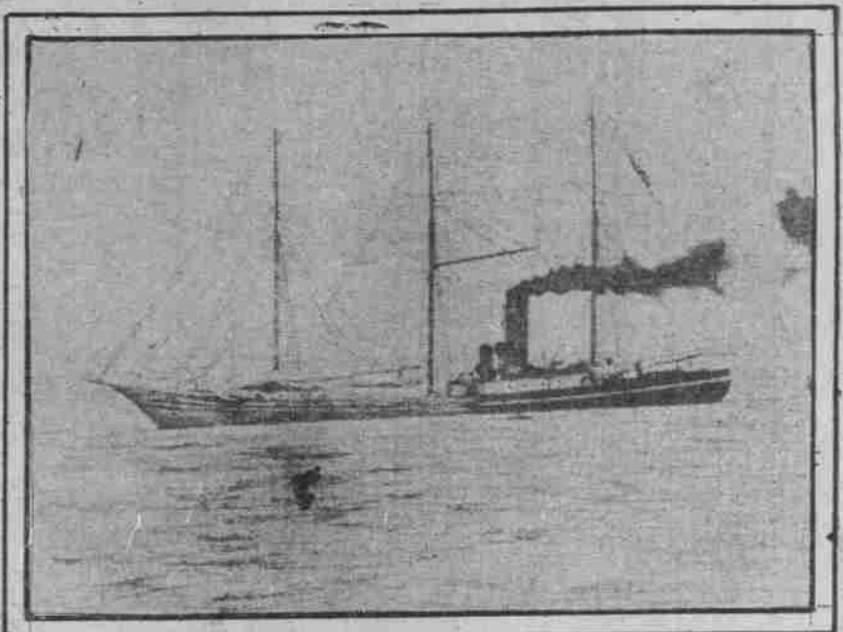
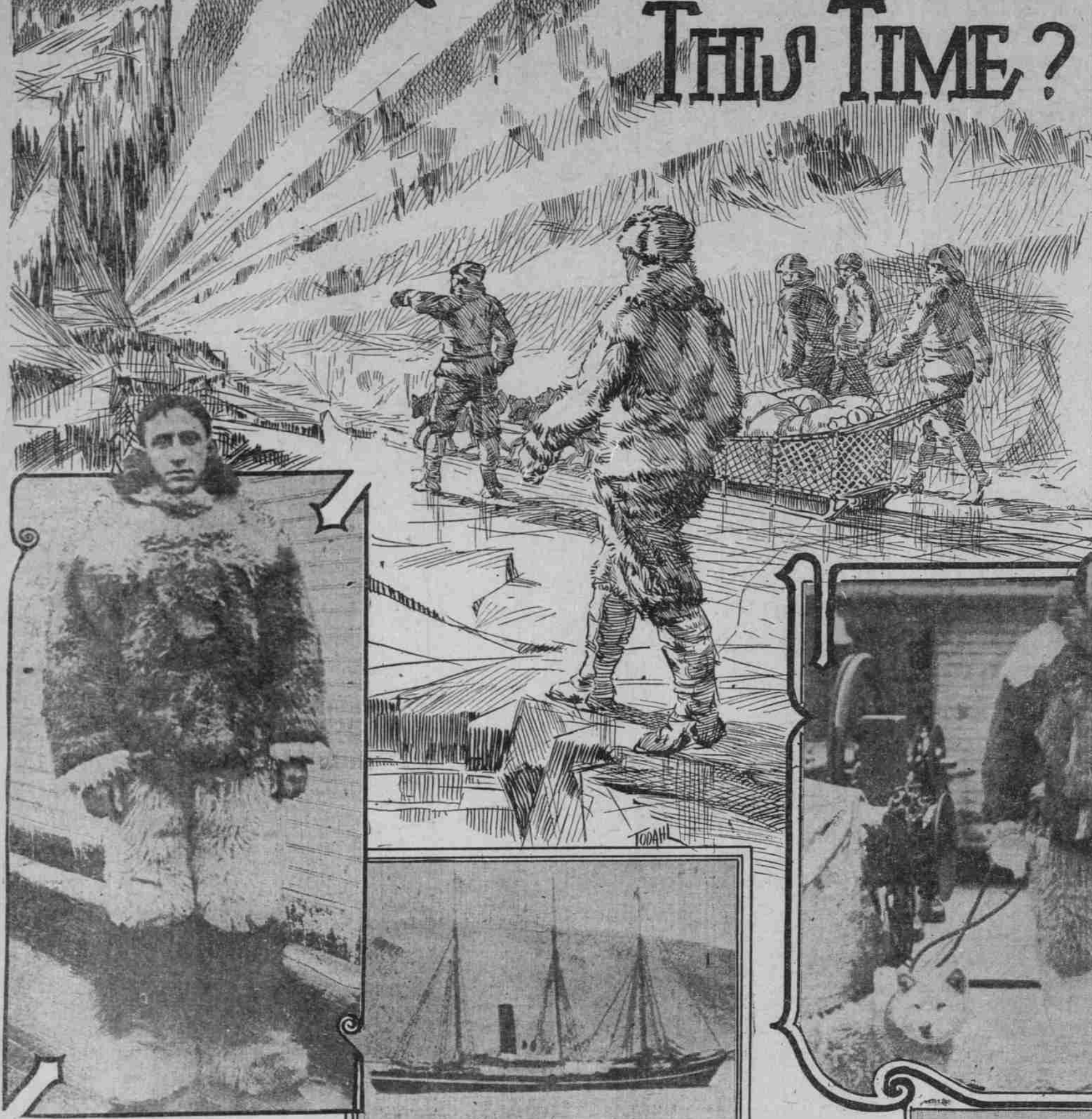


WILL PEARY REACH THE NORTH POLE

THIS TIME?

IT DEPENDS ALTOGETHER ON THE WEATHER, SAYS THE SURGEON OF THE EXPEDITION OF 1905-06



LEAVING SYDNEY, CAPE BRITAIN

DR. WOLF ON DECK

At the solicitation of The Sunday Oregonian, this article has been contributed by Dr. L. J. Wolf, of Portland, who was surgeon of the Peary expedition, which started from New York in the steamship Roosevelt, July, 1905, and returned October 24, 1906. Dr. Wolf is a native Oregonian and is now a practicing physician here.

BY L. J. WOLF, M. D.
I AM often asked the question: "Do you think that Peary will reach the pole this time?" There is no question but that Commander Peary is better qualified than any other living man for Polar research. He made his first trip north in 1894. While en route on his second trip his leg was broken and the members of his party advised him to return with the ship but to this he would not consent. Since then he has been back to the Arctic regions eight or ten times. Not all of Peary's trips north have been attempts for the pole. Twice he has crossed the northern portion of Greenland and on one expedition brought back the largest known meteorite in the world. It is now in the American museum, New York.

Peary has never lost but one man and that was in direct disobedience to his orders. Such an accident occurs every year in the Alps, namely, by falling into a large crevasse on the glaciers. But with all of Peary's knowledge of the north gained by 20 years' experience and Captain Bartlett's knowledge of navigation of the northern waters, much depends on the condition of the ice. One year one may find an open season and probably the following year find a closed season that is practically no leads or open water whereby a vessel can be forced into the far north. Of course, one realizes that a ship of the Roosevelt type can force its way through from one to five or six inches of ice, but it is absolutely impossible to build a ship that could negotiate ice several feet thick. One must force a passage by taking advantage of the leads as they open up. It is necessary to get your vessel somewhere near the latitude of North so as not to be compelled to make a long sledge journey over the land before starting out for the pole proper, as Peary has had to do in all except his last expedition.

In the expedition of 1905-6, the Roosevelt wintered at Cape Sheridan, Grantland, latitude 82.37 North. No other ship ever wintered in a latitude as far north except one and no ship ever went as far north under her own steam.

We left New York in July, 1905, and arrived in Winter quarters the follow-

ing September. Fifteen minutes after we arrived at Cape Sheridan we were unable to steam further north, although there was a large lead of open water within a short distance of us. We were completely frozen in the ice and the ship was never able to move out of that position until the ice broke up July 4 the following year.

Preparations were immediately commenced for winter. All supplies were placed on shore so in case of any accident to the ship either by being crushed in the ice or being carried away from her moorings or fire, our provisions would be saved. Everything was utilized. The boxes of canned goods were made into four walls and covered with a tarpaulin, so as to be utilized as a refuge in case of necessity. This was left standing nearly all the time we were there, for when we wished the tins of provisions they were taken and the boxes left in situ. The Eskimos utilize this crude hut as a place to live during most of the winter. A great deal of the coal was placed ashore. The sailors were put to work chopping the ice about the ship so as to make a soft bed for her. The fires in the engine room were drawn and all of the machinery overhauled. Many of the Eskimos were sent out into the fields to procure game.

The sun set October 12, 1905, and we did not see him again until the following March. The darkness of the Arctic night is one of the hardest and most depressing parts of Arctic work. If one is inclined to be melancholy or irritable it will surely manifest itself during the Arctic nights, living in cramped quarters on an exploring ship.

The Eskimo women, and occasionally an Eskimo man, during the Arctic night are very prone to hysterical attacks. The Eskimos call it "pablockte." During one of these attacks an Eskimo will go about simulating all the phases of hysteria. On one occasion, I remember, an Eskimo woman with her baby on her back jumping over the vessel's side and running a distance of about two miles before she was overtaken and brought back by the Eskimos in an apparently unconscious condition. This was during the middle of the Arctic night.

Commander Peary is a man of strong personality and cheerful disposition and he exerts a wonderful influence over those associated with him. In his book, "Nearest the Pole," detailing his last expedition, Peary says that personally he never spent a winter in the Arctic region so free from petty annoyances and discomforts, both physical and mental. The members of the party were congenial, cheerful and

energetic and interested in the work. The ship's people were interested and willing and the atmosphere of the ship lacked entirely the element of friction which so often proves an extremely disagreeable part of Arctic winter life.

We had a pianola and a graphophone aboard which helped while away the hours. The winter is spent by making preparations for the coming campaign for the pole, which begins by making the first sledge trips in February by moonlight. Sledges were built and tents, harnesses and fur clothing were made. The Eskimo women doing all of the sewing—they have learned our needles and prong themselves. The pemmican was taken from the cases and put in canvas bags convenient for stowing on the sledges. We had a full moon during each winter month and the Eskimos were sent out hunting. In all about 500 musk oxen and reindeer were killed, also a number of Arctic hare foxes and some salmon trout were caught. Every ounce of meat, of course, was utilized. We had not the slightest trace of scurvy and one reason for this, no doubt, was because we had fresh meat.

We lost many of our valuable Eskimo dogs, they being poisoned by our whale meat. Commander Peary, knowing the resources of the country, immediately sent the Eskimos with the remaining dogs into the field, where they consisted of one not familiar with the country of the expedition would have been seriously crippled, for without dogs one could make but little northing, as was experienced by the English expedition in 1875, when they endeavored to haul their sledges by man power. Six dogs constitute an average team, and they can haul 500 pounds. An Eskimo dog requires little attention after the day's work is completed; the dog is tied out on the snow and ice, fed, and if the wind is blowing a block or two of snow is erected to act as a wind-break. In each team there is always one dog known as the king dog. He receives the honor of having whipped every other dog in that team. Should an Eskimo driver touch up the king dog with his whip this one is not satisfied until he has snapped every other dog in the team.

At one time I was amused by watching two dogs, when we had taken the best dogs of two teams and transferred them

to one team. The two leaders had watched each other for several days, sparring very much as two prizefighters, each waiting for a favorable opportunity. Finally one, a black dog, catching the other unawares in a path of rough ice, gave him such a whipping that he kept him cowed the rest of the trip, and he could not call his life his own, for at the slightest provocation the black was sure to jump on him. They show no mercy to one another. If one dog was crippled or sick I have seen the whole pack on board ship jump on it and if no one was about they would tear it to pieces.

Instances are cited along the Labrador coast where the teams have turned on their drivers and killed them. But since the Eskimo dog in the hands of an Eskimo driver is as faithful and will do as hard work as our horse, requiring little attention, no shelter in any degree of cold, unless the wind is blowing, and requiring but one pound of pemmican in 24 hours. Again, the Eskimo dog can be utilized for human food should the occasion require it. The Eskimo dog can be made as much of a pet as any of our domesticated ones if properly handled.

A new species of reindeer was discovered by Peary. We brought back the first specimens of trout that have ever been returned from that region. All of the specimens of the expedition were turned over to the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

The winter as a whole passed much more pleasantly than I anticipated. Personally I amused myself by cleaning up the skeletons of Arctic hare, foxes and seals, which were turned over to the museum; taking measurements of the entire Eskimo tribe, doing a little bacteriological work, the Board of Health of New York having fitted us out, and also experimenting in taking moonlight pictures, some of which turned out well. By the light of the Winter moon supplies were sledged out with dog teams to Cape Hecla, a distance of 50 miles north of our winter quarters. Cape Hecla was made the base of supplies, and from this point we struck out on the ice in quest of the Pole. From Cape Hecla to the Pole the distance is 500 miles.

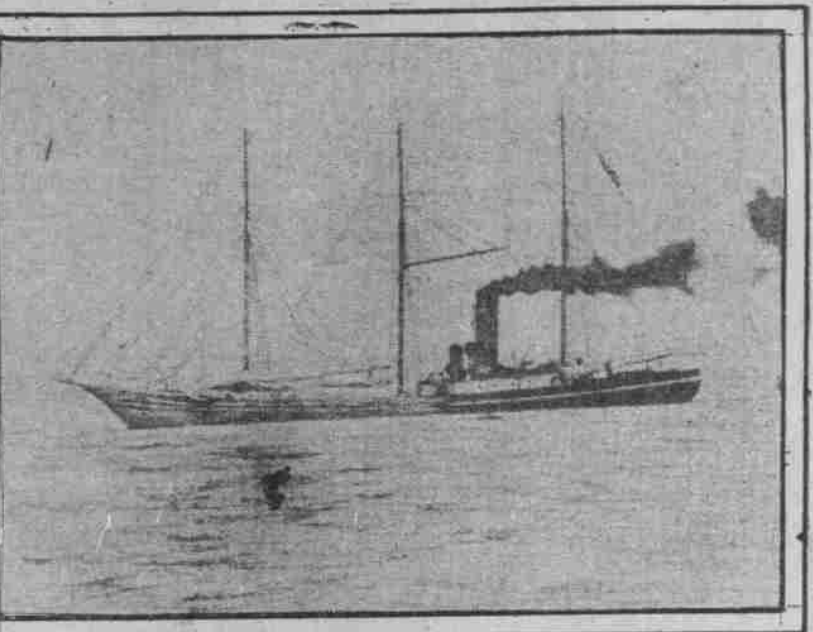
In the latter part of February, by the light of the last Winter moon, we left the ship for the last time and did not return until about June 1. One cannot stay out on the ice later than the latter part of May or early June, because the ice begins to break up and may leave you stranded on the northern side of big bodies of water with no food. Such an accident nearly cost Peary his life on his last expedition. Peary does not use sleeping bags, but sleeps in the same clothes that he wears all day, erecting a snow hut each night. It requires from one and a half to two hours to build a igloo or snow hut. This must be done after a hard day's work, and it is surprising how comfortable an igloo can be

made with the thermometer from 50 to 70 degrees below zero.

During the middle part of the season, when the sun is up 24 hours each day, we pay no particular attention to the time of day in regard to work, but it is to get a sleep, then to make a good long march. Peary has found out in his Polar work that more can be accomplished on two meals each day. One loses too much time stopping for a third meal. Eating is more or less a simple affair.

Coal oil is carried for fuel with which to melt the ice for tea. A pound of hard-tack and a pound of pemmican, which is composed of meat, tallow and a little sugar, are the rations for one man for 24 hours. One dog is allowed a pound of pemmican for the same period of time. Peary has the question of eating sifted down much better than most explorers. In making an extended trip over the ice, where you cannot replenish your sledges, one has to know just how many days' rations he has. By Peary's method you are allowed so many biscuits, one pound of pemmican and your tea. Even preparing your lamps to melt water for tea is at times, to say the least, inconvenient with the temperature as low as 50 below zero or 100 below the freezing point of water. The oil coagulates and matches slip one's fingers when trying to ignite them. When one stops to think that for every drop of water used one had to consume his precious oil to melt the ice you can rest assured no water was wasted for such vain purposes as washing hands and faces.

I shall never forget Peary's appearance the first time I saw him after his return from his ice trip. He is a man who carries no excess weight at any time, but after his starvation trip in quest of the Pole, having been out longer than he intended, and eaten all his dogs, and having been very sparing with the dogs at that, he was surely down to wire ends. But to show the indomitable will of the man, he stayed on board



PEARY AND THE DOGS THAT TOOK HIM FARTHEST NORTH



THE ROOSEVELT AT ETAH HARBOR, GREENLAND



THE ROOSEVELT AT ETAH HARBOR, GREENLAND

south of Peary with provisions to stock his sledges. They were unable to reach him because the trail was broken up. Peary made the final dash with what supplies he had. He designated his point Camp Delay. From Camp Delay north he averaged about 20 miles daily. One can see that the time lost by open water and bad weather, had it been a normal season and he been able to travel, it would have put him to his last goal—the North Pole. By taking advantage of the experience gained in the previous expedition and other things being equal it is reasonable to expect that Peary will be successful this trip.

A word about the Eskimos. The census of the Whale Sound tribe taken in 1896 numbered 202. About 15 years ago the total was 250. Many die of accidents. Males and females are about equally divided. The women carry their babies on their backs much the same as Indians. Child birth is much easier for them than among civilized women. They are very fond of children. However, a family seldom consists of more than three children.

The tribe has no chief. Every one hunts for himself, but should some family run short of food before the winter is over he is quite welcome to call on a neighbor. There is no bartering among them. An Eskimo in his native state lives entirely on animal diet. Reindeer, Arctic hare, walrus, narwhale, seal, fish, auk, geese and ducks compose the bill of fare. They never fight among themselves, are absolutely honest and truthful. I believe they are the most contented people on the face of earth. As far as I know they have no form of worship.

In the summer time they live in seal-skin tents and in the winter, when not traveling, they live in a sort of a dug-out, made of sod and rock. An Eskimo says that he is superior to a white man because a white man can do only one thing.

They tan the skins by chewing and sucking them. This is usually the duty of the good housewife. They are excellent seamstresses. When sewing they sit on the floor and hold one end of the garment with their toes. When a man dies he is buried in the rock in a sitting position. It is impracticable to dig a grave, as the ground is frozen. All of his belongings are placed by his side. His gun, his case, his harpoon and other of his personal possessions are buried with him. His dogs are harnessed to his sledge and then strangled and deposited with his other belongings. If a woman die her possessions likewise are buried with her. If she has a child in arms it is strangled also. One of the reasons for this disposition of the young on the death of the mother is that the Eskimos live in scattered settlements and the women object to nursing children other than their own.