist on Mars. The question of life under these conditions is the biologist's problem rather than the astronomer's."

CHICAGO'S UNDERWORLD WILL GIVE FUNCTION

Affair Is to Fade Any French Ball Ever Seen

[Special Dispatch to The Call] CHICAGO, Sept. 14.—All night festivities of the annual first ward democracy ball have been set for December 13. The affair will be held in the Coliseum, as usual. Tickets today are being placed on sale and the price will be \$2 a ticket or \$4 a couple. The lease of the Coliseum for the night of the "big doings" in Chicago's underworld has already been signed. It is between the Coliseum company and the first ward democratic auxiliary, of which John W. Coughlin, alderman and fondly known among his henchmen as "De Bathhouse," is president. "We are going to limit the attendance to 'our people,' so that we can get around, socialize and drink a few bottles of wine without having our clothes torn off by a mob of 'rubber necks,'" is the explanation of the increase in price by the alderman. "The affair will be toned up considerably this year. It will fade any French ball that any city would appear more artistically. The inauguration of all through telephone cables was burned off and the wires became crossed."

WOMAN GIVEN THREE DAYS IN WHICH TO DISPOSE OF HER CANINE PETS

Alameda Jurist Says Medium's Four Footed Companions Must Leave City

ALAMEDA, Sept. 14.—Mrs. Jane del Mar, medium, prophetess and a unique character, has been given three days by Police Judge R. B. Tappan to get rid of 18 dogs or go to jail for six months. She was found guilty today of maintaining a public nuisance. The woman dog fancier was arrested on the complaint of Dr. L. W. Stidham, health officer.

The complaining witness testified that he visited and inspected the premises occupied by the defendant and her canines. "I was greeted by a pack of 18 yelping, yapping dogs and also by a stench that groaned to high heaven," testified the health officer. "I counted 18 canines without turning over any boxes in the yard. I feared that if I turned over any boxes I would discover more dogs."

Mrs. del Mar was represented by counsel, who asked that the defendant be allowed one week in which to get rid of her dogs. "I will give her three days in which to move those dogs and abate the insanitary nuisance," said the judge. "If she does not comply with the order I will give her six months to think it over. Let her take the dogs to Oakland or to any other place. Since this dog case has been before me I have been seeing nothing but canines, morning, noon and night. I am as tired of this as the neighbors are of the Del Mar dogs."

ANNEXATION ELECTION ORDINANCE IS PASSED

First Step Is Taken in Greater Oakland Scheme

[Special Dispatch to The Call] OAKLAND, Sept. 14.—An ordinance was passed to print tonight by the city council fixing November 18 as the date for a special election upon the proposed annexation of Fruitvale, Melrose, Pittsburg, Dimond, Alameda and Elmhurst. This action was taken after the filing of a petition tonight signed by one-fifth of the voters of Oakland, as required by law. The council met in special session. The ordinance made a total of 10,000 signatures was obtained. The annexation committee will be chosen. The joint annexation committee expresses utmost confidence that the same date of the election in the outside territory will be chosen. The joint annexation committee expresses utmost confidence that the territory as far east as San Leandro will become a part of the city of Oakland, adding an estimated population of 30,000 to 40,000.

BUILDING FUND HAS REACHED \$50,000 MARK

Y. M. C. A. of Berkeley Raises More Than Half Amount BERKELEY, Sept. 14.—With half the time passed in which pledges for the building of the Y. M. C. A. headquarters will be received to secure \$100,000 for the structure, more than half of the amount has been received by the committee in charge of the campaign for funds, and that by the fund raised will exceed the sum asked for in the general opinion here. When the workers assembled at the noon day luncheon in the parlors of the Y. M. C. A. today it was reported that the total amount represented in pledged subscriptions made a total of \$50,070, with four days more for the campaign to run. The businessmen and young men's committees are hard at work and the rivalry between them is keen. An average of more than \$15,000 a day has been reached, and at this rate the fund will pass the amount necessary for building to be begun at the corner of Milvia street and Alston way, donated by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Woolsey.

WILL SEEK A SITE FOR NEW CITY HALL

San Leandro Board of Trade Names Committee

SAN LEANDRO, Sept. 14.—The board of trade has appointed a committee of three to secure options on several desirable sites about the city for the location of a new city hall. W. J. Locke, L. B. Ury and J. M. Estudillo were named on the committee. It was decided at the meeting that the first effort should be made to secure an option on the Gammon property on the bank of San Leandro creek, at the entrance to the business section, where a Mission style building would appear most artistically. When the options are secured a public meeting will be held to consider the project.

When Wm. Taft Comes West



"It certainly is not going to be a pleasure trip. It will involve a great deal of mental effort to think of things to say."—President Taft in his Boston speech last evening.

TAFT'S TRIP MADE TO HELP WEST

Believes Journey Will Better Acquaint Him With Needs of Great Section

Outlines Matters to Be Submitted to Next Congress in Address at Boston

Revision of Monetary System With Central Bank of Issue Advocated by President

Flays Governor Johnson of Minnesota for Attempt to Create Sectional Feeling

BOSTON, Sept. 14.—President Taft, in addressing a banquet of the Boston chamber of commerce tonight, said he was going to take his western trip because he believed it would enable him to be a much more efficient president and make him better acquainted with the needs of that great section. He also outlined some of the matters to be submitted to the next congress.

"I am on the eve of beginning a journey of 13,000 miles in length," said Taft, "which will enable me to see tens and hundreds of thousands of my fellow citizens and enable them, I hope, to see me. Occasionally I hear a query, why I should start off on such a trip and 'what particular good does it do to anybody?' Involves Hard Work.

"Well, it certainly is not going to be a pleasure trip, although I shall enjoy it. It will involve much hard work and a great deal of mental effort to think of things to say and to say them simply and clearly, so that they can be understood.

"On the other hand, it will certainly give me a very much more accurate impression as to the views of the people in the sections which I visit. It will bring closely to me the needs of particular sections, so far as national legislation is concerned, and I believe it will make me a wiser man and a better public officer. "I ought to be able to explain to the people some of the difficulties of government and some of the problems for solution from the standpoint of the executive and the legislator as distinguished from that of the honest but irresponsible critics. The personal touch between the people and the men to whom they temporarily delegate power, of course, conduces to a better understanding between them.

"This is the second week in September. We are all ending our vacations and going home. This is the time of year, rather than the first of the calendar year, when good resolutions ought to be made—and kept as far as possible. Consider Country's Needs "This is the time when, looking forward to the coming again of the congress in December, one must consider the needs of the country so far as they may be relieved by congressional legislation and attempt to state what that legislation should be.

"Our chairman has made some reference to the number of subjects to which the attention of congress may well be directed. In the first place, there is the monetary situation. While it is probable that the Vreeland bill would aid us in case of another financial crash, it is certain that our banking and monetary system is a patched up affair which satisfies nobody, and least of all those who are clear headed and have a knowledge of what a financial system should be.

"The matter has been referred by congress to a monetary commission, which has been studying the financial and banking systems of the great governments of Europe and has embodied and will publish in interesting and attractive form the best accounts of the financial systems of the world.

"It is quite apparent from the statements of Vreeland, now the head of the committee on banking and currency in the house, and from the conversations of Aldrich, chairman of the monetary commission and of the finance committee of the senate, that the idea of the monetary commission is for some sort of arrangement for a central bank of issue, which shall control the reserve and exercise a power to meet and control the casual stringency which from time to time will come in the circulating medium of the country and the world.

Control Money Market "Mr. Aldrich states that there are two indispensable requirements in any plan involving a central bank of issue. The one is that the control of the monetary system shall be kept free from Wall street influences, and the other that it shall not be manipulated for political purposes. These are two

BABES NEAR DEATH AS 15 SHOPS BURN

Property at Junction of Washington Street and Montgomery Avenue Destroyed

From a fire that destroyed 15 shops and stores in the gore at the junction of Washington street and Montgomery avenue last night, five Chinese children were rescued under dramatic circumstances by some of their fellow countrymen. Further spread of the fire was checked by the Cresco hotel, a brick building that extends through the gore from one street to the other. The estimated loss was between \$50,000 and \$60,000. The children were asleep in the rear of the overall factory at 632 and 634 Washington street, belonging to Gee Yee and Hung Fat, and as there was no rear outlet the rescuers were forced to run past the rapidly increasing flames, which scorched their hair and blistered their arms, faces and necks. The children belonged to Sing Yee and Hung Yee, and thus cut off of the rear of the little Orientals were almost suffocated.

HOTEL GUESTS DRIVEN OUT What caused the fire is unknown. It originated in the paint shop of G. Orsi, which abuts the rear of the Chinese overall factory. The flames took an indirect path and thus cut off of the rear from the place where the children were sleeping before it attacked their beds.

While the wooden structures were burning the Cresco hotel became so heated that the occupants were forced to flee to the street, but none of them had retired, as the fire began at 6:45 o'clock and had done its work in less than an hour.

FACTORY AND STORES BURNED In addition to the overall factory and the paint store belonging to Orsi, the following places were destroyed: Gay's, 622 Washington; Elcola Prandini's tailor shop, 618 Washington; the shop of Siro Marcelli, ornamental plasterer, 612 Washington; store of the Klein electric company, 610 Washington; the office of the Italian newspaper, La Voce del Popolo, 638 Washington; Zappellini & Perasso's office, agent for the White Star steamship line, 1 Montgomery avenue; office of the Italian-American Realty Company, 11 and 13 Montgomery; the notion store of Righetti Brothers at 29 Montgomery; printing shop belonging to Gale & Co., 37 Montgomery avenue; shop of I. Waxman, tailor, at 9 Montgomery, and the Uncle Sam pawn shop at 23 Montgomery avenue.

While the fire was burning, Isadora Marchanti, a barber, was arrested by Patrolmen Sullivan and Gleason, who charged him with stealing from one of the burning stores. The stores were partially covered by insurance.

BURIED CITY DISCOVERED BY SAVANT IN MEXICO

Ruins Indicate That Place Was Built by Toltecs

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 14.—Prof. Ramon Manu, who headed a government expedition to Otumba, in Mexico, announced today that a buried city of great antiquity had been uncovered. A pyramid similar to that uncovered at San Juan de Teotihuacan has been exposed. The remains indicate that the city was built and occupied in the time of the Toltecs.

MARRIES OLD LOVE ON HIS DEATH BED

Rewards Years of Fidelity by Making Woman Sole Heir to Comfortable Fortune

OAKLAND, Sept. 14.—Prolonging his life by an effort of his will, Alfred Py, a well to do vineyardist and squab rancher at Sunol, had a marriage license taken to his house, and, summoning Justice of the Peace P. C. Quinn of Pleasanton, married Anna le Pleux, the sweetheart of his youth and his devoted attendant during his declining years.

Though unable to turn himself, Py laughed heartily when the ceremony was concluded and had his guests sit down to an excellent squab dinner with wine from his own cellars.

Justice Quinn was called from his bed at 4 o'clock this morning to perform the service when it appeared that Py was passing away, but delay ensued when it was found that there was no license. Quinn took the first train for Oakland, and, meeting Deputy County Clerk Paul, had him secure the necessary document and make the trip back with him. They arrived at 11 o'clock and found that Py had rallied after a slight operation and a stimulant, and he maintained his spirits for several hours.

The union, though long delayed, crowned years of faithful service by Mrs. le Pleux following the death of Py's first wife many years ago. As he left no children and has no heirs in this country she will inherit all his property, estimated as worth \$50,000.

Py had supplied the most exclusive markets in San Francisco with squab for a long time, and the products of his vineyards were also highly esteemed. He was a native of France, aged 63 years, and Mrs. Py is 50 years of age and a native of the same country. He has been confined to his bed for months with a tropical affection.

FOUR ELEPHANTS LEAVE CIRCUS ON THE DESERT

Huge Beasts Break Down Fence and Charge a House

PHOENIX, Ariz., Sept. 14.—Four elephants belonging to a traveling show company escaped on the desert today while they were being walked from Maricopa to Phoenix. A few miles out from Phoenix the pachyderms stampeded while passing a Mexican hacienda, broke down fences and charged an adobe house, in which was a Mexican woman and her six children. The woman fell in a faint, but the huge beasts were unable to gain entrance through the small door of the place, and at length the keepers subdued them.

DEATH OF COLORADO PIONEER—Colorado Springs, Sept. 14.—J. J. Hagerman, builder of the Colorado Midland railroad and foremost among the Colorado pioneers, died at Milan, Italy, last night as the result of a lung affection. Hagerman was 70 years old.