

COOK SERENE AND EXPLICIT ON GRILL

Explorer Subjected to Rigid
Inquisition, but His Mem-
ory Never Fails.

REGARDS PEARY AS FRIEND

Says He Wanted to Be First to Tell
of His Discovery, Therefore He
Imposed Pledge of Secrecy.
Negro's Tale Only Hearsay.

NEW YORK, Sept. 22.—Dr. Frederick A. Cook tonight submitted cheerfully to one of the severest cross-examinations he has undergone since he announced his discovery of the North Pole. The interview, which was conducted by 40 newspaper reporters, including several from foreign newspapers, proved at least that he was not afraid to meet the public. Incidentally the city of New York officially recognized Dr. Cook's achievement today when the Board of Aldermen passed a resolution commemorating his discovery and providing for a public welcome at the City Hall.

The material points of Dr. Cook's answers today did not differ in a great degree from his original recital. Some slight details were cleared up, however, which throw light on the way in which the Polar dash was effected. As the questions asked were put by laymen, they did not go deeply into the scientific aspect of the expedition. But Dr. Cook was ready to answer anything pertinent to the issue.

Cook's Diary Produced.
Dr. Cook was asked if he would object to showing his diary. He immediately consented and produced a small octavo notebook, which he showed freely to all. It contained 176 pages, each of which was filled with 50 or 60 lines of writing in the most minute characters. The book, he said, contained considerably more than 100,000 words, while he has, besides, other books embracing his observations and other data.

Dr. Cook answered every question in a low voice without hesitancy, as though in full possession of all his facts. The interviewers were rather severe in regard to details, but nothing indicated that the Polar traveler's memory was at fault, even in the most minute particulars. Sometimes when a pretty question indicated ignorance, he smiled with good-humored sympathy at the lack of technical knowledge displayed.

Regards Peary as Friend.
Not once did he refuse to reply, except when the name of Commander Peary was mentioned. Even then he said he always had and did now consider Peary as his friend, but controversial subjects in connection with his rival he avoided entirely, saying that he would not discuss them.

When requested to say what had occurred at his meeting with Harry Whitney, the New Haven sportsman, he said he preferred to let Whitney speak for himself, as Whitney was quite unbiassed. His reasons in imposing secrecy on Whitney, on Pritchard, Commander Peary's cabin boy, and on the Eskimo, Ekimuk, prompted by a desire to be the first to tell the world of his discovery.

He had done the work, he said, and was entitled to relate how it had been carried out.

Some of the more important questions put to Dr. Cook and his replies follow:

No Enmity With Peary.
Q. Did anything ever occur in the life of yourself and Mr. Peary that would create an enmity or bitterness between you?

A. No, nothing whatever that I know of. Q. Do you look upon Commander Peary as a friend or enemy?

A. I must say I do not know. I have treated Mr. Peary as a friend, and until I know more about the situation I shall continue to do so.

Q. Did you ever say anything in St. Louis that indicated that you feared for your life if he got there?

A. No, I would be willing to meet Peary in a debate when he got here.

Q. As far as I am concerned, the Peary incident is closed. Mr. Peary is not the dictator of my affairs and I do not care to say anything further about him.

Q. Did you know Mr. Whitney when you met him on your return to New York?

A. No, he introduced himself, but I did not catch his name and did not know it until the following day.

Q. Did you know that Peary was going to start up at that time?

A. No, I did not know that. Q. What caused you to have such confidence in Whitney that you entrusted your instruments to him?

A. I knew him by name, and circumstances that arose while I was with him convinced me of his honesty. I gave him the instruments to bring back because I thought they would be less liable to injury on board his vessel than if I took them across glaciers and rough ice-covered country.

Henson's Story Hearsay.
Q. What is your opinion of the story told by the negro about the information he obtained from your Eskimos?

A. Well, the Eskimo would not have been so ready to tell anyone where they had been. I should like you to have Henson here and cross-question him yourself. Henson's testimony is entirely founded on hearsay.

Q. Knowing that a ship was coming north this summer for Whitney, why did you not wait for that ship and come direct to New York instead of going to South Greenland and sailing from there to Copenhagen?

A. I knew the Danish government's ship would get me home before Whitney's ship. Q. What instruments did you have with you from Cape Thomas Hudson and back?

A. A sextant, a French apparatus, and what kind of artificial horizon did you have?

A. A glass.

Q. What kind of a transit or theodolite did you have, and how many?

A. We did not use any.

Two Compasses Carried.
Q. What kind of a compass did you have?

A. We had one liquid compass and one surveying compass.

Q. What kind of compass did you use to determine your compass variation?

A. A surveying compass; it had an azimuth attachment.

Q. What compass course did you take from Cape Thomas Hudson and back?

A. Well, that changes every day. If you follow the course of a map you have got the compass course.

Q. Was your determination of the Pole solely by an observation of the sun's altitude, or did you take observations of the polar star 12 hours apart and by the determination of the celestial pole by the method of two positions prove the accuracy of your position on the terrestrial Pole?

A. How are you going to take an observation by the polar star when you have a continuous sun? There is no night; you cannot have any stars; there is no darkness.

Q. What kind of observations did you make at the Pole, and how many? What was the altitude of the sun?

A. We have told that the altitude of the sun gave us our position; that is all there is to say about that. We made regular astronomical observations such as would be made by compass and other instruments.

We merely made the nautical observations that a captain would have made aboard a ship.

Describe Observations Later.
Q. Will you describe in detail any single observation taken by you at the North Pole with the exact figures of the results and the correction applied?

A. Not at this present moment. We will describe every one of them in detail when they are to the University of Copenhagen. They will go there within two months. The entire records will be delivered to the university and after that they will go to everybody that wants to examine them.

Q. In your original narrative published in the New York Herald, you said: "The night of April 7 was made notable by the weight of the sun at midnight over the northern ice." Our observation on April 8 placed the camp in latitude 86°30'; longitude 15°10'. The astronomers say that in the latitude you mentioned the midnight sun would have been visible on April 1 and that if you fully saw it for the first time on April 7, you must have been 170 miles from the Pole instead of 224, as you supposed. Therefore, you would have had to travel 50 miles daily. What is your explanation of the apparent discrepancy?

A. In the first place, that indicates the point I have taken: that nobody can pronounce judgment on a matter of this kind until he gets the complete records. The north horizon at midnight had been so obscured we could not tell whether the sun was below the horizon or above it. Therefore, this statement is based on the fact that we saw the sun at midnight. I have not looked through the Herald's story as it has been written out in full. My impression is that we were absolutely unable to see the sun at midnight before that. The horizon was obscured.

Q. Why was it necessary to entrust your records to Mr. Whitney under a pledge of secrecy?

A. I don't know that there is anything to be secret about that. I don't think I am bound to divulge to Mr. Peary the news of our work. I am perfectly willing to give it to the world and have given it to the world. There is no reason why I should give any news to the world, perfectly willing to give it to the world, and I have done so.

Not Giving News to Peary.
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