

AMERICAN EXPLORER DR. COOK, FINDS NORTH POLE.

Brussels, Sept. 1.—The observatory here received the following telegram dated Lerwick, Shetland Islands:

"Reached North Pole April 21, 1908. Discovered land far north. Return to Copenhagen by steamer Hans Egede. (Signed) "Frederick Cook."
The American officials at the observatory state the dispatch is surely authentic and that the North Pole has been reached for the first time by an American.

Paris, September 2.—The Paris edition of the New York Herald this morning publishes a signed statement from Dr. Frederick A. Cook, which is dated "Hansegede, Lerwick, Wednesday," on his experiences in the Arctic regions.

"After a prolonged fight with famine and frost," says Dr. Cook, "we have at last succeeded in reaching the North Pole. A new highway, with an interesting strip of animated nature, has been explored, and big game haunts located, which will delight sportsmen and extend the Eskimo horizon.

"Land has been discovered on which rest the earth's northernmost rocks. A triangle of 30,000 square miles has been cut out of the terrestrial unknown. The expedition was the outcome of a summer cruise in the Arctic seas on the schooner Bradley, which arrived at the limits of navigation in Smith Sound late in August, 1907. Here conditions were found to launch a venture to the pole. J. R. Bradley liberally supplied from his vessel suitable provisions for local use. My own equipment for emergencies served well for every purpose in the Arctic.

"Many Esquimaux had gathered on the Greenland shores at Annatoak for the winter bear hunt. Immense quantities of meat had been collected, and about the camp were plenty of strong dogs. The combination was lucky, for there was good material for equipment. All that was required was carefully arranged for a point only seven hundred miles from the Boreal centre.

"A house and workshop was built of packing boxes by willing hands, and this northernmost tribe of 250 people set themselves to the problem of devising a suitable outfit. Before the end of the long winter night we were ready for the enterprise, and plans had matured to force a new route over Grinnell Land northward along its west coast out onto the Polar Sea.

"The campaign opened with a few scouting parties being sent over the American shores to explore the way and see the game haunts. Their mission was only partly successful, because of the storms. At sunrise of 1908, (February 10,) the main expedition embarked on its voyage to the pole. It consisted of eleven men and 163 dogs drawing eleven heavily laden sledges. The expedition left the Greenland shore and pushed westward over the troubled ice of Smith Sound. The gloom of the long night was relieved only by a few hours of daylight. The chill of the water was felt at its worst. As we crossed the heights of Ellesmere Sound to the Pacific Slope the temperature sank to minus 83 centigrade. Several dogs were frozen, and the men suffered severely, but we soon found the same trails along which the way was easy. We forced through Nansen Sound to Land's End. In this march we secured 101 musk oxen, 7 bears and 335 hares.

"We pushed out into the Polar Sea from the southern point of Herbert Island on March 18. Six Eskimos returned from here. With four men and forty-six dogs moving supplies for eighty days, the crossing of the circum-polar pack was begun. Three days later two other Eskimos, forming the last supporting party, returned and the trails had now been reduced by the survival of the fittest. The two best men and twenty-six dogs were selected for the final effort.

"There before us, in an unknown line of 400 miles, lay our goal. The first days provided long marches, and we made encouraging progress. A big lead, which separated the land from the ice of the central pack, was crossed with little delay. The low temperature was persistent, and the winds made life a torture. But cooped up in our houses, eating dried beef tallow and drinking hot tea, there were some animal comforts occasionally to be gained.

"For several days after the sight of brown land was lost the overcast sky prevented an accurate determination of our positions. On March 30, the haze was partly cleared, and new land was discovered. Our observations gave our position as latitude 84.47, longitude 86.36. There was urgent need of rapid advance. Our main mission did not permit a detour for the purpose of exploring the coast.

Here were seen the last signs of solid earth; beyond there was nothing stable to be seen.

"We advanced steadily over the monotony of moving sea ice, and now found ourselves beyond the range of all life—neither foot prints of bears or blow holes of seals were detected. Even the microscopic creatures of the deep were no longer under us. The maddening influence of the shifting desert of frost became almost unendurable in the daily routine. The surface of the pack offered less and less trouble and the weather improved, but there still remained the life sapping wind which drove despair to its lowest recess. The extreme cold compelled physical action. Thus day after day our weary legs spread over big distances. Incidents and position were recorded, but adventure was promptly forgotten in the next day's efforts. The night of April 7 was made notable by the swinging of the sun at midnight over the northern ice. Sun burns and frost bites were now recorded on the same day, but the double day's glitter infused quite an incentive into one's life of shivers.

"Our observation on April 6 placed the camp in latitude 86.36, longitude 94.2. In spite of what seemed long marches, we advanced but little over a hundred miles. Much of our work was lost in circuitous twists, around troublesome pressure lines and high, irregular fields. A very old ice drift, too, was driving eastward with sufficient force to give some anxiety.

"Although still equal to about fifty miles daily, the extended marches and the long hours for travelling with which fortune favored us earlier were no longer possible. We were now about two hundred miles from the Pole and sledge loads were reduced. One dog after another went into the stomachs of the hungry survivors until the teams were considerably diminished in number, but there seemed to remain a sufficient balance for man and brute to push along into the heart of the mystery to which we had set ourselves.

"On April 21 we had reached 89 degrees, 59 minutes, 46 seconds. The Pole was in sight. We covered the remaining fourteen seconds and made a few final observations. I told Eukishook and Ahwelsh (the accompanying Eskimos) that we had reached the "Great Nail." Everywhere we turned was south. With a single step we could pass from one side of the earth to the other; from midday to midnight. At last the flag floated to the breezes at the Pole. It was April 21, 1908. The temperature was minus 38 centigrade, barometer 29.83; latitude, 90; as for the longitude it was nothing, as it was but a word.

"Although with joy, our spirits began to undergo a feeling of weariness. Next day after taking all our observations, a sentiment of intense solitude penetrated us while we looked at the horizon. Was it possible that this desolate region, without a patch of earth, had aroused the ambition of so many men for so many centuries. There was no ground, only an immensity of dazzling white snow, no living being, no point to break the frightful monotony.

"On April 23 we started on our return."

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Laurens Man From Greenwood.

Mr. Adolphus C. Watson who, until a few years ago, was a valued citizen and a good farmer of this county, residing near Barboursville, was in the city Wednesday returning to his home at Greenwood after a brief visit to relatives in the vicinity of his former home. He is successfully engaged in business in Greenwood and takes keen interest in all public matters.

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