

# THE NEWS RECORD

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1909.

## THE WRONG CROWD.

Senator J. P. Dolliver of Iowa, the leader of the progressive Republicans, has gained fame and prominence at the Republican state convention in Iowa in the spring of 1884, of which he was chairman.

The Democrats were hollering that the Republicans had been in power so long that corruption and graft were rampant and there was need of a general cleaning out. Mr. Dolliver then an unknown (outside of his county) young lawyer of Fort Dodge, in accepting his election as chairman of the convention, made a speech so witty and eloquent that it gave him national fame at a bound; something like that achieved 12 years later by William Allen White with his editorial, "What's the matter with Kansas." Dolliver was elected to the House of Representatives in 1885 and has been kept in congress ever since by the people of Iowa, a few years ago being promoted to the Senate.

In referring to the Democratic clean-up cry, Mr. Dolliver said: "The (the Democrats) say the Augean stables need cleaning out. That may be true, but the crowd on the outside look more like they would steal the pitchfork if given half a chance." And that is the feeling of the rank and file of the Republican party of Oregon toward the party-savers down at Portland who are doing all the hollering for this "assembly."

## NOT TOO LATE YET.

A special committee of the La-Grande city council has been appointed to consider plans for a sewerage system. A complete system is contemplated by the Union county capital.

There has been many expressions of regret here during the last few weeks that the proposal to put in at least a main sewer down Main street from the school house to the river, was allowed to drop without further investigation as to the cost, etc.

It is recognized that in a year or two a sewerage system will become a necessity from a sanitary standpoint. The digging of many large cess-pools will be a menace to the health of the citizens and a special invitation to certain diseases becoming epidemic.

It was also claimed that such main sewer could be constructed at a lower cost while the steam digger was here. The digger is still here and if there was a desire to have the work done it probably could still be done this fall at the economical cost.

This matter is worthy of the attention of all who have the health of the community and the progress and prosperity of the city at heart.

The union revival meetings conducted by Dr. Pratt, now drawing to a close, have been very successful from every standpoint. The testimony of 12 leading citizens as to the effectiveness of Dr. Pratt in his soul-saving work, and of the results achieved in this city, should be convincing to the most skeptical mind. In the opinion of the editor of this paper, not the least of those results is the splendid unity of Christian workers and harmony in the work shown during the preparation for and progress of the meetings.

Revivalist Shannon has just completed a six weeks campaign at Baker City. The conversions number 1,008, and Mr. Shannon was given a free will offering of \$1,500 on the last day.

The steady rains are soaking into the Wallowa county wheat lands making bright the promise of another bumper crop next year. The wheat lands of this county are just beginning to be appreciated.

# The Conquest of the Pole

By Dr. FREDERICK A. COOK

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## Fading Sun Warns Explorer of Coming Long Arctic Winter--Preparing Sled and Boat

[FOURTH ARTICLE]

STORMS now came up with such force and frequency that it was not safe to venture out in kayaks. A few walrus were captured from boats; then sea hunting was confined to the quest of seal through the young ice.

A similar quest was being followed at every village from Annotok to Cape York. But all sea activity would

dreamers, nor was the project handicapped by the usual army of novices, for white men at best must be regarded as amateurs compared with the expert efficiency of the Eskimo in his own environment. Our food supply contained only the prime factors of primitive nourishment. Special foods and laboratory concoctions did not fill an important space in our larder.



SCENE AT THE NORTH POLE, PHOTOGRAPHED BY DR. COOK.

now soon be limited to a few open spaces near prominent headlands.

The scene of the real hunt changed from the sea to the land. We had as yet no caribou meat. The little auks gathered in nets during the summer and elder duck bagged later disappeared fast when used as steady diet. We must procure hare, ptarmigan and reindeer, for we had not yet learned to eat with a relish the fishy, liver-like substance which is characteristic of all marine mammals.

Guns and ammunition were distributed, and when the winds were easy enough to allow one to venture out every man sought the neighboring hills. Francke also took his exercise with a gun on his shoulder.

The combined results gave a long line of ptarmigan, two reindeer and sixteen hares. As snow covered the upper slopes the game was forced down near the sea, where we could still hope to hunt in the feeble light of the early part of the night.

## No Anxiety For Winter.

With a larder fairly stocked and good prospects for other tasty meats we were spared the usual anxiety of a winter without winter supplies, and Francke was just the man to use this game to good effect, for he had a way of preparing our primitive provisions that made our dinners seem equal to a Holland House spread.

In the middle of October foxskins were prime, and then new steel traps were distributed and set near the many caches. By this time the Eskimos had all abandoned their sealskin tents and were snugly settled in their winter igloos. The ground was covered with snow, and the sea was nearly frozen over everywhere.

Everybody was busy preparing for the coming cold and night. The temperature was about 20 degrees below zero. Severe storms were becoming less frequent, and the air, though colder, was less humid and less disagreeable. An ice fort was formed, and the winter sledging was begun by short excursions to bait the fox traps and gather the foxes.

All those pursuits, with the work of building and repairing sleds, making dog harness and shaping new winter clothing, kept up a lively interest while the great crust which was to hold down the unruly deep for so many months thickened and closed.

## Last Glimpse of the Dying Day.

During the last days of brief sunshine the weather cleared, and at noon on Oct. 24 everybody sought the freedom of the open for a last glimpse of the dying day. There was a charm of color and glitter, but no one seemed quite happy as the sun sank under the southern ice, for it was not to rise again for 118 days.

The Eskimos took this as a signal to enter a trance of sadness, in which the bereavement of each family and the discomforts of the year are enacted in dramatic chants or dances.

But to us the sunset of 1907 was inspiration for the final work in directing the shaping of the outfit with which to begin the conquest of the pole at sunrise of 1908. Most expeditions have had the advantage of the liberal hand of a government or of an ample private fund. We were denied both favors.

But we were not incumbered with a cargo of misfits devised by home

Nor had we balloons, automobiles, motor sleds or other freak devices. We did, however, have an abundance of the best hickory, suitable metal and all the raw material for the sled and its accessories, which were henceforth to be linked with our destiny.

The sled was evolved as the result of careful study of local environment and of the anticipated ice surface northward. We did not copy the McClintock sled, with its wide runners, which has been used by most explorers for fifty years. Nor did we abandon the old fashioned iron shoes for German silver strips.

## What a Polar Sled Should Be.

The conditions which a polar sled must meet are too complex to outline here. In a broad sense it seemed that the best qualities of the best wood Yukon sled could be combined with the local fitness of the Eskimo craft, with tough hickory fiber and sealskin lashings to make elastic joints. With plenty of native ingenuity to foresee



POLAR BEAR AND ESKIMO DOG ON THE JOHN R. BRADLEY.

and provide for the strain of adaptability and endurance, the possibilities of our sled factory were very good.

For dog harness the Eskimo pattern was adopted, but canine economy is such that when rations are reduced to workable limits the leather strips disappear as food. To overcome this disaster the shoulder straps were made of folds of strong canvas, while the traces were cut from cotton log line.

A boat is an important adjunct to every sledge expedition which hopes to venture far from its base of operation. It is a matter of necessity even when following the near coast line, as is shown by the mishap of Mylius Erickson, for if he had had a boat he would himself have returned to tell the story of the Dauls' expedition to east Greenland.

Need for a boat comes with the changed conditions of the advancing season. Things must be carried for

several months for a chance use in the last stages of the return; but, since food supplies are necessarily limited, delay is fatal. Therefore when open water prevents progress a boat becomes in the nature of a life preserver.

Foolish indeed is the explorer who ignores this detail of the problem. Transport of a boat, however, offers many serious objections. Nansen introduced the kayak, and most explorers since have adopted the same device. The Eskimo canoe serves the purpose very well, but to carry it for three months without hopeless destruction requires an amount of energy which stamps the polar venture with failure.

## Selecting a Boat.

Sectional boats, aluminum boats, skin floats and other devices have been tried, but to all there is the same fatal objection of impossible transportation. It seems rather odd that the ordinary folding canvas boat has not been pressed into this service.

We found it to fit the situation exactly, selecting a twelve foot Eureka shaped boat with wooden frame. The slats, spreaders and floor pieces were utilized as parts of sleds. The canvas cover served as a floor cloth for our sleeping bags. Thus the boat did useful service for a hundred days and was never in evidence as a cumbersome device.

When at last the craft was spread and covered, in it we carried the sled, in it we camped, in it we sought game, the meat of which took the place of exhausted supplies. "Without it we, too, would not have returned."

Preparation of the staple food supply is of even greater importance than means of locomotion. To the success of a prolonged arctic enterprise in transit successive experience is bound to dictate a wise choice of equipment, but it does not often educate the stomach.

From the published accounts of arctic travelers it is impossible to select a satisfactory menu for future explorers, and I hasten to add that perhaps our experience will be equally unsatisfactory to subsequent victims.

Nor is it safe to listen to scientific advice, for the stomach is the one organ of the body which stands as the autocrat over every other human sense and passion and will not easily yield to foreign dictates.

The problem differs with every man. It differs, with every expedition, and it is radically different with every nation. Thus when De Gerlache forced Norwegian food into French stomachs he learned that there was a nationality in gastronomy.

## Depending on Eskimo Food.

In this respect, as in others, I was helped very much by the people who were to line up my forces. The Eskimo is ever hungry, but his taste is normal. Things of doubtful value in nutrition form no part in his dietary. Animal food, meat and fat, is entirely satisfactory as a steady diet without other adjuncts. His food requires neither salt nor sugar, nor is cooking a matter of necessity.

Quantity is important, but quality applies only to the relative proportion of fat. With this key to the gastronomy of our lockers, pemmican was selected as the staple food, which also served equally well for the dogs.

We had an ample supply of pemmican, made by Armour, of pounded dried beef, sprinkled with a few raisins, some currants and a small quantity of sugar. This mixture was

cemented together with heated beef tallow and run into tin cans containing six pounds each.

This combination was invented by an American Indian. It has been used before as part of the long list of food-stuffs in arctic products, but with us it was the whole bill of fare when away from game haunts.

Only a few palate surprises were carried, and these will be indicated in the narrative of camp life. The entire winter and night were spent with busy hands, under direction of Eskimo and Caucasian ingenuity, in working out the clothing and camp comforts without which we could not invade the forbidden mystery of the polar basin.

Although we did not follow closely either the routes or methods of our predecessors, we are nevertheless doubly indebted to them, for their experiences, including their failures, were our stepping stones to success.

(Continued next week.)

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