

"I discovered two hitherto unknown islands.

"We missed the depots which previously had been established, but we came accidentally upon one of Svendrup's depots, where we found provisions and instruments in an excellent state of preservation.

"Owing to the smallness of my expedition our requirements were not large. For the same reason we were able to proceed quickly. On some days we covered as high as twelve miles, which is an extraordinary speed.

"As I approached the Pole the Eskimos with me were utterly scared at the meteorological conditions.

"On the return trip our provisions became entirely exhausted. No animal life was visible, and for three days we had nothing to eat. Then in a crevice of the ice we caught several walruses.

"I had only a few cartridges left. I crept along the ice on my stomach, approaching the animals slowly so as not to scare them. I expended all my cartridges, and as a result secured two of the walruses. Our lives were saved.

"We then broke up our only sledge and made bows and arrows of the wood, as do the Eskimos, and secured game with these arms.

"Again near Cape York we were virtually on the point of starvation when we found a young seal sleeping on the ice. At Cape York itself we found traces of musk-oxen, which we tracked and killed.

"From Upernavik to Edgesminde I sailed on the same ship that carried the Maclintock and Franklin relief expedition."

But his further revelations well may be postponed until we have told of his royal reception at the hands of the Danish King and people, on that memorable 4th of September, 1909.

CHAPTER V.

REGAL RECEPTION TO RETURNED EXPLORER.

"In World of Ice and Purple Snows"—Royal Honors for Great Explorer—Back to Civilization—Denmark's Ruler Honors Him—Guest at Brilliant Banquet—Cook's Modest Demeanor—Greetings from Many Monarchs—Copenhagen Crowds with Joy—Streets Thronged in His Honor—Guest of Danish Government—Escorted Ashore by the Crown Prince.

DR. FREDERICK A. COOK stepped from the steamship *Hans Egede* in Copenhagen harbor on the arm of the Crown Prince of Denmark at 10 o'clock on the morning of September 4, 1909, unshorn and looking like a sailor before the mast. He sat down to dinner at 8 o'clock that evening in the City Hall, the guest of a brilliant company of the capital's most distinguished men and women, arrayed in evening dress provided by the King's tailor.

The hours between these events were the busiest of his life. Polar exploration never afforded anything half so crowded with variety and excitement. They were hours of speech-making, handshaking, bowing to clamoring crowds and then, after addressing the people, who almost tore him to pieces in their eagerness to see the discoverer of the Pole, Doctor Cook was the recipient of formal welcomes at the hotel where he was the Government's guest.

There he passed through the hands of tailors, outfitters and barbers. Later he lunched with Dr. Maurice F. Egan, the American Minister, being plied incessantly for an hour with questions. He went through hundreds of telegrams, including congratulations from geographical societies of several nations, explorers and friends, offers of exploitation ranging from books to music hall engagements, and then hurried to the palace and gave the King and other members of the royal family a long account of his adventures.

Returning to his hotel, he received a battalion of correspondents, who subjected him for another hour to a merciless cross-examination, demanding explanations of all the criticisms that have been leveled against his claims.

These questions Dr. Cook answered with the best temper, frankly and fully. Whatever might have been thought of

Dr. Cook elsewhere, he impressed all who talked with him there as a modest, frank and able man. Danish explorers—and Denmark is the home of Arctic pioneers—were the first to indorse Cook's claims to the discovery of the Pole and his methods of getting to the goal. Their opinions were based primarily on personal knowledge of Dr. Cook's character and former achievements. Only after consulting them confidentially and receiving the fullest pronouncement of their belief in the genuineness of his feat did the Danish Government give its official seal by the reception to Dr. Cook's good faith.

The banquet in the evening was held in the magnificent municipal building. Four hundred persons, many of them ladies, attended, while thousands congregated in the streets in a drenching rainstorm to catch sight of the explorer when he entered.

BRILLIANT BANQUET AND RECEPTION.

There was a preliminary reception in the lofty and spacious entrance hall. The spectacle, with so many of the men wearing orders, must have impressed the explorer by contrast with his recent experiences. The company marched upstairs to the air of the "Star Spangled Banner." After all had been seated, the Minister of Commerce, John Hansen, escorted Dr. Cook to the chair of honor amid a demonstration which caused him to color deeply. Minister Egan sat at Dr. Cook's right, with the Mayor of Copenhagen and Miss Egan beyond.

Mrs. Gamel, a wealthy Copenhagen lady, who has contributed extensively to Arctic exploration, and has been closely identified with it, was at the chairman's left. The menu was an example of enterprise, with a lithograph of the Crown Prince greeting Dr. Cook and a map of the Arctic Circle, giving Dr. Cook's route and a fac simile of his autograph with the date, which was a reproduction of a souvenir he gave Miss Egan.

The speeches teemed with compliments to Doctor Cook. The Mayor of Copenhagen said that the name was once more enrolled among the great explorers. Minister Egan briefly proposed a toast to the King of Denmark, and the corporation president, in proposing a toast to the President of the United

States, spoke of the pride that must be felt by the nation which could boast that it was her son who first planted the flag where no human being had ever before set foot.

The Minister of Commerce, in proposing the health of Doctor Cook, paid a warm tribute to "His Noble Deed." He thanked him for spending a little time in Denmark, and said that the privations of the explorer were appreciated most by the men of Denmark there that night whose names are written with honor on the ice rocks of Denmark's northern colony.

When the nation was first thrilled by the news of Doctor Cook's exploit, he said, he must confess there was some skepticism, but afterward it was confirmed, and he hoped that Doctor Cook would try for the South Pole with the same success.

When the Minister raised his glass to "Our Noble Guest" there were nine hurrahs.

Commodore Hovgaard spoke from the standpoint of an expert explorer and commended Cook's methods.

DR. COOK'S MODEST REPLY.

Doctor Cook replied in a few words, modestly saying:

"I thank you very much for the warm and eloquent words, but I am unable to express myself properly. It was a rather hard day for me, but I never enjoyed a day better. The Danes have taken no active part in Polar explorations, but they have been of much importance as silent partners in almost all Arctic expeditions in recent years.

"The most important factor in my expedition was the Eskimo and dog world, and I cannot be too thankful to the Danes for their care of the Eskimo, and now they also have instituted a mission at Cape York. Had I not met with the right Eskimos and the right dogs, and the right provisions, I could never have reached the Pole. I owe much to the Danish nation for my success."

A telegram was read conveying the congratulations of the King of Sweden for "a brilliant deed, of which the American people may rightly be proud." Toasts to Mrs. Cook and to the Eskimos of the party were drunk. Two hundred students in uniform marched in when the company returned to the grand hall and gave Doctor Cook a rousing cheer. They insisted upon a speech and sang songs.

A noteworthy feature of the banquet after Doctor Cook's acceptance in the morning was that the applications for seats reached into the thousands.

It was a weather-beaten and shabby but elated hero who was welcomed by the Danish capital at the same official pier and with the same honors that are customarily used in the greeting of visiting members of royal families.

Doctor Cook wore a shabby brown suit that had been loaned to him by a seaman. On his head was a disreputable old cap, and his feet were clad in leather moccasins. His blond hair was long and shaggy and his mustache rough and straggling. His complexion was sallow, but his face was full. He was a strange figure for the centre of such a brilliant scene as greeted his return to civilization.

A bright sun lit up the blue waters of Copenhagen harbor. Ships and yachts on every side were gay with flags and the shore and piers were crowded with people.

CROWN PRINCE FIRST TO GREET HIM.

Two big American flags flanked the landing stage, where Crown Prince Christian and other notable personages waited for one hour the appearance of the Hans Egede. Hundreds of small boats containing sightseers swarmed over the waters on the harbor. Many of these boats were filled with American tourists waving the Stars and Stripes.

When the Hans Egede was a mile away, slowly coming in with an enthusiastic following of small craft in her wake, Crown Prince Christian and the members of his staff embarked on a launch, which took them to the side of the steamship bearing the explorer.

The moment the anchor was dropped the Crown Prince sprang up the gangway. Doctor Cook at the same time appeared at the head of the ladder and awaited the Prince.

The people in the surrounding boats, who had expected from the newspaper pictures to see a bearded man, recognized the explorer for the first time and sent up a loud cheer.

Prince Christian, who is a tall and handsome young man, was dressed in a silk hat and frock coat. He grasped the hand of the shabby explorer, congratulated him on his achievement and welcomed him warmly in the name of the Danish nation and the Geographical Society, of which the Prince was president.

Prince Valdemar, brother of King Frederick, in an admiral's uniform, accompanied by a party of naval officers, city officials, delegates from societies and the Minister of Commerce, followed the Crown Prince up the side of the steamship, and the explorer was almost smothered in the friendly group of uniforms and officials in black coats and silk hats.

"Did you reach the North Pole, Dr. Cook?" asked the correspondent of the Associated Press.

"Yes, I did," replied Dr. Cook confidently.

After much handshaking Crown Prince Christian said to the explorer: "Come ashore with me, please; the people are waiting to see you."

Dr. Cook said something about his baggage.

"My people will look after your baggage," the Crown Prince answered, and led Dr. Cook to the royal launch.

RECEIVED WITH TREMENDOUS CHEERS.

When the launch approached the pier with Prince Christian and Dr. Cook side by side, a tremendous roar of cheers burst out from the people on shore and from the assemblage of small craft, including yachts, motor boats, landing boats from the Russian warship in the harbor and racing shells, clustered thick about the pier.

Dr. Cook stepped ashore, and in an instant the police were powerless as infants to make a way for the party. Dr. Cook and those about him were engulfed and swept along by a clamorous crowd. Maurice F. Egan, the American Minister, and the Danish officials literally clung to Dr. Cook. Together the party fought its way desperately to a point near the Meteorological Building. Dr. Cook was bruised and capless, and part of his sleeve was torn off.

"I used to be a football player, but this is the worst I ever saw," he panted.

Dr. Cook and Mr. Egan finally succeeded in reaching a balcony of the institute. The people crowded the streets and the adjoining park and yelled frantically when they appeared. Mr. Egan waved his hand toward Dr. Cook as an introduction, whereupon the explorer made a brief address in English.

"My friends," he said, "I have had too hard a time getting

here to make a speech. I can only say that I consider it an honor to be able to put my foot first on Danish soil."

After more cheering Commodore Hovgaard took Doctor Cook in a carriage and drove with him through the crowded streets to the Phoenix Hotel, where he will be the guest of the Geographical Society. The hallways of the hotel were decorated with American flags and masses of flowers. Johan Hansen, the Minister of Commerce, and a committee of the Geographical Society gave a reception to Doctor Cook at the hotel. The Minister made a speech of welcome, in which he said:

"Before retiring to your much-needed rest, Doctor Cook, I hope you will give us an opportunity of bidding you welcome to Denmark. I thank you on behalf of my countrymen for the noble deeds which you so successfully have performed."

The Minister then invited Doctor Cook on behalf of the Government, the municipality and the Geographical Society, "as our honored guest," to a banquet at the Town Hall.

Doctor Cook thanked the Minister briefly "for the very kind reception you already have granted me in Denmark, and with which I feel most delighted."

Minister Hansen, over a bottle of champagne, then led in "three cheers and a long life for Doctor Cook."

Following the luncheon at the legation Doctor Cook was received at the palace by King Frederick. He was accompanied by Mr. Egan.

King Frederick asked Doctor Cook many questions, and drew out a long account of his expedition.

The Queen and her three daughters, Princesses Ingeborg, Thyra and Dagmar, were present.

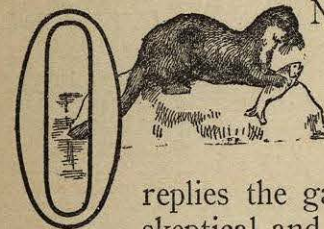
Later in the afternoon Doctor Cook received the newspaper correspondents, and answered all their questions fully.

Their reports are given in full in the succeeding chapters.

CHAPTER VI.

STARS AND STRIPES PLANTED AT THE POLE.

Reached Pole at 7 A. M.—President Taft Honors Cook—Explorer Submits His Proofs—Describes Site of New Land—Explains Speed of His Travel—Resents Skepticism of Jealous Critics—Buried Flag at Pole—No Motive for Deception—Ice Drift Around Pole—Temperature and Speed—Problem of Food—Eskimos Confirm Story—Message from Wife.



NE of the best of the interviews that Doctor Cook gave out at Copenhagen, was with Philip Gibbs, who in the following pages tells of his talk with Doctor Cook and of the

replies the gallant discoverer made to his rather skeptical and pointed questions.

But first it may be well to print Dr. Cook's cablegram to President Taft and the tribute the American Executive paid to his daring.

Doctor Cook cabled as follows:

"COPENHAGEN, September 4.

"PRESIDENT, The White House, Washington.

"I have the honor to report to the Chief Magistrate of the United States that I have returned, having reached the North Pole.

"FREDERICK A. COOK."

To which the President replied:

"BEVERLY, MASS., September 4.

"FREDERICK A. COOK, Copenhagen.

"Your dispatch received. Your report that you have reached the North Pole calls for my heartiest congratulations and stirs the pride of all Americans that this feat, which has so long baffled the world, has been accomplished by the intelligent energy and wonderful endurance of a fellow countryman.

"WILLIAM H. TAFT."