

which flew many colors and at the main flew the Stars and Stripes. The American flag fluttered, too, from many small boats, and the harbor was thronged with an immense crowd. Outside we were boarded by the Crown Prince of Denmark and by Prince Valdemar, who shook hands warmly with Cook. The explorer will be received by the King himself, and to-night there was a great banquet in his honor which was attended by the most distinguished persons of Denmark.

"Doctor Cook bears his honors very quietly. He tells me he will probably stay a week at Copenhagen and afterwards go to Belgium, where he has many friends.

"The impression conveyed by my cross-examination of Cook this morning is confirmed by a meeting of journalists this evening at which William T. Stead presided. Cook was first asked whether he could rely on the accuracy of his observations. To this he replied that his instruments were good, but he was not a trained meteorological expert and therefore liable to error.

#### SURE HE WAS IN THE CIRCLE OF POLE.

"He was then asked, 'Are you quite sure you actually reached the North Pole?'

"'Well,' he said, 'I am sure I was within the circle of the Pole, where there was no north or east or west, but only south.'

"He was then asked whether he had planted the American flag on the exact spot of the Pole.

"'It may have been distance of a shot away,' he said.

"'Yes,' remarked one of those present, 'but guns can shoot a long way now.'

"When questioned as to whether he had fixed flags in solid ground, or whether it might be in moving ice, Cook replied that of course he could not be certain whether it was moving or not."

The same day the Associated Press gave the following to millions of eager readers, each anxious to pay his or her tribute to the world's greatest explorer.

The account, which throws still added light upon the one great topic in popular as well as scientific circles, says:

Doctor Cook, at the request of the correspondents, consented to answer all questions.

First he was asked whether or not the first account of his discovery of the Pole could be accepted as entirely his own work. He replied in the affirmative, except for the obvious errors in transmission. He then explained the doubt about the 30,000 square miles discovered, saying that he meant they were able to see 15 miles on each side during their journey to the Pole, and that, therefore, a hitherto unknown territory of 30,000 square miles was now discovered.

Doctor Cook proceeded to show that he was fully competent to take all observations, saying that on previous exploring expeditions he did very little observation work, which usually was divided among the members of the party. "This time," he continued, "we had started out to reach the Pole, and everything else was of secondary consideration. It was not possible to carry certain apparatus, and it was impossible also to study the deep sea or take soundings. We carried all necessary simple instruments for astronomical observations and we were very lucky to obtain observations virtually every day. The positions noted must have been nearly correct. We had three chronometers, one watch, compasses and pedometers. All were carefully controlled by each other from time to time. The watch, however, got out of order.

#### WELL STOCKED WITH INSTRUMENTS.

"We had all the modern instruments which other explorers have had, including thermometers, barometers and sextants of the latest models. It is possible that our observations were better than those of earlier days, but I do not assert that I am perfectly familiar with making astronomical observations, especially in the polar regions. I think that all explorers will be satisfied with my data.

"Why should I sit down and invent observations?" he exclaimed. "I did not do this thing for anything but sport, and because I take a real interest in the problem. It would not do me any good to invent these things. The only witnesses I had were two Eskimos, certainly, but in all polar expeditions observations have been made by one man. I regard the Eskimo as much more intelligent in finding positions than the white man in the Arctic. These people as a rule are not absolutely ignorant. They know that the earth is round. They have a name for the Pole, which they call

the 'Big Nail.' They appreciate the work of explorers when participating therein.

"I think Rasmussen has obtained some information regarding my expeditions from the Eskimos, who have learned it from the two with me. Rasmussen was there much later, and his information will be published shortly, possibly tomorrow.

"Concerning the ice around the Pole, so far as I could see it was slightly more active there than at one or two degrees south. It drifted somewhat more to the south and east. Its general character is not very different from that at other places. We stayed around the Pole for two days, making many observations.

#### NO CLAIM TO HAVING PUT FOOT ON EXACT SPOT.

"I do not claim to have put my finger on the exact spot; I do not claim to have put my foot on it, but personally I think we have been at the spot. When the observations have been figured out again it is possible that there will be found slight errors and differences, but I am certain that a gunshot fired from where we were would have passed over the Pole.

"We planted the Stars and Stripes at what we believed to be the Pole, but did not leave the flag with a staff. Instead I placed a small silk flag in a cylinder with my card and the record of the journey, with the date.

"The drift ice may carry the flag away, but to me that is a matter of indifference. I should have been very glad to have found land there.

"I am quite prepared to place my observations before any geographical society in the world. I think there is no doubt about my obtaining authoritative recognition. I have already received telegrams from the geographical societies of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Belgium and other countries, which congratulate me, while Amundsen, Nordenskjold, Cagni and Lecoq have acknowledged my work. I offer my observations to science the same as other men have done, and I accept the responsibility.

"As to the temperature at the Pole, it was minus 38. I took about 400 photographs, one of which shows the American flag flying. These, as yet, have not been developed."

"Questioned regarding his great speed, Dr. Cook said:

"The daily distance covered on the northward trip was slightly less than fifteen miles; on the southward trip it was ten miles. This is not an abnormal distance for Eskimos on the ice. They often travel fifty or sixty miles with dogs. One of the greatest advantages of our trip was that I did not take a famine route. We had game for a long time, perhaps for a hundred miles.

"We fed our dogs well throughout the winter in Greenland, and ran them 400 miles, giving them fresh meat every day. Thus we brought them to the Polar Sea fat and well. We had the best men and the best dogs.

#### PROVISIONS RUN VERY LOW.

"We lived entirely on dried meat and beef tallow, reducing the food problem to a science. The last trace of animals we saw was a bear track at 83 degrees. Afterward we did not even see life in the water except algae. The drift of the ice during the entire southern trip was slightly south of east; the direction of the wind was generally south of west. We found several of Sverdrup's old camps. The reason we utilized silk tents on some occasions was that we were so exhausted that we had not strength to build a snow shed. We had carefully figured and planned everything, so that there was no surplus weight to carry. We did not run short except when we went astray.

"During the expedition we ate all kinds of meat. I like musk-ox best, but we would eat bear or fox if the other was not obtainable. Everything tastes good when one is starving. We brought ten dogs back with us, the others having been eaten by their companions. We used the lasso, traps and bows and arrows to catch game. It took two months to learn how to trap a moose. One of the men shot an eider duck with arrows."

Doctor Cook concluded his observations with a reference to the kind way he had been treated by the King, who was greatly interested in his adventures. He stated that he is going to New York as soon as possible. He will remain here for a few days and then will proceed to Brussels, where he is a member of the Polar Club. He assured his hearers that he did not want to go to the Pole again, either North or South.

Captain I. Larsen, of the Hans Egede, said he had examined Doctor Cook's records and that he believed them to be perfectly correct.

The Danish Minister of Commerce, Hansen, talked freely with the representative of the Associated Press regarding the authenticity of Doctor Cook's exploit. He said:

"Our two foremost Danish Arctic explorers, Amundsen and Rasmussen, know Doctor Cook personally, and they have assured us that they believe implicitly every word he says about his achievement. Their word is as good as gold with us on such questions."

Commodore Hovgaard, the commander of the royal yacht and one of the foremost of Denmark's Arctic explorers, had an opportunity to-day of examining Doctor Cook's journals. Later he said to the Associated Press:

"I noticed certain discrepancies and inaccuracies in the newspaper reports of the expedition, but a long conversation with Doctor Cook convinced me that his statements are absolutely reliable. His replies to my questions were clear and precise and left no doubt in my mind.

#### ACCOUNTS FOR NEWSPAPER DISCREPANCIES.

"I did not have sufficient time to read the diary, but from my brief inspection thereof I obtained the firm impression that the doctor's claim of having reached the North Pole is correct.

"Naturally I cannot place the official seal of acceptance on Doctor Cook's achievement; that is for the head of his country to do. Doctor Cook has cabled the President of the United States. We are now awaiting Mr. Taft's reply, and we hope it will express official recognition."

Daugaard Jensen, the Danish inspector of North Greenland and the highest official of that region, who spent two months in the company of Doctor Cook, is absolutely satisfied regarding the reliability of Doctor Cook's statement that he reached the North Pole. Apart from his own observations, Inspector Jensen conferred with the Danish polar explorer, Knud Rasmussen, who obtained from the Cape York Eskimos a description of Doctor Cook's journey.

Rasmussen is the only European who fully understands the language of the Cape York Eskimos, from among whom

Doctor Cook's companions on his expedition were selected. Rasmussen told Jensen that the stories of these Eskimos confirmed Doctor Cook in all the external details of his narrative. They corroborated the statement that the journey ended quite voluntarily, no ice or other obstacles preventing its continuance.

Many other scientists returning from expeditions were also on board the Hans Egede. All of them expressed their firm belief in Doctor Cook, whose modesty and amiability had won their sincere friendship.

Doctor Cook has already written 100,000 words on his book. He accomplished much of this work while living for three months in a hut on Jones Sound. His paper became exhausted, but he had a supply of pencils, and he wrote mostly in microscopic characters between the lines of the books containing his diary. It will take much time to put this portion of his book in form for the printer.

Doctor Cook is overwhelmed with his reception here, the dispatch from Copenhagen continues. He expected to come into Copenhagen quietly, but instead he was almost mobbed by the great gathering of newspaper correspondents, artists, bioscope operators, scientists, publishers and agents. Some photographers even tried to invade the American Legation forcibly during the luncheon hour.

Hundreds of telegrams from publishers, lecture managers and even theatrical managers are pouring in on the explorer. Doctor Cook was greatly pleased to find awaiting him here a message from his wife.