

The Daily Record

Office:
Struve Str. 5, I.
Dresden A.
Telephone
1755.

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THE NORTH POLE.

DR. COOK'S REPORTED DISCOVERY.

The brief telegram from Copenhagen that we were able to publish yesterday was the first news of what bids fair to be the most astounding discovery of modern times. To even outline the history of Arctic research would require a good-sized volume. Suffice it to say that some of the most daring explorers have hailed from America, and if the laurels have finally gone to that country, they will be well deserved. It is regrettable that a certain section of the non-American press treats the news in a satirical manner, and openly imputes to Dr. Cook the characteristics of Baron Munchausen. While it is true that at present we have only the explorer's own word to go upon, and the testimony of certain Esquimaux who are said to have accompanied him, it should be remembered that proved scientists, such as the doctor undoubtedly is, are not as a rule given to the fabrication of fairy tales, especially when their reputation is at stake.

The London Times published yesterday a telegram from Lerwick giving additional details of the Danish steamer's arrival there. For some time it did not become generally known that the American explorer was on board, and during the time the steamer was in harbour the strictest secrecy was maintained. Dr. Cook himself went ashore to despatch a lengthy cablegram to New York, the contents of which we give below. Later in the day it leaked out that the despatch contained an account of Dr. Cook's discovery of the "Magnetic Pole."

The New York cablegram runs as follows: "After a long contest against hunger and cold, we have finally reached the North Pole by a new route and discovered rich material for scientific research. We found districts swarming with big game, and entered unknown country situate on the northern-most extremity of the earth. Our expedition was decided upon in connection with a summer cruise in the Arctic Sea. Our yacht, the Bradley, arrived at Smith's Sound at the end of August 1907, and the time appeared to us auspicious for an attempt to reach the pole.

"The equipment and provisions with which we were provided were sufficient for a much longer journey than the event proved necessary. A large number of Esquimaux had assembled at Annotok for hunting purposes and brought with them quantities of prepared meat and numerous dogs. The meeting was in every way fortunate, occurring as it did at a point only 700 miles distant from our goal. We had excellent guides, a supply of powerful dogs, and ample provisions. Thanks to the assistance of these Esquimaux, we were enabled to build a house from packing-cases to act as headquarters, and at the conclusion of the Arctic night all was ready for the start.

"Our plan was to find a way through Greenland, following the western coast as far as the Polar Sea, and at sunrise on February 19, 1908, the expedition started. It was composed of eleven men and 103 dogs, drawing eleven heavily-laden sledges. We left the coast of Greenland and pressed towards the West. We had only a few hours of daylight every day, and for the rest were enshrouded in semi-darkness. The cold was intense, and we felt it severely as we progressed; the temperature sank to 83 degrees below zero. Several of our dogs were frozen and we all suffered greatly, but soon came across the tracks of great animals which we followed through Nansen's Sound. During this march we shot 101 musk oxen, seven bears, and 335 Arctic hares. On March 18th we reached the Polar Sea and progressed towards the southern point of Hetberg island. Three days later began our journey across the pack ice. Two of the Esquimaux turned back at this point, and we sorted out our ranks so as to take only the most hardy among us. Two Esquimaux were chosen, on account of their great strength, and 26 of the best dogs for the last stretch across 460 miles of absolutely unknown land.

"The first day we made encouraging progress, seeking shelter from the piercing blasts in trenches hollowed out of the snow. Our meals consisted of dried meat and hot tea, so that we did not suffer from hunger. On March 30th the horizon cleared, and we saw new land towards the West. We had passed the 84th degree. Desiring to proceed as



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rapidly as possible, we were unable to investigate the distant coast. From that date onwards we saw no other land, nor did we come across any trace of living thing. Our route led through the dead monotony of the moving ice-packs." On April 8th the expedition had arrived within 200 miles of the Pole. By that time most of the dogs had been killed and eaten as provisions were exhausted, but hope was not abandoned as the ice became more solid and was unmistakably shore ice. On April 14th the 88th degree was crossed. The sufferings of the explorers were now very severe, and were enhanced by the mirages of land which daily appeared before their vision, only to disappear on closer approach. Each member was almost dead with weariness and moved like a lifeless automaton. Reckonings were taken on April 21st, the instruments showing 39 degrees 59 minutes 46 seconds. The locality of the Pole was in sight! Gaining renewed strength and encouragement from their proximity to the goal, the party pressed forward eagerly, and very soon the flag was hoisted at the North Pole. The temperature at this time showed 38 degrees below zero. Scientific memoranda were prepared on the first day of arrival, the second being devoted to sleep. Somewhat recovered, the party set out on the return journey on April 23rd.

Dr. Cook's description of the return indicates that this was still more dangerous, wearisome, and monotonous than the outward trip. The Pole had been reached on April 21st, 1908, but it was not until February 18th, 1909, that the explorers arrived back at Annotok. During the return journey they passed through territory that was rendered famous by Dr. Nansen's discoveries, and part of which bears his name. Further advices from New York state that the Americans are naturally filled with enthusiasm at this great feat of their compatriot's.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WILL CLAIM POLE.

A Washington despatch states that Attorney General Wickersham declared yesterday that the Constitution followed the flag, and that, if Dr. Cook's story were confirmed, the United States would claim the land discovered by him.

FRENCH ROYALIST DEMONSTRATION.

Paris, September 3.

The morning newspapers report the following Royalist fracas. "Thirty 'Camelots du Roy,' led by M. R. de Sarte, arrived yesterday on the Place du Luxembourg, bearing a straw crown, with an insulting inscription attached to it, which they intended to lay on the Scheurer-Kästner monument. On the appearance of the police, M. de Sarte was deserted by his followers, who fled in a body, leaving him to be arrested after a tussle with the officers. Later a larger crowd of Camelots du Roy made an attempt to rescue their leader from the Police station. But a group of Republican students interfered and a fight with sticks ensued. Thirty of the combatants were arrested, and 12 of them detained in custody.

THE CRISIS IN GREECE.

NEW PREMIER'S PROGRAMME.

The following is a semi-official communiqué on the military coup of last week, M. Mavromichalis's acceptance of office, and the new Premier's political programme. It is cabled from Athens by Reuter: "Now that the situation has become clearer it becomes plain that the sole object of the military movement was the reorganisation of the Army and the reform and improvement of the administration. The movement was at no time directed against the King or the dynasty, nor had it as its object the diminution of the rights and privileges of the Crown or the violation of the Constitution.

"The request of the Military Committee that the Crown Prince and the Royal Princes should be relieved of their high commands in the Army was only formulated in their Highnesses' interests and with a view to relieve them of grave responsibilities likely to injure their prestige and to avert the discord and hatred which personal favouritism and the sympathies of the Princes would inevitably have engendered among the officers serving under them.

"The movement put M. Mavromichalis in an exceptional position. While condemning the manner in which the officers had sought to impose their demands, he felt he ought to accept office, so that he could negotiate with them with a view to a compromise, and above all things avert a bloody conflict which would have had disastrous consequences for the country and the dynasty. Moreover, the reforms demanded by the officers with regard to the reorganisation and strengthening of the Army form part of the political programme which M. Mavromichalis has often advocated in the Chamber and before the electors, and they are, besides, desired by the whole nation.

"It is for this reason that the Premier, in his declarations, has declared his gratification at having contributed to the pacification of the country and having preserved it from anarchy and serious disorders. He believes that the Chamber, which has a Theotokist majority, will give him its support and confidence, and will unanimously agree to the military measures, the radical economies, the reforms, the purification of the administration, and the proposal for a loan which he will submit to it, for the Chamber will understand that these measures are not only demanded by the officers, but also respond to the imperious wish of the nation.

"He has decided to make no concessions from this programme and to resign if he perceives any hesitation or party intrigues, leaving with those who would overthrow him the responsibility for the events which will ensue."

LADY'S AEROPLANE FLIGHT.

Miss Bacon, who has made many balloon ascents for scientific observation, was the only lady to fly at Rheims. She is delighted with her experience, and most grateful to the gallant young Frenchman, M. Sommer, who gave her a seat on his biplane. "I went to Rheims," said Miss Bacon, "determined to fly at all hazards. I wrote to twelve of the flying men, and next morning received a visit from M. Sommer, who promised to take me up. I sat in his shed all Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and at last, on Sunday evening, when all the races were over and the aviators were flying about like bats in the dusk for their own amusement, he said I might come. I was, I believe, the first passenger he had ever carried, but he rose with me and flew for three or four miles at thirty miles an hour without the slightest difficulty. I had no special seat—I just sat behind him, with my back to the radiator. Ballooning is nothing in comparison with flying. On the aeroplane you have a sensation of immense motion. It is the most lovely sensation you can possibly imagine. I was only aware by experiencing this sensation that we had left the earth. I was only conscious by the cessation of it that we had returned to earth again. There was no jerk or jar on rising or landing. We flew under beautiful conditions, with the moon rising, the grand stand illuminated in the distance, and other flying men all around. On one turn we just missed Parman, who said afterwards it was the 'closest shave' he ever had. Another time we flew over horses, sending them scampering in the dark."