

# ARCTIC RESEARCH

A Young Prince of the House of Savoy Reaches the Farthest Point North Yet Touched.

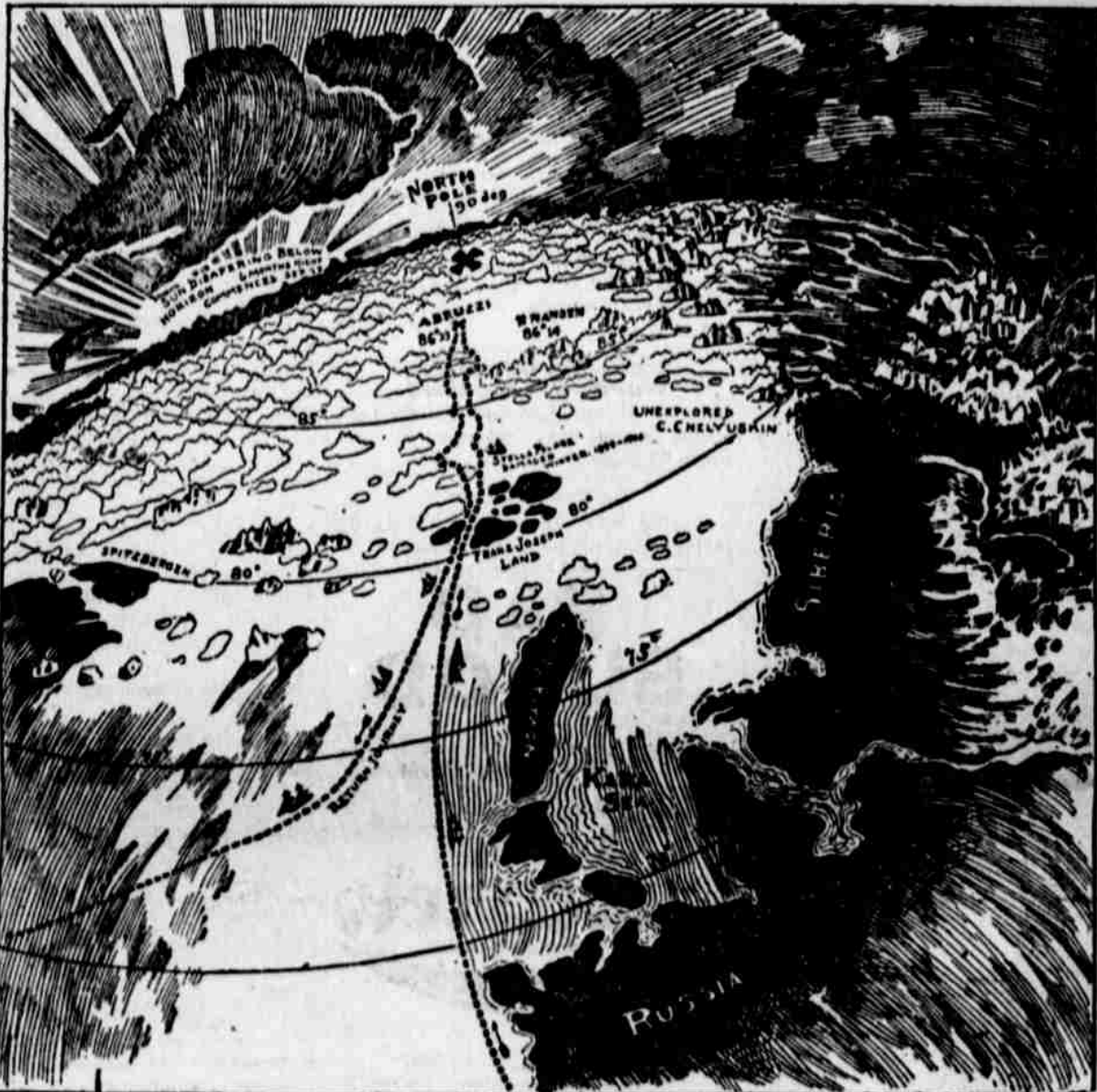
HERE is a fascination about Arctic exploration which nullifies the dangers and privations, and impels adventurous men to brave the terrors of the frozen solitudes and nations in generous rivalry to send expedition after expedition to wrest from the ice-locked bosom of the North the secret which it has guarded successfully since the creation of the world. Little by little, one degree after another has yielded to the determined heroism of man, but the goal is still 200 miles distant. It is doubtful if the contribution to science and geographical knowledge resulting from the discovery of the North Pole would be commensurate with the awful loss of life and vast expense attending the effort to reach it. But love of adventure, honorable ambition to achieve what so many have failed to accomplish, and man's conquering spirit which cannot rest while any obstacle remains to overcome, have induced scores of attempts which hitherto have failed of the main purpose, but have not weakened the determination of others to battle with the awful sol-

cles instead of oblique circles as here." There will be nothing to designate the pole when it is reached, except the observations which fix the geographical point. The explorer takes frequent observations of the sun along his route to determine his latitude and longitude. By computation he should know when he has reached the earth's apex. The series of observations are afterward corrected whenever the exploring party reaches the base of operations or wherever the standard chronometer is left. Peary, for example, who is now in the north, and may have reached the pole, has with him six chronometers rated for different times, and showing Greenwich mean time, Washington mean time, and one rated at some convenient camp, and indicating the local time of that place. By this chronometer his more northern observations would be computed, with corrections or errors added or eliminated, this to indicate precisely the places of observation. Again, when civilization is reached the observations would be again computed with astronomical observations made

stance a pickpocket, a professional beggar, or a habitual "drunk and disorderly" is brought up for his or her fourth or fifth conviction. It is proved beyond doubt that he or she is incapable of performing the duties, and therefore of exercising the rights, of a free citizen; sentence is passed for the last time, a term of imprisonment is imposed which is really a preparation for the new life which the hopeless case, the piece of human refuse, is to lead: "At the expiration of your sentence you will be placed in relegation," says the judge. That means banishment for life. The criminal never sees his old haunts, never mixes with his old companions again save in exile. It will no longer be possible for him to commit crime, or to contaminate the society which has now finished with him. Moreover, he has got to work, and if he won't do that, he will find his food cut down and himself in a prison, which is made just about as uncomfortable for him as it can be. France possesses two of these dumping grounds for human refuse; as they may be called. One is French Guiana, which is about one of the best places in the world to get out of and stay away from. The other is the Isle of Pines, which is a coral-fringed paradise far away in the South Pacific, one of the most beautiful spots ever trodden by human feet, or darkened by the presence of human crime. Their working day is about seven hours and a half. They are well treated, well fed, and by no means over-

**GRAVEYARDS OF GOLD.**  
Large Quantities of the Precious Metal Laid in India and China.  
Gold everywhere rapidly vanishes out of sight, but nowhere as rapidly as in India and China. These two countries are looked on as veritable graveyards of gold. Thomas Jefferson Hurley, of the American Institute of Mining Engineers states in a recent publication that every year a great yellow stream flows into both of these countries. This stream is never ending. The money does not reappear in Indian banks. The soil of Hindoostan absorbs it, even as the desert swallows the overflow of great rivers. This work of gold absorption in Asia has been going on for centuries and still continues. Treasures of gold incalculable in value are hidden in India. This gold is sterile. Once placed in hiding it never emerges. It is consequently lost, as far as good to humanity is concerned. In the regency of Bombay alone 12,000,000 gold sovereigns, or \$90,000,000, are concealed. Hundreds upon hundreds of other millions are elsewhere throughout the famine-wasted land securely hoarded. Every class of Hindoos is given to gold hoarding. "Even the gods of India," remarked a writer in the Courier des Etats Unis, "are very fond of gold. They whistle for it through the lips of their priests. Obedient to the divine call, it comes rippling from all points, until it reaches the sacred parris. It accumulates in the subterranean passages of the temples, to which the priests alone have access. Thence it overflows and takes its place like a proud conqueror upon the altars, where it shares with the gods the incense and the homage of the men it has bewitched." It is indeed significant that while half of mankind devotes itself eagerly to the search of gold the Hindoo and Chinese multitudes give every energy to keeping it out of sight or out of use and circulation. India and China are not, however, the only gold absorbers on earth. There is in every country a tendency in gold to get out of view and remain hidden. The treasury officials at Washington estimate that \$10,000,000 in gold is every year used in the arts and \$50,000,000 in jewelry and plate. Since the resumption of specie payments in 1879 \$300,000,000 in gold has disappeared from circulation. The Bank of England is stated to be poorer by \$100,000,000 in gold since 1897. France likewise reports an immense decrease in gold, both coined and reserve. Other countries have like stories to tell. An immense quantity of gold money is taken out of America by travelers. The net annual loss in this regard is estimated at \$600,000 to \$800,000, making in twenty-five years a total shrinkage of \$20,000,000. Inquiries made of 45,000 firms and individuals throughout the country show a total consumption of gold coin by manufacturers, jewelers, dentists, etc., of \$3,500,000 a year. The total stock of gold in the country was, at the beginning of last August, \$1,053,518,992. Mr. Hurley is convinced that the world's output of gold will continue to increase even beyond the immense yields of to-day. New processes are today saving gold which it was impossible to save ten years ago. "We predict," he adds, "that within the next twenty years Alaska and the Canadian Northwest Territory will yield over \$1,000,000,000 and that by 1925 they will have a population of over 1,000,000."—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

## DUKE ABRUZZI'S ROUTE TO THE POLAR REGIONS.



tudes, terrible rigors, and enormous difficulties of the unknown North. The latest expedition has been the most successful of all. The Duke of Abruzzi, a young scion of Italian royalty, has recently returned from a voyage of exploration which penetrated further into the polar regions than man has ever before to the knowledge of the world. Even Nansen, the intrepid, who, until Abruzzi's voyage had the honor of going farthest north, did not get nearer than 200 miles of the pole, a distance, to be sure, less than from New York to Buffalo, but 19 minutes of latitude, or twenty miles, short of Abruzzi's highest point. This does not seem to be a great advance, but it is a distinct achievement and brings the pole twenty miles nearer than ever before, and represents an achievement which never before crowned the endeavors of man. The nearer one approaches the pole, the greater the difficulties. To advance a single mile is often a physical impossibility on account of the ice barrier. Twenty miles may represent the labor of weeks under conditions which would appall any but the stoutest hearts and exhaust all but the most robust physiques. **The North Pole Described.** What is the North Pole about which so much is heard? An answer to this question is found herewith: It is simply the mathematical point which marks the northern termination of the axis of the earth. It is a place where there are 90 degrees of latitude, or none, and 360 degrees of longitude, or none at all. Just as one prefers to look at it. A man standing at the North Pole would have to go south whichever way he stepped. There is no north, no east, no west. Should he stand at the pole for a year he would have but one night and one day. The sun would rise on March 21 and set on Sept. 21, not to rise until the following March. "After rising," says a writer, "the sun would circle through the heavens as if rolling along the horizon, ascending every twenty-four hours a little higher, until on June 21 it would be 23½ degrees above the horizon. Then it would gradually sink until sunset, Sept. 21. During the night at the pole all the heavenly bodies would move in horizontal cir-

at Washington, and would then be added to the various nautical tables that are supplied to maritime nations. That an explorer had reached the pole could be proved from his observations, and would resolve itself to a matter of mathematical calculation. **Other Expeditions.** Intense interest is felt in the result of the investigations being made at the present time, in which so many nationalities are interested. Lieut. Peary will probably be the first to be heard from among those who during the past summer have been engaged in efforts to reach the limit of latitude. His expedition operates from his northernmost supply on Western Greenland, from which he was scheduled to make a 400-mile dash for the pole. The Russian expedition, which has been equipped for the discovery of the pole, has winter quarters in Matthew Strait and its main objective is Nova Zembla, with possible advances farther northward. The Norwegian expedition now is supposed to be locked in the vicinity of the pole. It is under the command of Capt. Otto Sverdrup, the indomitable lieutenant of Explorer Nansen, and the noted Fram is the vessel on which the expedition sailed. A German expedition under the command of Capt. Baedendahl of the German Imperial navy, has started in a small schooner with the determination to reach the North Pole. The last heard from the Danish expedition of which Lieut. Andrup is in command, was that it had reached 74½ degrees north latitude on the east coast of Greenland. The Koltzoff expedition is in the same vicinity and after exploring Sabine Island, proposes making a dash northward. Robert Stein is exploring the unknown territory of Ellsmere land on his own account. **FRENCH METHOD.** Whereby Habitual Criminals Are Forced to Become Good Citizens. In France they manage the habitual criminal question better than in any other country in the world. For in-

worked. Of course, very few of them know anything about a trade. Their only idea in life has been to loaf from the cradle to the grave. Those who can never be made into workmen or work-women are put on the fields, farms and coffee plantations. Others are taught trades, and gradually the aimless, shiftless loafer of the slums becomes a more or less skillful carpenter, blacksmith, wheelwright or stonemason. **Compressed Air for Canal Locks.** On the Erie canal at Lockport, N. Y., a pneumatic balance lock is being substituted for a flight of old-fashioned stone locks, says the Youth's Companion. The new lock consists of two steel chambers one for ascending and the other for descending boats. Each chamber is divided into two parts, an upper one containing water to receive the boats and a lower one containing compressed air on which the upper chamber floats. When a boat has been run into the upper chamber it is either lowered or raised, as may be desired, by filling or exhausting the air chamber beneath it. **Where Peter the Great Lodged.** In the quaint town of Zaandam, in Holland, Peter the Great came in 1697 to learn the trade of shipbuilding. He worked like any ordinary workman, under the name of Peter Michaeloff. He lived by himself, doing his own washing and cooking his own meals in his hut of two rooms. The cottage, which now leans in all directions, still contains the rude furniture which the great Peter used—a bedstead, table and two chairs. It is incased in a building erected for the purpose and over the mantel is a tablet erected by Alexander of Russia in 1814. **Snake as a Rat-Catcher.** One of the men employed at the zoological gardens in New York has a black snake that has the run of his house. It has the reputation of being the best rat catcher in the entire borough of the Bronx. It is also a family pet. It is folly to draw a bill on a blind man payable at sight.

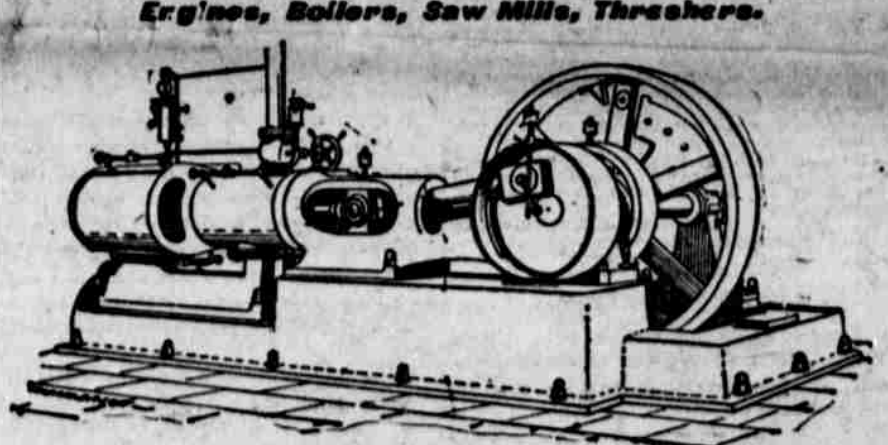
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