

RECORD OF POLAR ACHIEVEMENTS.

COMMANDER.	DATE.	N. LAT.	LONG.	LOCALITY.
John Davis . . .	June 30, 1587	73.12	56 W.	W. Greenland
William Parents. .	July 14, 1594	77.20	62 E.	Near Cape Nassau, N. Z.
J. C. Ryp and Jacob Heemskerck (Bar- ents).	June 19, 1596	79.49	12 E.	North Spitzbergen
Henry Hudson . .	July 13, 1607	80.23	10 E.	E. Spitzbergen Sea
William Baffin . .	July 4, 1616	77.45	72 W.	Smith Sound
J. W. Phipps . . .	July 27, 1773	80.48	20 E.	E. Spitzbergen Sea
William Scoresby .	May 24, 1806	81.30	10 E.	E. Spitzbergen Sea
Sir John Franklin .	1819	—		Arctic Ocean
W. E. Parry . . .	May 23, 1827	82.45	20 E.	E. Spitzbergen Sea
E. A. Inglefield . .	Aug. 27, 1852	78.28	74 W.	Smith Sound
E. K. Kane . . .	June 24, 1854	80.10	67 W.	Cape Constitution, Greenland
I. I. Hayes . . .	May 19, 1861	80.11	70 W.	Grinnell Land
Nordenskiold & Otter	Sept. 19, 1868	81.42	18 E.	E. Spitzbergen Sea
C. F. Hall	Aug. 30, 1871	82.11	61 W.	Frozen Sea
Yeyprecht & Payer	April 13, 1874	82.05	60 E.	Franz Josef Land
G. S. Nares . . .	Sept. 25, 1875	82.48	65 W.	Grinnell Land
G. S. Nares . . .	May 12, 1876	83.20	65 W.	Frozen Sea
A. W. Greely . . .	May 13, 1882	83.24	41 W.	New land north of Greenland
F. Nansen	April 7, 1895	86.04	96 E.	Arctic Ocean
R. E. Peary . . .	May 16, 1900	83.50	34 W.	Arctic Ocean north of Hazen Land
Duke of the Abruzzi	April 25, 1901	86.34	65 E.	Arctic Ocean
R. E. Peary . . .	April 21, 1902	84.17	70 W.	Arctic Ocean
R. E. Peary . . .	April 21, 1906	87.06	50 W.	Arctic Ocean
Frederick A. Cook	April 21, 1908	90		THE POLE
R. E. Peary . . .	April 6, 1909	90		THE POLE

INTRODUCTION.

ON the sixth day of September, 1909, five days to the hour, almost to the minute, after Frederick A. Cook, an American, had electrified the world with the announcement that he, first of all the sons of men, had penetrated the icy recesses of the Arctic and had planted the Stars and Stripes at the North Pole, came an almost equally startling cablegram from Commander Robert E. Peary, U. S. Navy. It announced that he, too, had flung the Banner of Freedom to the Polar breezes and had attained the goal for which hundreds of men had died during the past five centuries.

Nothing could have been more startling. At the very moment when Peary's announcement reached the world, his successful rival was being feted in the Old World capital of the Norseman as the peerless hero of the age.

And well he deserved all the honors heaped upon him, for he reached the North Pole on April 21, 1908, while Peary did not stand upon the earth's apex until April 8, 1909, almost a year later.

People who know the Arctic and Commander Robert Edwin Peary, say that without a doubt during the preceding month or six weeks the dome of the world, up in the narrowing circles, had been a race course, of which the low hanging polar sun had marked the start and the first slender tips of telegraph wires in the northernmost frontier of civilization, the goal.

Down the swelling curve of the earth's shoulder had hastened the two racers for the prize of the world's admiration. Dr. Frederick A. Cook, perhaps unconscious that his rival behind him was pressing him so close, and Commander Peary no doubt fully aware that there was a man somewhere ahead of him who was going to put in a claim to the pole's discovery and receive the fruits of praise. Dr. Cook won the dash for civilization by just five days. At Lerwick in the Shetland Islands he found the coveted cable end, and through it caught the world's attention. Peary started his message

on its way to the outside world at Indian Harbor far up on the northeast coast of Labrador—virtually the same message as that which Cook had sent over the wires on September 1.

Two men dashed from Etah in Greenland for the pole. Two dashed from Etah in Greenland for the inhabited lands to the south. The dash for the pole was made with the energy of inspiration—that for the kinder climes was urged by sternest rivalry and the great desire for fame. Perhaps, said intimates of Peary, he struggled harder to get back to civilization ahead of Dr. Cook than he did to reach the goal of his twenty years effort.

That Peary knew of Cook's claim and of Cook's start ahead in the direction of civilization is indubitable. There is but one stepping stone in the Arctic regions between the world of men and the hitherto impenetrable mystery of the polar seas, and that is Etah, a huddle of Eskimo huts on the western coast of Greenland by the shore of Smith Sound. To Etah Dr. Cook returned after his winter in the ice wilderness of Ellesmere Land and there he found Harry Whitney, the New Haven youth who had gone up with Peary the year before and who remained at Etah to guard the cache of supplies that Peary had left behind him when he made his sprint northward.

With Whitney he left some of his data, and with him he left the story of his northern advance to the pole itself. Then he set off for Upernavik, the southern Danish settlement, there to get on board the little Danish Government steamer Hans Egede and make for the world of life. Just about this time came along Peary. At Etah he heard from Whitney that Cook was already well started on the race for civilization.

The men who sketched this probable situation even went to the extent of figuring how great a start it was that Cook had on Peary. Cook reached Upervanik in May, but there was no boat out of there until the impending autumn sent whatever craft were summering in the bleak harbor down south. When Peary returned to Etah and there learned that his glory was imperiled, Cook had not even left Greenland and less than 300 miles of the Greenland coast separated the two explorers.

Under the great handicap of doubt and the stimulus of

heated rivalry toward a man with whom he is not on very friendly terms, Commander Peary had to head the Roosevelt south through the channels of the ice on the last lap of a race for fame wherein every minute meant possible defeat. He could not know until he touched at Indian Harbor in Labrador to file for wireless transmission his claim to be the discoverer of the pole that he had lost the race through the frozen ocean.

There is of course a further possibility that long before he returned to Etah Peary may have known that he had been anticipated. If he followed the course that he announced on his departure from New York in July he may very probably have crossed the tracks that Cook and his two Eskimos left in the frozen sea north of Grant's Land. There would be camp detritus, sled tracks and other evidences of a travelled road enough to indicate to the experienced commander of the Roosevelt's party, like Friday's footprints on Crusoe's island, the presence of another invader of the mysterious region.

Cook discovered the Pole one year ahead of Peary. Upon his return journey he had to travel all the way on foot. Peary, on the other hand, had his ship Roosevelt at the most northern point it was possible for him to keep the vessel, and as soon as he boarded the boat he was carried direct to the nearest point where he was able to telegraph his news to the world.

Peary's ship sailed direct from Grant Land to the northern point of Labrador, and there he wired. Cook, on the other hand, had a long and gruelling trip to make on foot. He had no boat waiting for him, and he had nothing at all but his dogs. He was compelled to tramp from Grant Land overland to Cape York, down the west coast of Greenland, in his effort to be picked up by a whaler off Lancaster Sound. He had a terrible journey to make before he was eventually picked up by the Hans Egede. After he was picked up, he had a long trip on a slow boat before he reached a station where he could wire his friends and the world at large.

When Dr. Cook was told in Copenhagen that Commander Peary had discovered the North Pole he said:

"That is good news. I hope Peary did get to the Pole. His observations and reports on that region will confirm mine."

Asked if there was any probability of Peary's having found the tube containing his records, Dr. Cook replied:

"I hope so, but that is doubtful on account of the drift.

"Commander Peary would have reached the Pole this year," added Dr. Cook. "Probably while I was there, last year his route was several hundred miles east of mine. We are rivals, of course, but the Pole is good enough for two."

It is doubtful if history furnishes a more dramatic episode than the breaking of the news to Dr. Cook that Peary had realized the goal of his life's ambition and repeated struggles. Dr. Cook was seated at a dinner, surrounded by explorers and correspondents in the gilded ball-room of the Tivoli Casino, in Copenhagen. Around his neck was hung a garland of pink roses, according to the Scandinavian method of honoring heroes, which the explorer wore blushing and with visible embarrassment. Several speeches acclaiming him had been given and repeated toasts to him drunk with clamorous cheers.

Amid this scene a whisper went around that Peary had planted the Stars and Stripes at the Pole. Cook was perfectly cool and unmoved. He made a striking speech in which he paid high tribute to the work of Everdrup, who sat near, to whose discoveries he largely owed his success; to John R. Bradley, who had financed the expedition; to "the intelligence, endurance and faithfulness of the Eskimos who had assisted him in the preparations and those who had accompanied him. The whole account of the expedition, he said, has not come out and will not come out for some time; nor will it come in installments, but only when it is completed.

Dr. Cook did not permit the whispers which came to his ear of Peary's success to move him in the least, but when he had finished he was surrounded by correspondents who looked for some sign of emotion, but the explorer said smilingly: "I am glad."

"By going much farther to the East than I did Commander Peary has cut out of the unknown an enormous space, which, of course, will be vastly useful and scientifically interesting."

These were the words of Dr. Cook when he was told of the receipt of despatches confirming the previous reports of Commander Peary's success in reaching the North Pole. "I am

the first to shout, 'Hurrah for Peary!' " the doctor continued. "If he has telegraphed an announcement that he has reached the Pole, then it is true, and I congratulate him."

Asked whether Commander Peary was likely to have found traces of his passage over the Polar seas, Dr. Cook replied:

"No, he scarcely would have come across my tracks."

Dr. Cook then said:

"I understand that a rumor is current about my having taken some of Peary's provisions at Etah; this is founded on Esquimaux gossip and misunderstanding. I desire no controversy. I simply say in reply to any such assertion, 'No.' Commander Peary is a friend of mine."

Amazement and incredulity were the first sensations aroused by the cabled news of the success of Dr. Cook in reaching the North Pole, the ultimate goal of modern geographical research. That this comparatively imperfectly equipped and almost altogether unheralded explorer should have won the goal for which intrepid men have been striving for centuries so far transcended the probabilities that there were many who awaited the arrival of fuller details before forming a judgment upon the astounding performance. Compared with the preparations made by Peary for his expeditions into the Arctic regions, Doctor Cook's facilities seemed to have been limited to the vessel which took him to the North and his ability to secure the friendship and cooperation of the Eskimos. The latter he appeared to have accomplished in a most remarkable degree, but he won undying glory for himself and for American exploration. Peary's success detracts nothing from his exploit.

Through centuries long men have sought the North Pole. For the last fifty and more years the efforts have been almost continuous. The names of Sir John Franklin, Elisha Kent Kane, Parry, Ross, Dr. Hayes, Hall, De Long, Greely, Schley, Peary, Nansen, Abruzzi are only a few of those who tried for the goal which Dr. Cook has reached. That Cook has succeeded is a matter of gratification alloyed only by the fact that Peary thereby was destined to disappointment, even though making the Pole. Peary labored in this region for twenty-three years, blazed the way for Cook and others, reduced exploring the frozen North to a science, and, since his researches and discoveries were greater than those of any

of his contemporaries and predecessors, it is a regrettable fact, in some respects, that he lost the fullest fruition of his long labors.

The news that Dr. Cook brought is interesting. He found in Ellesmere Land, on its western side, a territory where game was plenty so that he was able to make plenty of provision for his dash North. He followed Peary's plans, except that he started in February instead of April, and reached the goal about the time Peary was well under way. But he found no land at the North Pole, thus confirming the theories of De Long, Nansen and others, and discomfiting Peary, who believed that land would be found at the Pole. Land was discovered in that region, but to westward, and the intrepid Cook had no opportunity to explore it.

We know now that there is a Polar Sea, as Dr. Kane believed. It is "open" in the sense that it is landless, but it is most of the time frozen over. Peary would have gained the goal trip before this had it not been that the ice opened and cut him off from his supplies.

What is the use?

It depends on how you look at the problem. In the first place it is something to have accomplished what men have long striven for amid discouragement. Human progress is made because men are constantly reaching out to secure the apparently unattainable. Had there been no such spirit in man Columbus would never have crossed the Atlantic and the human race would be now in the Stone Age, even if it had progressed that far.

Secondly, with Cook and Peary able to make the calculations and experiments with plumb-line and pendulum, we have data which will enable us to give a precise statement of the weight of the earth—or mass, as astrophysicists term it. This may not seem a great achievement, but it will count for much in the world of science.

It is not likely that efforts at polar explorations will cease simply because the Pole has been reached by two Americans. When Stanley first crossed Darkest Africa his task was apparently as great as that of Cook. It did not end there, for Africa is fast becoming an important factor in civilization. It may be that posterity will go North for the stores of iron which abound there in incredible quantities. It is not un-

thinkable that our descendants will go to Ellesmere for summer vacations. But at any rate the indomitable courage and intelligence of man have been rewarded with complete success.

The American flag waves over the North Pole and the achievement is one which we will appreciate more and more as the years pass on.

In this volume may be found some data furnished by Dr. Cook which will satisfy all but the most incredulous that he really discovered the North Pole. But there will be left a remnant who will not believe anything but the testimony of other witnesses. They think that human corroboration is essential. This is not true, as may be easily shown.

In the first place, there is the record of Dr. Cook as an explorer, which is of the very best, as is also his record as a scientific man of experience. Few doubt that he ascended Mount McKinley or that he made interesting discoveries in the South Polar region even when he was unaccompanied. If he is now lying, it can eventually be proved from his own records. But it is unthinkable that he should lie about such a matter.

But if he has lied the proofs will soon be forthcoming. Every explorer keeps a careful diary in which is registered daily data as to the wind, temperature, distance traveled, latitude and longitude either by observation or calculation. These continuous entries must be based on facts. If they are forgeries it is a simple matter to discover the fact. This may seem doubtful, but human experience shows that it is true.

Expert accountants tell us that it is utterly impossible to keep a set of false books and escape detection when inspection is made. This is because there is a law involved which is as certain as that of gravitation. No man can foresee exactly what might happen and write it down in a book. Such hoaxes have been exposed time without number. The record must be straight on its face.

This is what comforted scientists. They felt that if he lied detection in the future is certain. Cook would not care to enjoy a brief era of fame and have his name forever written down in infamy. Now that he has succeeded many other expeditions are certain, since he has declared land to be in the

neighborhood of the Pole and geologists and paleontologists are anxious to know what exists there.

Is the North Pole worth the price which has been paid in human life? What will its discovery add to the world's knowledge, for certainly the finding of it is of no practical economic value although it has been the goal of ambitious and adventurous men for centuries?

Indescribable hardship or lonely death in the ice-bound North has been the fate of many luckless explorers. In the persistent search for this tip of the earth's axis, 750 persons lost their lives since 1553, the year when Sir Hugh Wiloughby was lured northward. That is the price paid for the information, that the region of the North Pole is "a trackless field of purple ice, devoid of any forms of life."

In the early days of polar expeditions, the desire was for a north-west passage to the western ocean, but this object was superseded long ago by mere ambition to find the pole. The discovery depends mainly upon the scientific results, which will be of value to geographers. Conditions of the sea and air are phases of Arctic exploration which probably will be influenced by Cook's and Peary's achievement.

It has been a costly adventure, this search for the North Pole. Possibly the discovery will put an end to polar expeditions, especially if he has obtained all the information possible as to the character of the region of never-melting ice. But we doubt it.

The best previous record to Dr. Cook's final triumph was that of Peary, who, on April 26, 1906, reached the latitude of 87 deg. 6 min. north of Greenland. Previous to that time the Duke of Abruzzi's expedition held the record of latitude 86 deg. 34 min., which they reached on April 25, 1900, north of Franz Josef Land. Nansen's record was 86 deg. 14 min. made on April 7, 1895.

The search for the Pole has been a quest which has drawn adventurous men into the Arctic regions for centuries. The Norsemen were probably the first Europeans to visit Greenland, which has been the base for most of the dashes to the Pole, but it was the attempt to find a shorter route to India that brought the first thorough knowledge of the Arctic regions.

CHAPTER I.

A SUCCESSFUL DASH FOR THE NORTH POLE.

Cook's Final Dash for The Pole—Nothing but Ice, Ice, Ice—Last Stretch The Easiest—May Repeat Trip to Confound Skeptics—The World Electrified—Not an Arctic "Joy Ride"—Supplies Stolen By Natives—Was Lightly Equipped—Found New Route North—Expedition Cost Less Than \$50,000—Pole Finder—Won Eskimos.

WHEN Frederick A. Cook's sextant told him that he had at last reached the one great goal of the centuries, he viewed a scene on which the eyes of mortal man never before rested.

He thus describes it:

"Then came April 21, 1908. That was a great day. We looked for the sun. As soon as we got it I made several observations. Great joy came over us. We were only sixteen miles from the desired spot. I said to myself, 'Bully for Frederick,' then went on.

"The last stretch was the easiest I ever made in my life, although I had still to make two observations and the ice was very broken here. My spirits were high and I shouted like a boy. The Eskimos looked at one another surprised at my gaiety. They did not share my joy.

"I felt that I ought to be there. I made my last observation and found that I was standing on the Pole.

"My feelings? Well, I was too tired, really, to feel any sensation. I planted the Stars and Stripes in the ice field and my heart grew warm when I saw it wave in the wind."

"How does the North Pole look?" he was asked.

"Well," said Doctor Cook, smiling, "it amounts to the size of a 25-cent piece. There is nothing to see but ice, ice, no water, only ice. There were more holes here than at the 87th degree, which shows there is more movement and drifts here, but this and other observations I made afterward—when I got more settled. I stopped two days at the Pole and I assure you it was not easy to say good-by to the spot.

"As I was sitting at the Pole I could not help smiling at