

WHY THEY FAILED TO FIND THE NORTH POLE.

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WHERE is the north pole? Why did not Peary or Baldwin, the recently returned Arctic explorers, reach that goal of their ambitions? This is the question of the hour in the minds of all American citizens who have followed step by step the movements of the two greatest exploring expeditions of modern times.

The Norwegian expedition under the command of Capt. Otto Sverdrup has also returned—unsuccessful.

Reports from the other expeditions in both the Arctic and Antarctic regions are far from assurances of success.

The equipment of the expeditions of Peary and Baldwin was the best to be had. Two previous trips of long duration in the frozen North had given Peary a complete knowledge regarding the requisites of an Arctic campaign as possessed by any other explorer in history.

Mr. Ziegler, the promoter of the Baldwin expedition, spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in fitting out, purchasing supplies and equipment for Baldwin. All his purchases were made after careful consideration as to just what experience had shown was needed to insure success.

Money was no object to him, and when the Baldwin-Ziegler expedition left New York it was without doubt the finest, most thoroughly equipped of any that has so far started out in search of the north pole.

But after the expiration of a little more than one year again came Baldwin, reporting a complete failure to even penetrate farther than have previous expeditions. He asserts, however, that he is in possession of numerous and valuable scientific discoveries.

After a like fashion Peary has returned. And he likewise, although he claims to have traversed the frozen deserts almost as far as any other expedition, declares that his trip has been productive of much fruit along scientific lines.

Notwithstanding these encouraging assertions, the grand result for which both expeditions were aiming was not accomplished.

The mystical pole is still enshrouded in that icy veil; the fountain of the alluring aurora is still undisturbed by the hand of man.

The pole is as unknown today as it was a thousand years ago.

And why? Among the various reasons to be assigned for the failure of these two men, whose signal efforts deserve a place in the annals of Arctic exploration, are three:—

1.—The unsolved problem of food supply, the choosing of the crew of the expedition and the route.

2.—Peary's report to the Arctic club, giving the operations of the expedition since Aug. 1, 1901, is as follows:—

Left Erik harbor, on Ellesmere coast, Aug. 21. The party reached Payer harbor Aug. 23. Crossing Roosevelt bay, partly by sledge and partly by boat, then walking across Belford Pim. About a week later Eskimos began to fall sick, not one escaping. By Nov. 19 six adults and one child were dead, but out of danger.

Early in January the Eskimos came from Enblak, bringing news of the ravages of a fatal epidemic through the tribe. Word was sent back by those scouts for as many as could to come to me, and by the end of the month they began arriving. In February a large depot of dog food was established near Cape Louis Napoleon, some sixty miles north of Sabine.

On March 3 my advance party of six sledges, in charge of Henson, left for Conger. March 6 started with main party of eighteen sledges, leaving Peary in charge of Payer harbor.

Conger was reached in twelve marches, arriving within an hour or two of the advance party. My supporting party of Eskimos, returning from Conger, brought down the instruments, chronometers and Arctic library. Eight marches more took us to Cape Hecla.

"The north end of Robinson channel was all open across to the Greenland coast, lakes of water extending northward as far as could be seen from Black cape and Cape Ransome. From Cape Hecla another supporting party returned.

April 1 started northward over Polar sea with Hensen, four Eskimos and six sledges.

"Old floes covered deep with snow and intersected with ridges and lanes of young ice were encountered from the moment we left the ice foot. The same kind of traveling was experienced by the English in 1878.

"After six marches, open leads, floes in motion were encountered. The natives were sent back. As we advanced the floes became smaller, the pressure ridges on a grander scale and the open leads more frequent. Each day's march was more perilous, and our general course was deflected toward the west by the character of the ice.

Finally at 84.17 north latitude, northwest of Hecla, the polar pack became impracticable, and further efforts to advance were given up. New leads and pressure ridges, with foggy weather, made our return in some respects more trying than

the advance. Hecla was regained April 22 and Conger May 2.

"Leaving Conger May 6, Cape Sabine was reached on the 15th.

"Food was abundant and our supply of musk ox and deer meat continued throughout the year. The northern sledge trip was arduous, but not marked by special exposure, suffering or danger more than is necessarily incident to serious Arctic work.

"Equipment and personnel were satisfactory, and further advance was prevented by insuperable natural conditions.

In regard to routes and points attained, Baldwin speaks as follows:

"The most southerly station I established is on Alier island, eighteen miles north of the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition's former headquarters. A second station is situated on Greely island close to the 81st parallel, near a large island which

was charted last spring and named President McKinley island. Thirty-five miles further north is a third station, equipped with 5,000 pounds of condensed food, on an island discovered, but not yet named.

A fourth and most northerly station was established on Rudolf Land within sight of the headquarters which were occupied by the duke of Abruzzi's expedition. It contains all the condensed stores originally intended for a dash to the pole.

"We came upon Dr. Nansen's hut, the place where Nansen and Johansen spent their historic winter. The hut was partly gnawed by foxes and bears. Dr. Nansen's brass cylinder was intact. It was found in a recess and was dated May 19, 1886, and written in pencil on half a sheet of note paper. I have the Nansen record and left my own record in its place."

These are practically the reports of the two men who left their homes determined not to return until the object of their departure was attained—the north pole reached—virtually pledging themselves to that determination.

The first of the three reasons before mentioned, that of food supply, does not apply as forcibly in the two cases being treated as it has in other, and some perhaps more famous expeditions.

Peary says that "food was abundant" and that musk ox and reindeer were plentiful. Presumably Baldwin had no trouble on this score. With a number of well-placed caches and a fully supplied headquarters, there should be no great trouble in regard to food supply.

In regard to the other reasons for the failure of the modern expeditions to reach the pole, Sergt. Julius R. Frederick of this city, the well-known member of the Greely expedition of 1881, says:

"The choosing of a crew for such an expedition as is intended to search for the north pole is a Herculean task. And the reason for this is because a man, a prospective member of the expedition's crew, must be endowed with particular attributes of mind and body.

"In the first place, he must be of a jovial, happy, take-things-as-they-come temperament. This is necessary in order for him to successfully endure the long winter, that seemingly endless night of monotony, of ice of the same intense color day after day. The experience of such a time is awful enough to derange the mind of some people, and these are just the people who have to be guarded against in the choosing of a crew. The man must also be of some inventive ability; something must be done to pass away the time, and he who can fill the capacity of all-around good fellow in the dismal win-

ter quarters of an Arctic camp is a prize not to be overlooked.

"Physically the man must be hardened to all manner of outdoor life. He must have a constitution of iron, and a muscular development of a physical instructor professor. There were able to shoulder his fifty or a hundred pounds and travel for a day at a time over slippery ice hillocks and around dangerous floe cracks, indeed, over the worst road known to travel. And this he must do not one day or a week, but perhaps a year or two years.

"Then he who leaves his family and sails away toward the North must possess such a determination to do and dare as is commensurate with few other enterprises of the day. He must have made up his mind to take his life in his hand at any moment, must be ready to meet his Maker all the time.

"On almost every expedition that has entered the Arctic circles there have been frictions between the men, and in many cases the officers, those who are supposed to set an example by their actions, have become involved in quarrels which have resulted more or less disastrously.

"One press report of the Baldwin expedition says: 'There were rows and deaths in the company which are to be investigated.' Another press notice has it: 'The case of Dr. Thomas S. Dedrick and Peary will doubtless be taken into the courts.'

"Almost every expedition, that of Greely included, have not been without some unpleasant feature in the way of quarrels and misunderstandings.

"In reference to the route to be taken, I am able to add but little to what is already known. In 1901 Peary followed the track taken by Lockwood, Bratnard and myself along the western coast of Greenland. When he deflected from the north by northeast course and struck direct for the region of the pole it was impossible for him to make much progress, for the reason that the ice was too perilously unsettled for safe travel.

"In 1901 Peary followed the course already outlined in this story, but with practically the same results. "Baldwin says: 'The old idea of an open polar sea is baseless. We know that land extends as far north as 82 degrees on the Franz Josef Land side, and from there I believe the pole can be reached. I agree with Peary that the most practical way of reaching the pole is by sledging from this point.'

"As Baldwin says Peary... of the opinion that there is such thing as an open polar sea, and from my experience I am forced to the same conclusion. That being the case, Baldwin is right when he says that the only way of succeeding in reaching the pole is by sledging from the extreme of Franz Josef Land, where winter quarters should be made.

"But the question naturally arises, why did Baldwin not follow out this line of campaign during his recent trip, and why has it taken Peary three trips to arrive at the same result?

"Twenty years ago, one of the Greely expedition reached 82.24 north latitude. The highest point yet reached is 82.33, by the Duke d'Abruzzi. Nansen claimed to have reached 82.14, but he offered very little proof for his assertion. Peary sends the intelligence back to his native land that he succeeded in reaching 84.17.

"Peary, Nansen's and the Duke d'Abruzzi's expeditions were equipped as was of the Greely expedition never dreamed of fitting out our vessels. They availed themselves of all the modern inventions applicable in that region, and it is owing to the experience of those who had gone before, arranged many details never before thought necessary.

"But only three degrees separates our mark and that of our intrepid duke. "The difficulty and danger of Arctic exploration has almost determined me on one point. The north pole will never be reached except by the use of dirigible balloons. The McDonnell expedition, of which I am a member, despite the memory of three horrible years in that frozen land of desolation, and the twenty years that have passed since I signed the expedition, has now in course of construction three dirigibles which will really fly. And that essential point being settled, there will be nothing to prevent our reaching that prize for which countless brave men have lost their lives—the north pole."

The McDonnell party is taking the proper course. The dimensions such as sufficient to carry ten tons and power to propel at least sixty miles per hour, having conditions for manipulation far beyond anything heretofore attempted, are factors in their favor.

These ships will be started so as to be 100 miles apart on a direct course, each supplied with wireless telegraphy, communicating both with each other and with stations at Spitzbergen, Cape Frederick and King Oscar Land, those stations again in communication with wire stations, from which the whole civilized world will be in direct communication with the expedition from the start to the end.

Is there anything chimerical about such an expedition? Is such an arduous accomplishment tantamount to carrying 3,000 miles in instantaneous without any means to carry impressions except the earth itself as a medium?

This feat has been accomplished. In view of the fact that buoyant bodies were driven through the air at the will of the engineer with a power that made a reasonably fast speed, why cannot a greater and more powerful one be made? One, elevation and descent, instead of throwing out ballast to go up and letting out gas to come down. These are conditions that mean important factors toward the success of the art. Why should they be hard to accomplish?

These ships are now in course of construction by a Chicago firm of capitalists. Next spring will witness the flight of these air vessels toward the North. The success of their venture is assured—at least in the minds of those who are fostering the project.

What reason Peary and Baldwin will give, other than those they have already presented, why they failed in their object, can only be conjectured.

They say they will each make a new attempt next year. But will the food question, the route and the crew problems be sufficiently solved?

Will modern science ever overcome the climatic obstacles of success in the far North?

Will that awful region of hite death never loosen its fearful spell over the minds of civilized man?

The Mafia Bands Which Flourish In Many Big Cities.

THE opinion, strengthened by evidence that Giuseppe Catania, the Italian grocer whose body was found in a sack at Bay Ridge, in New York City, had been the victim of a vendetta, draws attention to the Camorra, the Mafia Vita and other cutthroat organizations which have flourished in Italy for many decades and whose feuds have been brought to this country.

The Mafia, the most famous of those societies for organized blackmail, differs from the rest in one vital particular. It was founded for the avowed purpose of loot, while the others were at first based upon a laudable desire to bring about some much needed reform.

The Carbonari, for instance, which received its first inception in the Neapolitan states in the beginning of the nineteenth century, was a political organization built upon the lines of the Jacobin club. Its object was to rid Italy of the tyranny of Austria.

The Carbonari thus started out with a high, patriotic purpose. It numbered among its members the third Napoleon, one of whose connections fell in its service.

The Camorra also started with a high aim, that of regenerating Naples, and it retained this purpose for the first forty years of its existence, from 1820 to 1850. The Mala Vita, an imitation of the Mafia, hints at a noble purpose in its initiation oath, to which every new member must subscribe. The oath is as follows:

"With one foot in the grave and the other in chains, I swear to abandon father, mother, wife, children and all kindred, in order to make war upon the infamous and to protect the humble."

But it is different with the Mafia, the oldest of the secret societies. Prof. Lombroso traces its origin to Florence and Genoa in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries—the flowering era of professional poisoners and assassins, when vendettas were as numerous as mosquitoes in Jersey.

Another famous Italian student, Prof. Villari, has given the following definition of the notorious society:

"The Mafia has no written statutes; it is not a secret society and hardly an association, but it is formed by spontaneous generation."

The Mafia also differs from the Camorra in that it wages systematic war against all government, while the Camorra, on the other hand, seeks to conciliate government by bribery, and for that purpose devotes one-third of its revenues to the corruption of public officials. In other respects, however, the Mafia and Camorra are much alike. They levy taxes on every man of business. These taxes are just 10 per cent. of the mulcted one's income for the week, and so superlucy are they organized that they can tell to a lire how much a certain man has taken in for any given time.

The Mafia some eleven years ago came near precipitating a conflict between Italy and this country. There is a big colony of Italians in New Orleans, and in 1890 the Mafia began to run things with a high hand there. Chief of Police Hennessey sent one of them—Eposotto—back to Sicily on extradition papers and thereby insured their lasting hatred. One Oct. 15 he was going home from his office when he was shot by one of their number, and with the words, "The Mafia have done for me," fell dead.

At once a raid was made on the Italian colony and the guilty ones captured, but it required a panel of 700 before a jury could be drawn, and this jury, inspired by fear of the Mafia or some other motive, declared the criminals "not guilty." It was then that the citizens of New Orleans organized a vigilance committee which broke into jail and murdered every Italian there.

The "incident," as the state department called it, brought on a diplomatic correspondence with the Italian government and excited much ill-feeling against this country.

For example, what is to prevent A from wisely directing electric waves in the direction of B in order to stimulate the passion of love?

"May not C, too, who loathes D because the latter has deflected from her the affections of E, secretly use electrical means to produce hatred in E's heart?"

It is possible to imagine tricks being played, also, with what one may call the

anger stop. It may likewise be possible to soothe the savage breast by the same means, and thus insure the return home of husbands in excellent temper.

But how will anyone ever know whether the feelings which move them are natural, or are caused by the electricity turned on by someone else, if this theory prove practical? That is a vital question we would like to have answered by the experimenting scientist.

"The love-philtre would be nothing to an electrical inspirator such as is suggested by this great new discovery."

All of which is very curious and interesting. Both so-called new discovery and the jest of the man who speculates on its possibilities, have their foundation, however, in the theories of the old magician best known today by his pen name of Eliphas Levi.

This man, alchemist and magician, the friend of Bulwer and the source from which the latter drew his ideas on the occult, embodied in his weird and beautiful tale "Zanoni," knew more about electricity than all the moderns, and his strange theories explain much that the

latter-day, practical experimenters with electricity leave to the field of the experimental.

According to Eliphas Levi, "There exists a force in nature which is far more powerful than steam, by means of which a single man, who can master it and knows how to direct it, might throw the world into confusion and transform its face. It is diffused through infinity; it is the substance of heaven and earth, for it is either fixed or volatile, according to its degree of polarization.

"When it produces radiance it is called light. It is a substance and motion at the same time. It is a fluid and a perpetual vibration. The inherent force by which it is put into activity is called magnetism. In infinite space it is either etherized light; it becomes astral light in the stars, which it magnetizes, while in organized beings it becomes magnetic light or fluid. In man it forms the astral body, or plastic mediator. The will of intelligent beings acts directly on this light and by means thereof upon all nature, which is made subject to the modifications of Intelligence. By the direct-



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How the Alchemist by Study of Human Emotions Discovered the Origin of the Mystic Power of Electricity

SOMEBODY in England is speculating curiously over the supposedly recent discovery that the emotions may be to some extent controlled or excited by electricity, invisibly submitted through the air to any given point.

"It became obvious," he says, "that a complete revolution of our characters and our manners must result if the

scientist who is experimenting in this direction, opens the door to the influence of the mind by means of an electrical instrument.

tion of this agent we can heal or hurt at a distance.

The Great Magic Agent has been subjected to the uncertain manipulations of profane science under four names—electric light, electricity, magnetism, being revealed by four kinds of phenomena.

To acquire the power to master this Great Magic Agent we must be acquainted with those mysterious laws of equilibrium which subject to the empire of good even the powers of evil themselves. We must have purified our body by holy trials as Jacob strove with the angel."

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