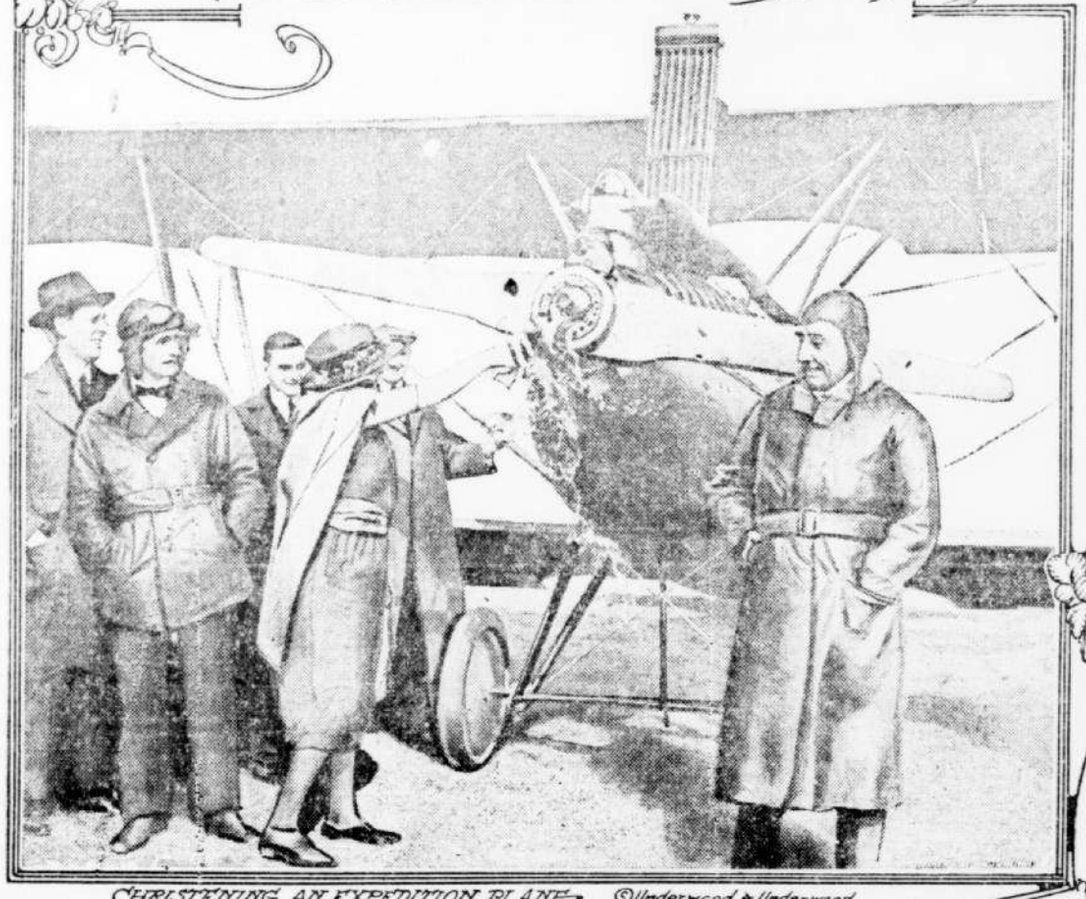
Airship, Radio and North Pole



CHRISTENING AN EXPEDITION PLANE—©Underwood & Underwood

AMUNDSEN ON SKIS
Photo by Underwood & Underwood

Photo by Underwood & Underwood

AMUNDSEN will explore by airplane this summer in the North Polar regions and by radio will tell the world all about it as he goes along. So it does look, after all, as if there was something new under the sun.

Capt. Roald Amundsen is the famous Norwegian explorer who discovered the South Pole. The purpose of his present expedition is to resume the work interrupted last year by mishap. He started from Norway under government auspices to explore the Arctic. After drifting through the Northwest passage his vessel, Maud, had a propeller blade smashed in the ice off the northeastern Siberian coast. So the Maud was taken to Seattle for repairs. The sturdy vessel was thoroughly refitted in Lake Union, Seattle's fresh-water lake. And that's how it happens that Amundsen's second start is from America.

Amundsen visited Washington before his start and evidently established friendly relations with Uncle Sam. "We want to find out what is in the Arctic circle," he said there. "It is believed that the information which may be obtained from a thorough inspection of the territory around the pole will be of value to science."

"I am going to retire from the exploring business when this trip is finished," he said. "I have been engaged in making explorations ever since I was twenty-one years old, and I think it is about time to rest a little bit. The life is a very hard one and makes great demands upon strength and vitality. At any rate, I have been at it for a good many years and I have had about enough."

Jules Verne has nothing on Roald Amundsen, as the Norwegian outlines his plans for exploring the roof of the world. His expedition will not be like those which have preceded it. Its vision will not be confined to a few miles on either side of the ship, but from the air it will be able to take in at a glance objects 200 miles away.

It will not be for years cut off from touch with the outside world, leaving friends and relatives to wonder if the northland had smashed in its icy fist the hardy adventurers who encroached on its fastnesses. Instead, it will talk by radio every day with all the world.

It will not have spent years charting merely a narrow strip, but, with the aid of aviation will be able to chart 1,000,000 square miles, sketching the currents of the air as well as those of the sea. He hopes to accomplish with his airplanes in a five-years' voyage what would take a score of years, millions of dollars and many lives if only a ship and dog sleds were employed.

Now, here's another view of the expedition—based upon the additional fact that Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the famous Canadian explorer, is also headed for the Arctic. Capt. C. D. Pedersen, the "Lone Wolf of the Arctic," skipper of the whaler Hermann, thinks there's something doing beside science in these two expeditions. Captain Pedersen was in San Francisco just before Amundsen's departure from Seattle. He said he was anxious to sail, so as to get a ring-side seat under the aurora borealis. From that vantage point he wants to watch what he says is history's greatest international marathon across the top of the world, in which the untold riches of the northland will reward the victor.

Principals in the international race to the pole will be Roald Amundsen, discoverer of the South Pole, who'll represent Norway, and Vilhjalmur Stefansson, who'll carry the flag of Great Britain.

They'll start as soon as the ice will let them—Amundsen from Seattle with a ship equipped with airplanes and radio, Stefansson from Wrangel island with the old-fashioned equipment of dog sled.

The two explorers tell the world they'll shut themselves off from civilization and risk their lives in Arctic icepacks for the glory of discovery and scientific achievement.

But "Wolf" Pedersen says there's more than that in the expedition. He sees a race for vast treasures hidden behind the ice barriers.

He says the explorers are seeking for Norway and England great radium mines, vast oil fields and coal deposits, fossil ivory, diamonds, areas of fertile land where reindeer thrive.

"I cannot believe," Pedersen says, "that England and Norway have gone to this great expense purely for exploration purposes.

"For I myself have seen oil ooze from the ground and form a lake near Point Barrow—oil so pure that natives burn it in lamps without refining!

"And I have seen coal beds so easily tapped that even the lazy natives use them.

"That is not all—I have heard tales of fossil ivory, of furs, of radium, of great meteoric diamond beds that formerly furnished crown jewels for Russia. The wealth of the Arctic is tremendous."

Pedersen may be right or he may be wrong. Anyway, there is corroborative evidence of sorts. Stefansson certainly "seized" Wrangel island last year and took possession in the name of Great Britain, notwithstanding it was discovered many years ago by United States naval vessels and claimed as United States territory. While Stefansson has refused to divulge the purpose of this year's expedition he did say this:

"The development and colonization of the Northland will surely begin with the present generation. The mystery woven around the north has resulted from misinformation. Theories that it is uninhabitable have been forever rejected, for it has been proved that fuel and food exist in abundance.

"Since the true conditions in the north have been realized colonization and commercial exploitation will surely follow. The animal life is the basis of attraction for commerce. At first it would be largely a source of meat supply, but there are also large deposits of oil, coal, copper and other metals."

Amundsen seems to have many friends and they have contributed liberally to his exceedingly comprehensive equipment. An American manufacturer of airplanes has "chipped in" to the extent of about $40,000. He has contributed an all-metal monoplane which has been tested to meet arctic conditions.

Besides the monoplane, Amundsen will take a scout plane, a smaller British ship which will be used only within the vicinity of the Maud. The monoplane, with a cabin in which passengers have been carried, will be self-supporting. She is so equipped that she can carry large stocks of fuel and provisions and to her can be adjusted skis, wheels or pontoons, so that she can land on any surface. With her aid, Amundsen believes he can chart a 200-mile-wide course across the top of the earth.

The planes will be designed to permit of landing on land or water and will be equipped with fuel tanks for twenty hours' flying. Only one plane will leave the ship at a time, with the second always available for relief work.

Two Norwegian aviators, Lieutenant Omdal and Sergeant Odd Dahl, accompany Amundsen. They will carry a moving-picture outfit and about 30,000 feet of film. Both Omdal and Dahl are expert wireless operators and expect to keep the Maud in touch with Spitzbergen, and to receive messages from the Norwegian wireless station at Stavanger.

They also expect to talk with Washington. They plan to flash reports from airplane to the mother ship, which is equipped with transmitting apparatus of 2,000 miles radius. The ship then will communicate with Alaska, and Nome will relay to the powerful station at St. Paul, on the Behring sea. St. Paul will send the messages directly to Washington.

Dr. H. U. Sverdrup, technical expert for the expedition, assembled at Seattle what was said to be the most complete equipment of technical apparatus for meteorogical research ever assembled for a polar expedition. The equipment, packed in forty cases, was lent to the expedition by the Carnegie institute and Smithsonian institution, the coast and geodetic survey and the United States weather bureau.

The Norwegian army and navy have presented to the explorers the arms and munitions they may need and sixty boxes of specially selected provisions, tested by Prof. Torup of the physiological laboratory of the University of Christiania.

With the explorer will be Capt. Oskar Wisting, sailing master, who stood at his side "on" the South Pole, and G. Olonkin, engineer. Six Siberian natives who joined the Maud in 1920 will be in the crew.

Captain Amundsen expects to strike immediately into the outward or northern drift of the ice as it leaves Bering sea in the spring break-up, and to swing with the northeasterly current during the summer.

Provisions for seven years will be taken, though the expedition figures on getting through inside of five years.

Just by way of reminder that getting to the North Pole even with airplane and radio and all modern improvements still has its incidental hazards and thrills, Amundsen's big flyer had to make a forced landing in Pennsylvania the other day. Amundsen was in it, but none of the adventurers was injured and the machine was only slightly damaged. However, as a reminder the forced landing was a success.

Of course a forced landing in Pennsylvania is quite a different thing from a forced landing on the ice in arctic weather and far from civilization. So there are possibilities in arctic flying that will keep the world interested in the progress of the Maud and her aviators.

There are even those who think that the attempt to fly to the pole presents one of the most dangerous expeditions ever attempted by man and that its successful accomplishment will put a great feather in the hat of aeronautics.

Wouldn't it be a queer thing if Amundsen should go flying some day from the Maud and should see Stefansson crawling along by dog-sled on the ice below him?

And Stefansson, hearing the drone of an airship propeller, should look up from his sled on the ice and see Amundsen far in the air above him?

Capt. Roald Amundsen has long been a prominent figure in polar exploration—so long that he has the right to rest on his laurels at the end of this expedition.

He was born in 1872 at Borje, Norway. He received a public school education and became a sailor at an early age.

He was a member of the Belgica Antarctic expedition of 1897-9.

On his return he planned an expedition for the discovery of the Northwest passage and the location of the magnetic pole. He purchased and outfitted the schooner Gjoa. He sailed June 16, 1903, from Christiania. The expedition was both important and successful. He located the magnetic pole near Boothia Felix, the extreme north end of the North American continent. He was the first to make the passage from Europe to Alaska, which he reached early in December, 1905.

Amundsen then turned his attention to the Antarctic. Sir E. H. Shackleton in the Nimrod had reached a point 111 miles from the South Pole January 9, 1909. In 1910 three expeditions started in search of the South Pole: Amundsen in the Fram; Capt. Robert F. Scott (Great Britain) in the Terra Nova, and Capt. Wilhelm Filchner (Germany) in the Deutschland. A little later Dr. Douglas Mawson sailed in the Aurora from Wales and Captain Shirase in the Kainan Maru from Yokohama.

The Fram was the first to report. She arrived at Hobart, Tasmania, March 7, 1912. She brought the news that December 14, 1911, Captain Amundsen and four men had attained the South Pole and had remained there four days.

OUR MAGAZINE SECTION

Interesting Features for the Entire Family

Something to Think About

By F. A. WALKER

FORWARD, BACKWARD

EVERYTHING in nature is moving toward a great purpose. There is no inactivity in the atoms or in the spheres; no turning backward, no indecision, but a constant movement in a forward direction, carrying us away from the yesterdays to new dawnings and new days.

The winds, the tides, the spinning of the earth in its prescribed orbit, the rising and the setting of the sun, the coming and the going of the seasons, the blooming and the fading of verdure and flowers, all bear evidence of progress, and eternal life.

Being a minute part of nature, performing your little role in the great scheme of creation, reciting your lines, do you ever pause to ask yourself whether you are moving forward or backward?

In spite of any thought you may entertain in the matter, you are going ahead or drifting behind, just as surely as the roses bloom in summer and the snows blanket the ground in winter.

You are better equipped for your life-work today than you were yesterday, or less efficient.

Your mental and physical forces have undergone an imperceptible change and you have changed with them.

You are a trifle more dexterous in your work or slightly more clumsy.

In the last 24 hours you have not remained in a quiescent state, for the laws of motion have been silently at work, carrying you a step or two forward or backward, setting you down at the threshold of a new day a slightly changed being for better or worse, which you may or may not observe as you take hold of today's duties.

Before night, however, you may become conscious of a new-born power, or a lack of it, and wonder what the transformation means.

Its significance is clear. You are going forward or backward, keeping in accord with the eternal motion of things of which you are a part.

If you would move forward, keep step with the men and women who are laboring and achieving in the great purpose, you must watch your every thought, impulse and act, and ask yourself at the beginning of each day whether you are pressing toward victory or turning toward defeat.

"Forward or backward?" ought to be your initial question at dawn, and your final query at night. Let this self-examination become a habit, and in a little while you will be glad that you acquired it.

(Copyright.)

KIDDIES SIX

By Will M. Maupin

BRACE UP

WHEN you're feeling rather sa
And the sledding's hard for yo
When your schemes go up the sp
And you're feeling down and ou
When you've shot and scored a mi
Brace up and remember this:
Those who win are those who try
So brace up and don't say die.

Swell your chest and try again;
Grit your teeth and smile at pain.
Tackle trouble with a laugh
And you'll cut the dose in half.
Look the world square in the eye,
Buck the line and don't say die.
Laying down is all the shame—
Sit straight up and play the game.
Don't dodge trouble—if you do
It will doubly trouble you.
Meet each task with grit and vim
Do the square thing, sink or swim
If you see hard luck draw nigh
Laugh again and don't say die.
Keep your face turned to the light
Do your best and you're all right.

(Copyright.)

SCHOOL DAYS

Uncommon Sense

By JOHN BLAKE

WHAT A WOMAN DID

IT SEEMS probable that cancer, one of the most deadly of the enemies of mankind, will soon be conquered by the use of radium.

Since the beginning of time this element has existed in nature. For the last score or more of years the presence of some unseen but powerful force has been suspected. Scientists sought to discover what it was, but sought in vain, till a quiet little Polish woman, after years of laborious experiment, discovered it.

That a woman should have made this discovery—one of the most notable in all history—is highly important.

It disproves forever the old contention that there is any difference between the brain of a man and that of a woman.

The highest concentration, the greatest reasoning power, the most indomitable determination were required for the years of work which had to be done before this discovery could be made.

A man stumbles on a gold mine or a diamond deposit by accident. But to find a metal which exists in the most minute quantities, and which must be extracted by infinite pains from the surrounding elements, has to be located first, and laboriously separated afterward.

Countless experiments entered into Mme. Curie's work, and only a remarkable human being could have brought it to a successful conclusion.

Much is yet to be done before the power of radium over cancer can be thoroughly tested.

But this can be left to others, as the consolidation of a captured position in war can be left to subordinates after a brilliant general has won an engagement.

Mme. Curie has set an example, not only for her own sex, but for all the searchers for truth in the world.

Her achievement is an inspiration, and probably to the end of time, will be an inspiration to the whole world.

(Copyright.)

THE ROMANCE OF WORDS

"BRICK"

LIKE many other expressions which, at first glance, appear to belong to the slang of a very recent period, "He's a brick" dates back to the days of ancient history, Plutarch being authority for the statement that Lycurgus used it in connection with the defense of Sparta.

The story goes that Lycurgus, being a man of few words, was asked whether Sparta should be inclosed with walls, and replied: "That city is well fortified which has a wall of men instead of brick."

Another historical allusion of the same nature was made when an ambassador from Epirus, on a diplomatic mission, was shown by the king of Sparta over his capital. The ambassador was amazed to see that the city was apparently unfortified and remarked about the matter.

"Indeed," replied the king, "Thou canst not have looked carefully. Come with me tomorrow and I will show you the walls of Sparta."

On the following morning the king led his guest out upon the plains, where his army was drawn up in full battle force. There, pointing proudly to the solid battalions of armed men, he exclaimed: "Thou beholdest the walls of Sparta—every man of them a brick!"

The antiquity of the expression in English may be gathered from the fact that the Ingoldsby Legends contain the following couplet:

"In brief, I don't stick to declare
Father Dick,
So they called him for short, was a regular brick."

(Copyright.)

Mother's Cook Book

"A house is never perfectly furnished for enjoyment unless there is a child rising three years old and a kitten rising three weeks."

MORE GOOD THINGS

AS STALE bread will accumulate, a little care is needed to keep ahead of the growth. If dry bread is put through the meat chopper it may then be used for croquettes, meat balls and any number of dishes. Keep the crumbs in a glass jar, sealed from the air.

Tip-Top Omelet.

Boil one-half cupful of milk, add one tablespoonful of butter and one cupful of bread crumbs, seasoning to taste. Beat the yolks of three eggs and add them, then stir in the stiffly beaten whites. Pour into a buttered omelet pan and cook until well browned.

Ham Patties.

Take two cupfuls of ham chopped fine, three cupfuls of bread crumbs, three eggs and enough sweet milk to make a soft batter. Mix well, drop into gem pans, drop a piece of butter in each and bake until brown.

Fruit Betty.

Put a layer of crumbs in a well buttered baking dish, cover with blueberries, canned or fresh, then add another layer of bread with a bit of butter and sugar if needed. Bake until well heated through. Serve with cream and sugar.

Brown Bread.

Take two cupfuls of stale bread crumbs, one and one-half pints of cold water, mix and soak over night, then rub through a sieve one and one-fourth cupfuls of molasses, one and one-half cupfuls each of graham flour, cornmeal and rye meal, two teaspoonfuls of salt, three and one-half teaspoonfuls of soda and one and three-fourths cupfuls of cold water. Mix well and steam three hours.

Stuffed Apples for Tea.

Take fine large apples, core and fill with one-half cupful each of bread crumbs and chopped roast beef, one tablespoonful of melted butter, one teaspoonful of onion juice, one-quarter teaspoonful of celery salt, half teaspoonful of salt, one tablespoonful of parsley chopped and a dash of red pepper. Mix well and press into the apples. Bake in a little hot water from half to three-quarters of an hour.

Nellie Maxwell

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Half City, Half Desert.

On the Gulf of Aden is a spot of barren sand where a city springs up every winter and almost disappears in the summer. This place is called Berbera. A market is held there every winter and during the height of trading it becomes a city of rude huts and tents with a population of over 20,000. During the summer the place is deserted.

Green, White and Black.

Two men passed each other in Washington street.

"Hello, Green," said one.

"How are you, White?" said the other.

And they both are black.

ARE WOMEN MORE TRUTHFUL?

Opinion Divided as to the Result of Granting Right of Suffrage to the Fair Sex.

Has getting the vote made women more truthful? London magistrates are hotly discussing the question raised by one of their number, who recently said women were deficient on the witness stand owing to excess of imagination and inability to tell the truth. His colleagues dissent vigorously. One says: "You cannot have truth and slavery together. While women were kept in subjection you could not expect them to be wholly truthful. Now that they are men's equals they are free to tell the truth."

It may be doubted whether this rather left-handed compliment from their champion will please the sex. Yet that argument about subjection begetting deception is familiar to all who have observed repressed children. May it not have been true also of repressed women in the long-ago days when they were in subjection? But wasn't that ancient history long before they got the ballot?—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Willing to Be Reasonable.

Reluctance on the part of some religious converts to give up all of the allurements of the world is illustrated by a story told in a Portland office this week, says the Oregonian. The narrator is a southerner, and said that at one time he was at a colored "baptizing." The fervid preacher exhorted the candidates as they went through the ceremony. To an immense coal-black lady he said:

"Ah! sister; when you comes out of the watah you'll be whiter than snow."

"Ah doan' know about that," was the unexpected response, "that's goin' too fur. A light chocolate 'll be good enuff."

THE CHEERFUL CHERUB

I like to take my pen
And sit and dream alone,
And grab a little Thought
From out the Great Unknown