

Where Even the "Missing Link" May Still be Alive?

And Why Science Believes It May Be a Living Page of the Past, Where Monsters Still Roam Through Hidden Valleys and Where a Race That Ruled When the Pole Was Tropical May Still Exist



Hill man and other types of men now extinct. The Pithecanthropus of Java

is the only known animal that shares the characteristics of man and ape, and we have merely a portion of his skeleton, so that the existence of a race of this kind rests on rather slender evidence. Science is also seeking for other links running back from this creature to the point where the ancestry of man and apes branched off.

If the hairy mammoth survives in the Arctic Continent, it would be most reasonable to expect to find the Neanderthal type of men who existed in Europe and other parts of the world at the same time as the mammoth, the woolly rhinoceros, the cave-bear, the aurochs and others of the extinct animals mentioned.

It would be a most amazing experience for a modern man to come upon a community of these very primitive, terrifying, extinct men, who were very different from any existing human beings. Their receding foreheads were hidden under shaggy hair, and they

had tremendously projecting eyebrow ridges and protruding jaws, giving them a ferocious and brutish appearance.

Their bodies were huge and muscular and covered with hair, their legs short and bowed. They had no conception of clothing or house-building. They lived in caves, when they could find them, or under bushes, if the caves were not to be found. They fought with rough clubs and stone spearheads, and conquered their huge

huge animal neighbors—like the cave-bear and cave-lion—who often struggled with them for the possession of their caves. The sudden disappearance of these early pre-historic men is as much a puzzle as the disappearance of certain races of animals.

Among all the tribes that dwell in Northern Siberia, among the Eskimo, and, in fact, all the primitive peoples living in the harsh but habitable lands this side of the lost continent, there are ancient and persistent legends of a great race that once dwelt in the far north near what is now the Pole. All these legends unite in the declaration that once the now frozen north had a mild and equable climate, in which men were able to work and to live easily. All of them make the interesting statement that at this time "the men of power" lived in this land toward the north and that the countries which they themselves now inhabited were wildernesses.

Science knows that they are right in ascribing to the Pole a different climate than now. It has no evidence of any civilization once existing there. But it has many riddles of man's past that would be riddles no longer if Amundsen found evidence that a civilization did once flourish in the far north.

There came a time, according to these legends, when a sudden, terrific cold set in, and when for months and years gigantic storms raged about this land. When the storms abated, what had been open sea was a frozen waste, and those who knew of this

country of "the men of power" were unable to reach it, and no one ever again came out of it.

This may well describe a sudden, cataclysmic arrival of a glacial age upon the polar continent, a catastrophe which also dropped a curtain between it and the rest of the world.

But man is adaptable. He surmounts vast difficulties and he manages to survive under the most hostile conditions. It is not at all impossible to imagine that these "men of power," whoever they were, found a way of continuing life on their stricken land, even though they could not leave it.

If Amundsen finds them—what a triumph! What mysteries of our origins may be made plain! A whole new history of mankind will be written!

That there have been, within historic times, brief modifications of the Polar rigors, we have indubitable evidence.

It is told in some of the written records of the Norsemen that about the year 800 there came to the far north a period of unusually warm Summers and mild Winters. So warm was it that the ice which had been locked in solid sheets for centuries, melted and broke up in Summer and the Winters were not cold enough to freeze again the polar sea.

It appears that in about the third and last year of this warmth, a large expedition, carrying women and children, made its way from Scandinavia, lured by the legends of an unknown land to the north. After they had gone and within the time they could have had opportunity to reach the lost land, the unusual weather ended. The old cold set in again, the seas froze and none of the expedition ever returned to report what it had found!

But at the same time no slightest trace of it was ever discovered in floating ice or bergs or in the trade

currents on the shores of the Arctic.

And Amundsen may see from his plane cities of the descendants of these Norsemen as they lived in Iceland hundreds of years ago, when the intrepid explorers set forth.

The Norse Vikings of that time were the most daring and adventurous people of which history has record, and there is no doubt that they explored and cultivated all the lands within their reach. Furthermore, they were a sturdy, hardy stock, well fitted to cope with conditions even on the lost continent.

There is a story that seems to show that the historic voyage of Leif Erickson, son of Eric the Red, in 999 to America really was begun with the idea of locating that expedition, which had gone forth almost two hundred years before. He could not get to the lost continent, but he did discover the mainland of America, landing at what is now called Vineland.

In 1006 another Greenland Viking, Thorfinn Karlsefni, searching for the lost continent, made a settlement on the American continent. His son, Snorre Karlsefni, was born there, and was taken by his parents on a visit to Rome, the first child born of European parents on the American continent. Owing to many misfortunes the American settlement was soon abandoned.

Early in the middle ages the Norse settlements on the coast of Greenland became very weak. They were attacked by European pirates, said to be mainly English, in 1448, and those of the population who were not killed were driven away. Many of them became merged with the Eskimos. European settlements were not re-established in Greenland until the eighteenth century, when the Danes went there and found the ruins left by their Norse kinsmen.

If Amundsen should discover the Arctic Continent it is understood in Washington that he will raise the United States flag over the territory. The map shows that Alaska is the nearest large body of land to the hypothetical location of the lost continent, although Canadian territory is also close at hand. It is significant that Canada recently claimed possession, through Stefansson, of Wrangel Island, which lies nearer to the supposed continent than Alaska. It is possible that an international agreement would be necessary to settle the possession of the new land.

From geological conditions already known in the same latitude it is certain that immense treasures of mineral wealth await development in the Arctic Continent. The immense deposits of gold in Alaska and the adjacent Canadian territory point to the probability that great deposits of the precious metal exist on the Arctic Continent also. With the assistance of aeroplanes a great "gold rush" to this unexplored country may be witnessed in a few years.

Ivory is another precious product which should be found in great abundance on the Arctic Continent. On the New Siberian Islands, which lie off the north coast of Asia, there are literally mines of the finest ivory in the world. These islands were the favorite "dying place" of the huge mammoths, and their remains furnish an immense supply of ivory.

These and other islands which surround the North Pole form the largest archipelago in the world. One of the most important islands is Spitzbergen, which lies north of Lapland, within 700 miles of the Pole. This island possesses immense supplies of fine coal. The coal has been mined to some extent by an English company in recent years, and it is expected that when suitable ships are available it will be widely marketed.

No voyage of discovery within recent years has had quite such a flavor of romantic adventure as Captain Amundsen's expedition. This famous explorer has already to his credit the glory of having discovered the South Pole. But this expedition, if it results in discovering the unknown continent, will have accomplished still more.



One of the Ferocious Flesh-Eating Dinosaurs, Long Extinct in the World We Know, But Which Amundsen May Still Find Alive.



ABOVE.—Painting of Siegfried, the Hero, Killing the Dragon. BELOW.—The Fore Leg of a Mammoth, Whose Body Was Dug Up from a Frozen Siberian Marsh—Its Flesh Still So Fresh and Well Preserved That the Natives Ate It.