

Dr. Cook and His Trip to the Pole

How His New Theory For Penetrating Frozen North Won Him Immortal Fame—Millionaire Bradley His Backer.

Secrecy Surrounded Expedition So as to Thwart His Rival, Peary. He Has Been a Lifelong Adventurer.

WHEN the thrilling news was flashed underneath the oceans and across the continents of the world that Dr. Frederick A. Cook of Brooklyn had discovered the north pole it was a culmination of the greatest scientific achievement of modern times. For decades after desperate explorers, self-sacrificing scientists and steady-nerved adventurers of a dozen nations have hunted themselves against the merciless ice barriers of the frozen north in attempts to discover the pole. Decade after decade the same result—failure—has been the only reward for the hardy voyagers who have made the exploits of the famed "hardy Norsemen" of old dwindle into insignificance. It is in words of death,

had succumbed to the strangling grip of the abysmal horrors of the region. And it was in April that the orbit of the midnight sun carried its brilliant occupant over the horizon. The glitter on the green-white pack ice and the purple-tinted bergs was a stimulant to the nerve-worn invaders of the grim silence. The dogs began to sicken. Those that dropped dead in the stiffened harness were eagerly devoured by their mates. Thus the team of huskies became self-supporting.

A temperature of more than 45 degrees below zero prevailed in spite of the rays of the midnight sun. The day came when but 100 miles of ice pack lay between Dr. Cook and the north pole—on, on, around, up, down, back and again on, circumventing the shifting barriers, outwitting the frozen

prepared our expedition very quietly and got in on the ground floor."

On his return to North Sydney from Etah on his yacht Mr. Bradley stated the situation, the chances and the plans of Cook as follows:

"From the polar sea there will be only two sturdy Eskimos and their dogs to go with Cook. From Ellesmere Land three families of huskies will go with the party, establishing three stations along the route. The idea of taking more on the jaunt across the ice fields does not meet with our approval for various reasons. "The party will leave 70 north latitude in Smith's sound and from there will cross Ellesmere Land and try to reach the pole by the polar sea. This means a journey of over 600 miles, but for various reasons, which I do not care to speak about at present, I feel convinced Dr. Cook will land the pole successfully.

"Unlike the Peary expedition, Dr. Cook has taken only two sleds, each built with roofs, enabling the party to sleep in them while pushing forward. The sleds are equipped with lamp stoves and other contrivances. Two canvas boats also form a part of the outfit. These will be used in crossing leads, thereby saving valuable time and cutting short the journey. Dr. Cook once accompanied Peary on a pole hunting trip. He has spent considerable time in making preparations for the present expedition and goes with every known element of help."

The last word received from Dr. Cook after the yacht Bradley's departure was dated "Polar sea, March 17," and reached Annotok by special Eskimo messenger. The message sent to Rudolph Franke, one of the original party, who had returned to Annotok for supplies, was as follows:

"I'll Make Desperate Attempt."

To the present we have been nothing of Crozier Land, and I am taking a straight course for the pole. The boys are doing well, and I have plenty of dogs. I hope to succeed. At any rate, I will make a desperate attempt.

While I expect to get back to you by the end of May, still I wish you to be ready to go to Annotok, the island of North Star, where the whalers' steamers come, by the 5th of June, and if I am not back go home with the whalers.

Gather all the blue fox skins you can. These must be our money on the return trip. If you can get a few bear skins, take them; also walrus and walrus tusks, but do not give too much for them.

This Awful Cold and Wind."

I have regretted many times that you are not with us, but at the moment it seemed best to send you back, and on the whole, you will be of more assistance to me at the house, to guard and care for our things, than here in the field in this awful cold and wind. I trust you are of the same opinion.

So good-bye, and now for the pole! Yours cordially, FREDERICK A. COOK.

Such were the last words to "the outside" of the stout-hearted gambler with inexorable fate who was running 500 chances to 1 that he would lay his bones alongside those who had gone before in some darksome green lead canyon 600 miles from rescue.

After nearly two years of silence, during which only one message from him was received, the relief ship Jeanie was started northward, and it was expected that the vessel would reach Etah early in this month. His plan was agreed on was to push on to the northern point of Grant Land and from there start his dash for the pole in the winter of 1908, timing himself so as to return to his headquarters at Annotok not later than September, 1909.

Dr. Cook's New Theory.

Dr. Cook intended to put a new theory into practice in the polar regions on this trip. He intended to time his advance in such a way that his trip across the ice would fall during the winter months. This seems a strange time in which to reach the pole; but radical as laymen may consider it, pilots and explorers who have spent winters in the north believed that it might lead to success. Usually explorers have done their traveling during the summer and on the approach of winter have gone into winter quarters. This gave them a chance to re-prepare during the cold weather for the hard work ahead when the moving ice had opened water to give them a chance to use boats. Dr. Cook entirely ignored the old customs. He started on a journey the exact antithesis of any heretofore undertaken.

His Career.

Dr. Cook was surgeon and ethnologist to the first Peary expedition in 1891 and 1892, commander of the expedition on the Zeta, a yacht, 1893; organizer and commander of the expedition on the Miranda, a steamship, in 1894; surgeon and anthropologist on the Belgian antarctic expedition of 1897-9; and surgeon to the Peary auxiliary expedition on the Erik, a steamship, Sept. 16, 1896, after having raised escapes from death and after severe exposure to the elements. Professor H. C. Parker of Columbia university, who was originally a member of the party, afterward disparaged Cook's feat and engaged in a bitter controversy with him, maintaining that Cook really reached the summit of the mountain.

Dr. Frederick Albert Cook was born at Callicoon Depot, Sullivan county, N. Y., on June 10, 1865. He is the son of Dr. Theodore Albert Cook. He received his elementary education in Brooklyn and was awarded his degree of M. D. at the University of New York in 1890.

On June 10, 1902, he married Miss Mary Fidelity Hunt. He has been decorated with the Order of Leopold, Belgium; gold medal of Royal Society, Belgium; silver medal, Royal Geographical Society, Belgium, and was a member of the American National and Philadelphia Geographical societies and the Kings County Medical society.

Dr. Cook is president of the Explorers' club of New York.

SOME OF THE CREDIT GOES TO THE ESKIMO

Without Him Pole Hunting Would Be Very Difficult.

HARD WORKER, BUT DIRTY.

Plenty of Water Around His Land, but None of It Ever Touches Him—Arctic Air Keeps Northern Men in Good Health.

In spite of their differences regarding the discovery of the north pole and other matters, in one thing Commander Peary and Dr. Cook are in thorough agreement. With the other men who have sought "farther north" records they declare that expeditions to or toward the pole would be almost if not quite impossible without the aid of the Eskimos. Almost all of the long line of arctic explorers have fully acknowledged their indebtedness to the men of the north for their familiarity with arctic conditions and their willingness to work as sledge drivers and burden bearers.

The only true Eskimos on this continent live on the west coast of Greenland from Upernavik to Etah, in the heart of the arctic, less than 700 miles from the pole, where so many fearless explorers have spent their long, dark winter nights before the final dash on foot and sledges over ice and hummocks of ice.

With all their virtues of industry, honesty, peaceableness and docility the Eskimos are the filthiest people in the world. They never wash, not even face and hands. The smell of their fur clothing and secretions from the skin causes an odor about their persons, and especially in their igloos and tents, that is unbearable to tenderfeet.

Living in huts of stone or ice in winter, in seal-skin tents in summer, Eskimos never marry in the sense we use this word, but mate like animals. Swapping of mates for an indefinite time is common. Eskimos are the most widely scattered people on the globe, dwelling together in small bands, without central authority or government. There are less than 40,000 Eskimos all told.

Safe From Many Diseases.

Eskimos live almost entirely on raw animal food, and this explains the absence of a number of diseases which are common to civilization. Scoury, so common and deadly among early polar explorers, is totally unknown among Eskimos who eat raw meat. This raw food also explains the absence of enlarged tonsils, glands and goitre. Their perfect, splendid teeth and strong lower jaws mark them completely carnivorous. The exclusion of vegetable food has shortened their intestine, and indigestion is unknown. One would suppose their pure flesh diet would cause biliousness, etc., but the large percentage of oil in their food acts as a gentle laxative and protects them against all harm. The Eskimo eats with relish old rotten blubber that would stagger a buzzard.

Consumption is unknown among Eskimos in the north, nor is there any skin or bone form of tuberculosis, but when brought to the United States they contract consumption in most virulent form. Of six brought to New York all contracted the disease in less than six months. One who returned to his arctic home made a quick cure.

It is well known that the long arctic winter, with its depressing effects on body and mind, often upsets the best balanced nervous system, even of the natives. But this hysteria vanishes with the summer. Explorers have suffered in the same way, and two have committed suicide. In summer Eskimos get so full bloated that nose-bleeding is very common.

All degenerative diseases that cause so much suffering and death in civilization are absent from the Eskimos. The pure, sterile arctic air contains no germs, but the natives invariably take a bad "ship cold" when they go aboard white men's ships. Nature acts the good sanitarian in the far north and shuts the door against all disease germs. The use of remedies either inside or out is unknown. Wounds heal up at once without mattering. All tumors, warts and cancers are unknown.

Walrus Hunting Is Perilous.

The large number of children and lusty young widows shows the dangers of walrus hunting. The kayak, in which the hunting is done, is a very frail craft. The Eskimo can't swim. The wounded walrus tears or sinks the little skin canoe, and widow, children and relatives become common charges.

At a distance it is difficult to distinguish an Eskimo man from his mate, as the sexes dress similarly. The outer clothing consists of trousers and a coat fitting close to the body and covering the head by a prolongation of the coat, like a hood. The clothing is made of the skins of seals, land animals and birds. Some of the southern Eskimos have been Christianized, and their mode of life has been brought somewhat into conformity with civilized ideas. The great majority of them, however, believe in a crude form of nature worship and hero veneration.

First Case of September Strawberries.

The first September strawberries ever heard of in New Jersey were placed on sale in Belvidere, N. J., at fancy prices. They came from the farm of David Miller, just across the river in Pennsylvania. He has been experimenting with late berries and declares that they are just as good as those which bloom in June.

PEARY-COOK FACTIONS

Worldwide Controversy Over Discovery of North Pole Will Probably Continue For Years—Await Cook's Book

By FREDERICK R. TOOMBS.

SMALL wonder that the discovery of the north pole should have precipitated a war among the mapmakers of the earth. The sensational circumstances attending the revealing of the exploits of the Cook and the Peary expeditions made certain a long series of disputes, differences of opinion, rival claims and rival charges.

Each man's announcement that he reached the pole must in the light of subsequent events be accepted as true until proved false. One thing seems certain—that the arrival in the United States of both intrepid conquerors of the arctic drift will not bring a quick solution of the intricate points involved, nor will it end the controversy that is spreading and flaring like a prairie fire. Their arrival on these shores will, on the contrary, fan the sparks still higher, and no man can foresee what the ultimate outcome will be. Peary is expected in New York in a few days, and Dr. Cook announces that he will arrive there about Sept. 21.

That the discussion as to who really discovered the pole will extend over a number of years appears certain. Dr. Cook states that the most convincing proof of his claims will not be given

WAGE BITTER WAR

The Commander Is a Man of Wealth—Owns Sixteen Islands on Maine Coast—Mrs. Peary's Record Trip

By FREDERICK R. TOOMBS.

It is probably a natural one, owing to the fact that Peary is a popular man and one who has spent considerable time in cultivating friendships in official circles in Washington.

In European circles, however, Dr. Cook is credited as much as Peary, and in Denmark his story is accepted as absolutely true by the leading geographical authorities. The fact that the Royal Geographical society of Denmark presented him with a gold medal and that the council of the University of Copenhagen by a vote of 10 to 1 resolved to confer on Cook the degree of doctor of philosophy (honoris causa) is an indication of the force with which his story impressed the hard-headed, unexcitable experts of the Danish nation. It is probable that the Danes are better qualified to judge the merits or demerits of a north pole discovery story than any other nation.

That vital differences as to verities should arise between two world heroes of the caliber of Cook and Peary is a matter of poignant regret. Both men are of spartan mold, fearless, determined, enduring and patriotic. Each has performed a feat that will fix his name securely in the history of his country and his time. Therefore if

temperature during that march was 53½ degrees below zero. The temperature the day we reached the ship was 65 degrees below zero."

Mrs. Peary, who has all along insisted that her husband would reach the pole, holds the record for the woman who has lived farthest north. She spent a year on the northern edge of Greenland with the commander when he made the first detailed explorations there.

The long winter night and the hardships inevitable under the circumstances produced no unfavorable effects upon Mrs. Peary, who battled through the dreary season of darkness with all the energy shown by the men of the party. To her doubtless the party owed much of the comparative comfort which relieved the monotony of the winter season. No white woman had been so far north by several hundreds of miles as Mrs. Peary at that time (1892). A Danish woman lived for a long time at Tassusak, about forty miles above Upernavik. This is hundreds of miles south of the place where Mrs. Peary spent a year. The Eskimo women were particularly interested in the white woman who had come among them, and Mrs. Peary was of much service to her husband in the pursuit of his ethnological researches.

Laughs at Auto and Airship Plan.

The ex-... has never had any sympathy with the various schemes advanced to invade the ice locked polar regions with airships or automobiles. When Dr. Cook proposed a few years ago to dash for the south pole in an auto Commander Peary scoffed at the idea. He said: "The roughness of the ice would prevent any such plan from working out successfully. Then, too, the stretches of open water could not be overcome."

He also deprecated the idea of going to the north pole in an airship in the following words:

"I don't feel like criticizing those who try the airship method of navigation. I don't care for a balloon. Let me put it in this way: I don't believe that the airship in its present state of development can successfully combat the conditions which will be met with in an attempt to reach the pole. When an airship has been constructed which can navigate the air independent of storms and behave in the air as one of the big liners does at sea in any kind of weather, then it is time enough to talk about reaching the pole by means of an airship, but not before. My experiences have not impaired by belief in my own method, which is in making a dash over the ice by means of sleds."

"My Most Important Work."

Commander Peary has long maintained that the discovery of the pole would not prove the most important result of arctic exploration. He states his views on the subject in the following words:

"The gain to the scientific world by the results of my work in the arctic regions is of far more actual value than the discovery of the north pole. "The discovery of the north pole is merely a more or less spectacular fact, but still one that had to be tried again and again until actually accomplished. "I have traveled the most northerly land on the globe. The departments of science which will be benefited by my sojourn in the north are geology, meteorology, anthropology and natural history. The full result of my labors, especially in the field of meteorology, cannot be fully ascertained until the observations I have taken have been worked out by scientists.

"Perhaps the most important result of my labor—I am not now speaking from a scientific standpoint—is the demonstrating most conclusively that the right kind of a man can carry on arctic exploration without great danger or suffering exceptional hardships. In fact, he can work in the far north as well as in his office in New York.

"In natural history the work I have done, I am vain enough to think, is great. No expeditions ever had the opportunity that we had of studying the musk ox. I have sent home at different times very complete specimens of this animal, and I have also sent a young walrus. So far as I know, no other specimens of these animals are now living in captivity, and scientists have unexcelled opportunity to study them when alive.

Commander Peary is widely reported to be a poor man, one who has been impoverished by his arctic trips. Such is not the case, however. Three years ago he purchased a total of sixteen islands along the Maine coast north of Portland, which are held at high prices owing to the demand for exclusive sites for cottages along the coast. Several of the islands are in Casco bay.

Eagle Island, which he owns, has for several years been Commander Peary's stronghold, his fortress, where he could retire at will safe from the attacks of interviewers and photographers. It is an outside island about fifteen miles from Portland, partly wooded, partly open, with vegetation almost tropical in its density.

The commander also owns Basket Island, in Casco bay, an ideal seashore resort. It is a small island, probably not more than a quarter of a mile long and perhaps an eighth of a mile wide. In fact, it is an ideal location for a big seashore hotel of the exclusive type, and this, it is said, is just the use to which Commander Peary will eventually put it. He has purchased an island off Freeport called "A Pond of Tea," and away down the middle bay, off Freeport, is Shelter Island, twenty miles from Portland and about the same size as Basket. This is one of the explorer's purchases.

Within a radius of five miles from Eagle Island are Great Mark, Flag and Horse Islands. These have been acquired in the last three years, and all



DR. FREDERICK ALBERT COOK OF BROOKLYN, WHO DISCOVERED NORTH POLE.

starvation, of freezing torture and blighted hopes that the story of the search for the pole has been written. And it remained for Dr. Cook in the year 1908 to believe what had become to be considered the impossible, to accomplish what so many dauntless men had attempted, to win immortal fame by actually penetrating to the north pole.

And also he played a sensational part in a battle of giants in a pretty story of intense rivalry between strong men as has ever been imagined by the most romantic fantasists. In short, Dr. Cook fulfilled the dearest wish of his imperial mentor, John R. Bradley, a wealthy New Yorker, who had registered a grim determination that Commander Robert E. Peary should not be the first man to reach the pole. Bradley, a millionaire who has hunted and climbed mountain peaks with Dr. Cook, was confident that Peary could be beaten to the pole. Who was the man to do it? That was the question. Cook? The very man, thought Bradley—the very man to back with a million dollars in cash for such a venture.

And Cook made good.

An Account of the Trip.

During the early part of Dr. Cook's trip into the unknown, where the one certainty was the shadow of death's grim specter, he met with famous herds of big game—moose, bears, etc. His eleven Eskimos and 140 dogs were in prime condition as in February, 1908, from Hebers Island they began a tortuous trek over the mysterious polar sea.

Averaging from ten to fifteen miles a day of progress, week after week passed. Strictest economy in the use of provisions was practiced, of course.

He discovered a large area of hitherto unknown land, seemingly many thousands of square miles in area, and reached the northeastern limit of rocky formation. From that point they stretched before him the gray expanse of the northern polar ocean leading to the eye, stupendous to the imagination, but treacherous as the glittering gulfs that softly and surely snatched and kill.

Overpowering winds often drove the venturers into caverns or temporary ice huts. The cold was the coldest ever experienced by a white man who afterward lived. In April Dr. Cook was in latitude 83 degrees 21 minutes, longitude 81 degrees 21 minutes. No more land was to be seen. The ice pack was moving with the currents and threatened to sweep him far to the eastward. Change of direction, therefore, was frequently necessary.

News Came From Copenhagen.

The first news of Dr. Cook's discovery to reach America came from the colonial office at Copenhagen, stating that with a few Eskimos, a sledge party, Dr. Cook reached the pole on April 21, 1908.

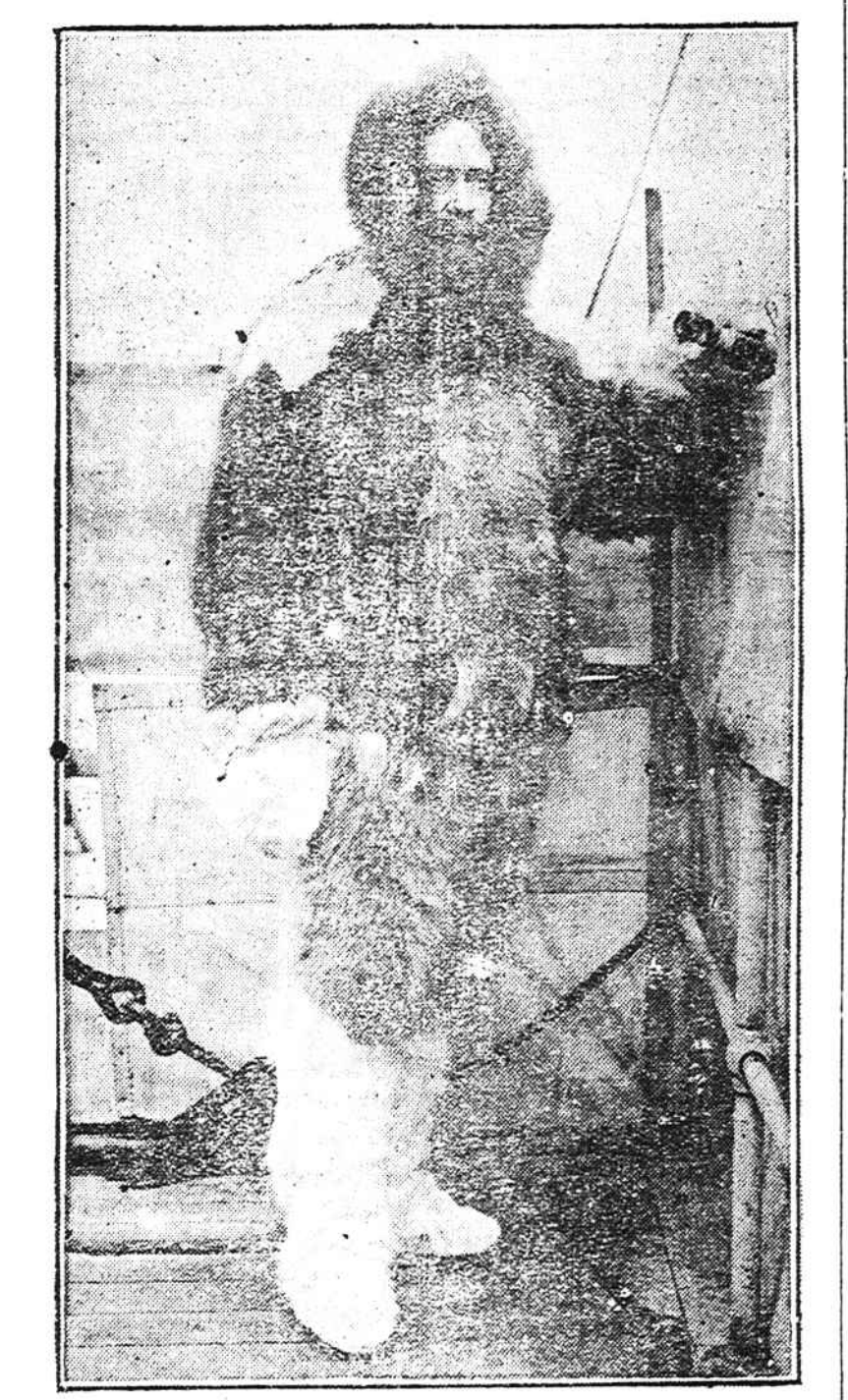
The Copenhagen authorities had obtained their information in a dispute from Lerwick, Scotland, which also related that Dr. Cook was returning from the polar seas on the steamship Hans Egede, bound for Denmark.

Dr. Cook, who was surgeon of the first Peary arctic expedition and who is a mountain climber of wide experience, disembarked from the auxiliary schooner yacht John R. Bradley on Aug. 27 with his supplies at Etah on Smith's sound, latitude 79 degrees north and about 750 miles from the pole. Smith's sound is at the northern extremity of Baffin bay. His idea was to winter somewhere in this general section and early in the spring cross Ellesmere Land and push onward and northward to the pole across the desolate polar sea, whence few men ever returned to tell the tale.

Provisions, clothing and ammunition sufficient for two years were taken ashore from the Bradley. The adventurer's party consisted of one other white man and about a dozen Eskimos. Mrs. Cook, the explorer's wife, accompanied him as far as Etah.

A Secret Expedition.

The Cook expedition was largely a secret one. Mr. Bradley, having a burning desire to have Dr. Cook outstrip Peary to the pole, insisted that no chance should be taken of letting Peary get wind of the venture. In his opinion, Peary, who was already within striking distance of Etah, would hasten his own operations if he heard of Cook's plans and probably secure all the available dogs at Etah, so that Cook would be unable to start over the ice on his sledges. "For these reasons," says Mr. Bradley, "we



COMMANDER PEARY IN ARCTIC COSTUME.

out until his new book appears, and as a result the publication of the work is awaited with keen interest on all sides.

Peary's Claim That He Was First.

Most of the acrimony given the discussion, particularly during the last few days, was caused by the publication of a statement by Remer's news agency, which said that Commander Peary claimed that he was the first man to reach the pole. This report gave still another dramatic turn to the situation, and the many supporters of Dr. Cook expressed deep indignation at such an action by Peary before he had had a chance to look into a detailed account of his rival's trip. Also as an indication of the fairness of Dr. Cook toward Peary the former's friends point to the message sent from Copenhagen in which the doctor said: "I am glad to hear of Peary's success. If he says he reached the pole I know he got there."

An unpleasant turn was given the situation, again, by the dispatch sent from Greenland stating that Dr. Cook had taken for his own use dogs raised especially for Peary and food held in reserve for him. Dr. Cook's reply to this charge is as follows: "I understand that a rumor is current about my having taken some of Peary's food and dogs at Etah. This is founded on Eskimo gossip and misunderstanding. I desire no controversy. I simply say in reply to any such assertion, 'No.' Commander Peary is a friend of mine."

Navy's Support of Peary.

Commander Peary has more supporters in the United States as regards his claims than has Dr. Cook. His friends in the navy department have stood by every word he has said thus far and are not endeavoring to convince the public of the responsibility

either is attacked in the interest of the other an injustice of no small proportions is done.

Captain C. T. Hansen, chief of the nautical department of the Danish Meteorological Institute, declares that he believes firmly Peary duplicated Cook's achievement by following the western route for the greater part of his path north.

Captain Sverdrup, who commanded Naansen's boat, the Fram, says that the last telegrams received from Peary are much more convincing to him than the first, which he was inclined to doubt.

But Sverdrup says he is convinced absolutely that Cook reached the pole.

Peary Tells of Hardships.

Commander Peary related the following at a reunion of the Washington alumni of Bowdoin college:

"To note briefly one of my arctic experiences, on the 6th of January, 1899, after a sledge journey in the very midnight of the great arctic night, a journey over an unknown frozen road of such hardness as you can scarcely imagine, reduced to a diet of raw dog, I stumbled into Fort Conger, the abandoned headquarters of the Lady Franklin bay expedition, with both feet seriously frozen. For six weeks I lay there on my back, a helpless cripple, through the utter darkness, living principally upon crummed and molasses, my companions trying to inject a little warmth into the deadly cold by hurling empty boxes and barrels, until the faint rays of returning daylight in the latter part of February permitted an attempt to reach my ship, 250 miles to the south. Lashed down to a sledge, my feet and legs wrapped in a musk ox skin, that journey of 250 miles was made in eleven marches of from twelve to eighteen hours each, bumping and pounding over the broken ice of the Arctic sea. The mean minimum daily