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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

THE FIRST DAILY PAPER IN ENGLISH PUBLISHED IN GERMANY.

No 1,090.

DRESDEN, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1909.

10 PFENNIGS.

The Daily Record is delivered by hand in Dresden, and may be ordered at any Post Office throughout the German Empire. It is published daily, excepting Mondays and days following legal holidays in Dresden.

Monthly Subscription Rates: For Dresden, mark 1.—; for the rest of Germany and Austria, mark 1.20. For other countries, marks 2.50.

WHO FOUND THE POLE?

Too many Cooks spoil the North,—to paraphrase a venerable axiom. The despatches we print below appear to render certain the outbreak of an acrimonious dispute between the adherents of Peary and Cook, both of whom claim to have discovered the North Pole. Certainly, as far as we can gather, Dr. Cook is maintaining the more dignified attitude. It is easy to understand the chagrin of Commander Peary and his immediate backers when their highly elaborate, much-advertised expedition has been forestalled by this quiet, modest, unostentatious surgeon-explorer. But fair play is a jewel the world over, and it is painful to read the unjustifiably strong language that has already been employed by the Peary partisans. Strange that practically the only solid scepticism in regard to Dr. Cook's narrative should be expressed by his own countrymen! We are promised comprehensive data of reckonings, bearings, measurements, etc. by Dr. Cook, and until these have been fully examined by competent authorities it is surely ungenerous to condemn what, on the face of it, is a highly credible narrative.

The following despatches and citations represent the information bearing on the subject received yesterday:—

London.—The *Evening News* publishes the following cable addressed to the *New York Sun* from St. John's, Newfoundland. "Peary and his companions describe Dr. Cook's report as quite unworthy of belief; declaring that Dr. Cook did not possess the equipment necessary for such an undertaking and that he had not got near the Pole; that he had struck out a course lying to the westward of those of all the later polar explorers in order that his observations could not be easily tested by possible rivals.

From St. John's, Newfoundland.—The steamer *Roosevelt* of the Peary expedition has left Indian Harbour for Battle Harbour.

From Paris.—The *Matin's* correspondent at Christiania says:—"Dr. Nansen, who arrived here on Saturday from Bergen, found a large number of telegrams awaiting him asking his opinion of Dr. Cook's story. The Norwegian explorer refused to reply. He has stated, however, that he considers various points of the narrative not very clear, but he prefers to wait until he is in possession of more details before making a pronouncement. Personally he believes it is possible to reach the Pole with dog sledges."

The *Matin's* correspondent at Copenhagen has interviewed Capt. Sverdrup, who accompanied Dr. Nansen on his first expedition, and who spent five years in drawing maps of the east of Greenland. The Captain thinks Dr. Cook reached the Pole because he did not persist in following the route generally adopted, which Commander Peary is still attempting now, and by which it may be considered practically impossible to reach the Pole owing to the rapidity of the currents with which the ice floes drift. The route he took, says Capt. Sverdrup, is the only good one because of the slow displacement of the ice fields north of Nansen Sound. Moreover, Dr. Cook had with him Esquimaux chosen with great care by the explorer, including Knud Rasmussen, of Greenland, who comes of an Esquimaux mother and a Danish father, who lives in Greenland, and knows perfectly the country and its inhabitants. Rasmussen, points out Capt. Sverdrup, has absolute faith in the success of Dr. Cook's expedition. Dr. Cook has certainly also brought back observations which will convince the sceptics.

As for the objections drawn from the rapidity of Dr. Cook's journey, Capt. Sverdrup declares that they are unfounded, as he himself did twenty-five miles a day in those regions.

AMERICAN SCEPTICISM DECLINING.

The Cook Polar boom is still going strong in the States. Long columns of cabled matter appear daily in the *New York papers*. Scepticism is beginning to be less confident and aggressive, and is now practically confined to people connected with the Peary interest, and to scientists in a hurry for complete proofs. The latter will apparently have to wait for a considerable time before they can be gratified. Dr. Cook says he has left half of his records in Greenland, and it may be months before they reach *New York*. Moreover, Dr. Cook



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has decided to write nothing more for newspaper publication, and he will say as little as possible to newspaper men, holding that he has done quite enough in that direction by voluntarily submitting himself to exhaustive examination and cross-examination by the cosmopolitan crowd of reporters which awaited his arrival at Copenhagen.

His first full story will be given to the world in the form of a series of magazine articles, for which he has just accepted an offer of one hundred thousand dollars. In due course he will publish a book, the rights of which he has not yet sold, although he has received scores of tempting offers. He will return home early next month, and will be accorded a welcome the like of which it is expected will not have been witnessed within living memory. The only thing lacking so far in the emphatic endorsements of his fame by representative Americans in all grades of life is a telegram from Mr. Roosevelt, but this is being sought for, and will in due course be forthcoming from the African wild.

The *New York* correspondent of the *Globe* asserts that the *Champion Bar Tender* of *New York* has invented and placed on tap a new cocktail named after the hero of the hour. Experts speak well of it as more than worthy of the great man who inspired its conception.

DR. COOK'S CLAIM.

Dr. Cook has sent the following message to the *London Daily Mail*:—

When the scientists of England and the rest of the world have had an opportunity of examining my astronomical observations I cherish the utmost confidence that they will unreservedly recognise my claim to the discovery of the North Pole. I believe our data to be indisputable; they are the result of a comprehensive detailed compilation with the aid of the most modern apparatus, and I am entirely prepared to accept full responsibility for their accuracy.

From *New York*.—A further despatch from Lieut. Peary from Indian Harbour requests the Secretary of the Arctic Club to inform the Geographical Societies of the world that the North Pole has been reached. The Club has officially reported the discovery of the Pole to the Secretary of the Navy.

From *London*.—Reuter learns from St. John's, Newfoundland, that Lieut. Peary claims to be the first man who has reached the North Pole. He has joined the schooner *Jeanie*, which was sent to his assistance, on the coast of Greenland.

A *Washington* telegram announces that the Directors of the National Geographical Society have resolved to postpone the consideration of the question of the distinctions to be conferred on their members Dr. Cook and Lieut. Peary until their reports have been subjected to scientific examination.

COOK'S LECTURE AT COPENHAGEN.

Dr. Cook delivered a lecture before the Geographical Society of Copenhagen on Tuesday. Beginning with a tribute of admiration of the work of previous explorers—Nansen, Peary, and particularly Otto Sverdrup, who had prepared the way for him—he went on to explain the programme of his expedition which had been worked out by Mr. Bradley and himself, and of which the discovery of the North Pole formed no official part. Mr. Bradley's schooner, he said, proved very suitable for a Polar voyage. After his arrival among the northernmost Esquimaux settlements of Greenland he had formed his plans for attempting to reach the Pole, as he then had a sufficient number of men and dogs, and abundant material. Dr. Cook then proceeded to describe the practical equipment of his expedition, his start in February 1908 and the chief incidents of

his advance towards the Pole during March and April, which, in spite of the great cold (83 degrees Fahrenheit), was very rapid. The gradual reduction of his numbers by sending back men and dogs in batches had, he said, proved useful. A party of three persons was the one most suitable for an expedition of that kind. Repeating what he had said previously of the land that he had observed between the 84th and 85th degrees of latitude but had not explored, and making but brief reference to the monotony of his march, he described his arrival at the Pole on April 21, saying that he was sure his observations would prove that, practically speaking, he had reached the 90th degree of latitude.

After a few words expressive of his feelings at finding himself at the North Pole, Dr. Cook spoke of the difficulties of his return journey, and of his enervating halt last winter, and his arrival in Greenland, where the Danish colonists were the first to hear the news, several months before it could reach the rest of the world. He concluded by saying that he could not lecture again until his book was printed.

The lecture was frequently applauded, and the Crown Prince moved the hearty vote of thanks that marked its close.

Reuter's London office received a telegram yesterday from Lieut. Peary in Indian Harbour, in which he says that Dr. Cook's statements should not be taken too seriously; that the two Esquimaux who had been his companions declared that he had not gone any distance worth mentioning in a northerly direction, nor out of sight of land. Other Esquimaux had confirmed that assertion.

BRIEF NEWS ITEMS.

The official Athens Gazette published yesterday decrees giving Prince Christopher three years leave to travel in Germany and Prince George, the son of the Crown Prince, two years' leave to complete his studies in Germany. The decrees placing the Crown Prince and Prince Nicholas à la suite have been signed and are to be published tomorrow.

The Crown Prince of Greece left Athens on Tuesday for Germany. His Royal Highness will first pay a visit to the Crown Princess Sophie at Cronberg.

The English Board of Trade returns for August show that in that month the imports were £5,670,506 and the exports £1,772,024 higher than in the corresponding period last year.

The American yacht *Joyette* won the decisive and concluding race of the German-American Regatta at Marblehead, Mass., on Tuesday. The Taft Cup is thus retained in America.

Colonel Stockall, the proprietor of the London firm of Stockall and Sons, jewellers, who had been arrested on suspicion of having made a fictitious report in 1904 of an attack upon him by unknown men who, as he alleged, stole £3,000 worth of jewellery, confessed on Monday that he embezzled the jewels and bruised and bound himself.

While a crowd of 60,000 people in *New York* on Monday were watching an aeronaut in the act of making what was to have been a parachute descent from a height of 1,000 feet, they were horrified to see the man fall with fearful velocity to the earth. The parachute had failed to open, and the aeronaut met his death.

The Porte intends, according to reports in the Constantinople press, to approach the Powers with a view to abolishing the foreign post offices in Turkey, whereby the earnings of the Turkish postal service would increase by 500,000 Turkish pounds. At present the postal service of Turkey is being reorganised by the Belgian Postmaster-General, M. Sterpen.

Alarming reports have been current in *Wall Street* as to the condition of Mr. Harriman's health. We are informed that the doctors have stated that Mr. Harriman had a relapse on Sunday last but that they consider his condition fairly satisfactory, and that there is no ground for grave apprehensions.

(Continued on page 2)