

# DR. COOK DID NOT REACH THE NORTH POLE

## COMMITTEE AT COPENHAGEN SAYS EXPLORER'S CLAIM NOT CONFIRMED

### OBSERVATIONS WORTHLESS IS QUICK VERDICT

Consistory of the University Adopts Report of Investigators in Few Minutes and Danes Are Chagrined.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Copenhagen, Dec. 21.—The committee which has been investigating the data of Dr. Frederick A. Cook today officially reported to the consistory of the University of Copenhagen that Dr. Cook's records and observations were wholly insufficient to warrant a verdict that he discovered the North Pole.

The consistory of the university adopted the report of the committee, thereby flatly rejecting Dr. Cook's claims and throwing out his records and observations.

Cook's data, according to the report, is no more convincing than was the newspaper account.

Dr. Cook's private secretary, Lonsdale, who represented the explorer here, is bitterly disappointed at the verdict. He is making an effort to induce the consistory to withhold final judgment until the whole of Dr. Cook's data can be presented.

No Attention Paid to Lonsdale. Lonsdale told the committee that missing data, which are part of Dr. Cook's original documents, were sent here from America by a route different from that by which the records already examined were brought. He said this additional data would arrive in a few days.

The private secretary said the method of sending the data by two different routes was adopted for purposes of protection.

The consistory refuses to pay any attention to Lonsdale's appeal and the findings announced today are final so far as the consistory is concerned.

The disgracing of Dr. Cook was a severe blow to the Danish scientists, who had stood firmly by him and given him support under the charges made by Commander Peary. The great reception given Dr. Cook upon his arrival here and the honors that were paid him by high and low, including the king, are recalled with somewhat openly displayed chagrin.

Verdict Apparently Conclusive. It is known that the Danish experts were personally inclined to favor Dr. Cook, most of them already having come out in statements tending to substantiate his claims. Therefore the above verdict is a severe blow to the Danish scientists, who had stood firmly by him and given him support under the charges made by Commander Peary. The great reception given Dr. Cook upon his arrival here and the honors that were paid him by high and low, including the king, are recalled with somewhat openly displayed chagrin.

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Doctor Cook and His Wife. The Picture Was Taken on His Arrival in New York.

## COOK'S FIRST PRIZE WAS \$25,000 FROM NEWSPAPERS

Doctor Frederick Cook was clever enough to make \$25,000 out of two newspapers almost before he had reached New York. On his arrival at Denmark agents of two prominent English and American newspapers approached him and entered into negotiations for his "exclusive" story of the discovery of the North Pole. Cook took up the joint offer of these two newspapers and later the serial of his conquest of the pole was sent forth to gullible subscribers all over the United States. Among the newspapers that refused to take haphazard judgment of Cook's unsupported but interesting tale was The Oregon Daily Journal.

The story as related bore more or less the earmarks of a fake. It dilated upon aches and pains of Arctic travel rather than upon observations and facts that would prove the explorer's claims; it reiterated the old, old story of the midnight sun and told us what Melville and others had in times almost forgotten of how to crack pemmican with an ax.

The Eskimo dog and his method of keeping his nose warm, known to every musher in Alaska, was part of the much heralded Cook letters. The value of kerosene as a power for heating a tent was in the long typewritten story. In fact, all the accumulated data of a century's records of Arctic exploration were regurgitated with verisimilitude necessary to an otherwise bald and uninteresting narrative.

But Cook is lost; his cause is lost and that \$25,000, and its trail of dupes who "bit," will now pass into history with Munchausen, the author of the battle of Ping Yang and the town liar.

## BRADLEY ANGRY AT INDIFFERENCE OF DOCTOR COOK

New York, Dec. 21.—The significance of the interview with John R. Bradley last Saturday in which he said that he was "through with Cook," is being quoted today as evidence that Bradley, who fitted out the Cook expedition at his own expense, had early information from private sources that Cook had been discredited.

Last Saturday afternoon Bradley was quoted as having said: "I am sick and tired of this whole Cook matter. I lost interest in it weeks ago."

"Where is Dr. Cook at the present time?" Mr. Bradley was asked. He answered with a burst of laughter: "I wish I knew. He did not see fit to take me into his confidence. He did not even bid me goodbye. The last time I saw him was when he was at the Waldorf, before he disappeared the first time and turned up later at the Gramatan Inn in Bronxville."

"Was there any break in your relations?" "Well, hardly that," answered Mr. Bradley. "He just sort of dropped out of sight and did not call on me or send me any sort of word or have anyone convey to me his plans for the future."

## PEARY SAYS HIS WARNING SOUNDED FROM LABRADOR

Herbert L. Bridgman Declares He's Glad Danes Have Found Something Rotten in Denmark.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Washington, Dec. 21.—When shown today's dispatch from Copenhagen, Commander Robert Peary said: "Three months ago, from Labrador, I sounded explicitly and deliberately a worded warning to the world, based upon complete and accurate information regarding the claims of Dr. Cook. In doing so I accepted the responsibility devolving on me, and fulfilled my duty to the world and myself."

Brooklyn, Dec. 21.—"Well I'm glad the Danes have found the rottenness in Denmark anyway."

Thus Herbert L. Bridgman, secretary of the Peary Arctic club, commented on the action of the Copenhagen scientists in rejecting the Cook claims to the discovery of the Pole. Bridgman declared that the former friendliness of the Danes for Dr. Cook precluded all possibility of their being unfair in their decision.

Tragic End of Noted Character. Colorado City, Colo., Dec. 21.—Blance Burton, 50 years of age, was burned to death early today in a fire that destroyed the cottage in which she had lived in seclusion for the past 12 years. The woman was a well known character in the early history of the city.

Oregon Postmasters Confirmed. (Washington Bureau of the Journal.) Washington, Dec. 21.—The senate today confirmed nominations of Oregon postmasters, as follows: Arthur Wheelhouse, Arlington; Harvey S. Buck, Sumpster; Walter F. Baker, Tillamook.

## HOW FIRST POLE DISCOVERY FAKE WAS EXPOSED

Doctor Cook was not the first man to fake the discovery of the North Pole. Sometime in the early '60s a certain Captain Webb announced that he had reached the pole. The world was astounded. Webb was the hero of the hour; he was feted and fêted and after bearing the hardships of reception he went on tour as a lecturer.

In a statement to the Arctic club the sailor later told that the gold plate given Webb by the club to bury at the pole could be found at a spot far from the inner Arctic circle. The club sent an expedition to the point designated by the sailor and proved that his words were true and that Webb was a blunderer.

## BETAH SMITH TO SERVE UNEXPIRED PRISON SENTENCE

Ex-Army Lieutenant Who Passed Worthless Checks on Portlanders Must Do Time at Salem.

## TRIED TO BLAME HIS WIFE FOR DOWNFALL

Selfish Desire to Shine as a Great Man Caused Culprit to Commit Crimes.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Denver, Dec. 21.—Lieutenant Betah Smith was taken to Salem today to serve an 18 year unexpired sentence for forgery.

Betah Smith was arrested at Denver on charge of forgery. He was a lieutenant of the Seventh Infantry when he was court-martialed at Boise eight years ago for nonpayment of debts. He was discharged from the service and since then had a varied career. He secured work in Boise as driver of a bakery wagon. He then disappeared, and was next heard of when arrested at Portland for forgery.

Word was received here some time ago that Betah Smith, at one time lieutenant in the United States army, had been arrested in Denver for fraudulent "high finance," and that as his offense constituted a violation of parole, he would probably be returned to the Oregon state penitentiary to finish a term for forgery of which he was convicted more than three years ago.

His wife will be relieved of a double burden; first, the living made for her husband by working in a department store, and second, his charges that her extravagance ruined him.

Passed Forged Check. Smith, "discharged" army officer, passed a check for \$20, to which he had forged the name of Frank R. Kerr of Wadham's & Kerr Bros., on F. M. Goodwin of Dresser & Co., Goodwin, finding by investigation that such a person as the James McGrath, to whom the check was made payable, did not exist, and that there was no money to the credit of Smith, filed an information against him. Smith at first pleaded not guilty, then he pleaded guilty. December 1, 1906, he was given an indeterminate sentence in the Oregon state prison at Salem, and was subsequently released on parole.

So much for the crime, but the stories which cluster around the man's personality reveal him, in the opinion of those who knew him, as the embodiment of weak selfishness and strong egotism.

Arrested in Denver. The message from Denver telling of Smith's arrest for illegal high finance showed what is said to be his chief characteristic, a disposition to hold others responsible for his wrongs. The message said that for his Denver trouble he held his "wife's extravagance," and the treatment accorded him by West Point officers responsible. Thus, in his eyes, someone else was always at fault for his failures.

Took Advantage. It was the advantage he took of his advance from the ranks, it is said, that led to his dismissal from the army. His promotion was due to sheer effrontery and bravado, carefully cloaked by a semblance of courage.

Smith succeeded in borrowing small money from his wife's friends.

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## MARK TWAIN CAN SEE NO JOKE; HE IS FEELING ILL

Declares He Will Do No More Active Work Except on His Autobiography — Approves Militant Suffragettes.

(United Press Leased Wire.) New York, Dec. 21.—Without the customary jest on his lips and complaining of ill health, Mark Twain has returned from Bermuda, looking ill and admitting it. To the reporters who greeted him as he stepped down the gangplank of the steamship Bermuda, the humorist declared he would do no more active work.

Half a dozen unfinished books will probably never receive attention. His autobiography, of which 100,000 words out of the contemplated 500,000 have been written, will be his sole consideration.

When asked his attitude concerning woman suffrage, he answered seriously: "For 50 years I have advocated it. As for the militant suffragettes, freedom is not won without a hard fight. I approve of the women fighting."

## ACT CREATING 2 JUSTICES VALID: SUPREME COURT



Justice W. R. King. The constitutionality of his office was today upheld by the supreme court.

(Salem Bureau of The Journal.) Salem, Or., Dec. 21.—Holding that the fare of 10 cents between Milwaukie and Portland is unjustly discriminatory and that therefore the railroad commission has a right of jurisdiction thereover, the supreme court today in an opinion written by Chief Justice Moore directed that the Portland Railway, Light & Power company must reduce its fares between these two points to 5 cents and issue transfer tickets to all parts of the city of Portland where its lines are in operation, as the railroad commission has ordered.

The opinion is sweeping in its provisions and is one of the most important and far reaching ever handed down by the Oregon supreme court. In a similar opinion the fare from Oak Grove to Portland are reduced from 15 cents to 10 cents and the railroad commission of Oregon declared to have full power to enforce its decrees in similar matters. These were two separate cases appealed from a decree of Circuit Judge William Galloway of Marion county, whose order is affirmed.

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Justice W. T. Slater, who with Justice W. R. King, has won victory in the State Supreme Court; the constitutionality of his office was upheld.

(Salem Bureau of The Journal.) Salem, Or., Dec. 21.—In a long opinion covering 25 pages, written by Associate Justice McBride, the act of the legislature of last winter creating two justices of the supreme court is held valid by the supreme court today, and the organization of the court as it now stands is held to be legal. The two associate justices, Will R. King and W. T. Slater, whose tenure of office was directly attacked by Attorney General Crawford's motion, did not sit, the opinion being rendered unanimously by the three remaining justices, Chief Justice Moore, Associate Justice Eakin and Associate Justice McBride.

The opinion covers in detail every point raised by the more than 100 attorneys who filed briefs in the case, and exhausts every resource and every argument.

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## JOURNAL ON LIST TO GIVE CHILDREN CHRISTMAS CANDY

No definite provision has yet been made for furnishing candy to 50 boys and girls at the B-Y-A and Girls' Aid society with the customary nuts and candies for Christmas. Superintendent Gardner estimates that it will require \$50 to furnish the candy, and he has the usual Christmas "petition" for the attention of charity inclined persons is called to the deficit and the Journal will head the list with a donation of \$10.

## HIGH COURT LOPS FIVE CENTS FROM ELECTRIC'S FARES

Milwaukie, Oak Grove, Lents-Portland Straphangers Profit Financially by Decision at Salem.

## PATRONS HOLDING OLD RECEIPTS GET REFUND

Supreme Tribunal Decides Present Tariff Discriminatory and Unjust.

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## LEOPOLD'S CONSORT NOT AMBITIOUS FOR CROWN FOR SON

But Baroness Vaughan Will Not Let Any of Those Millions Go Without a Fight—Fortune Less Than Reported

(United Press Leased Wire.) Brussels, Dec. 21.—Although reports sent by the Princess Louise today say that the proposition of a grant to the consort of the late King George V, Vaughan, consort of the late King Louis, over the distribution of his estate, provided by his will.