

The Herald

D. E. STITT, Editor.

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Monmouth, Oregon.

FRIDAY, OCT. 22, 1909.

HOW GOSSIP ENLARGES

The Peary-Cook Polar controversy still continues and lengthens out till it reminds us very much of neighborhood gossip.

Commander Peary has given out his proof in support of his contention, and by the way, it partakes of the story of the "Three Black Crows" of our school-boy days. What Cook's Eskimo helpers said, or are supposed to have said constitutes Peary's stock of proof.

It seems to us that Mr. Peary could well have afforded to wait until Explorer Cook had submitted his proof and then, if he had the "joker" up his sleeve, showed his hand and raked in the honor. Under such procedure the downfall of his rival would have been complete while his own standing in public estimation would have been increased and his course commended.

However it was not Commander Peary nor Explorer Cook that we particularly started out to discuss, but just how such gossip as is coming out from the Polar controversy grows, and perhaps this North Pole contention has been similarly exaggerated.

We have been a news gatherer for about a quarter of a century and have usually been careful in order that we might not be called down for publishing that which we could not sustain for we dislike very much to be in error and hence, our hatred of erroneous statements has quickened our energy to the extent of running reports down to determine the exact truth in them.

We have always taken delight and secured satisfaction in publishing news that would righteously inure to the prosperity of the town, county and state of our adoption, and hence, when a report of importance came to our ears, were always anxious to get the truth in the matter for publication, and our first inquiry was directed to discover from whence the news came, and securing the information, away we would go to interview the source.

We interviewed Jones and found the substance evaporating but getting another reference, off we go to see Brown only to find that fully half the story has disappeared. Still there is something left and being referred to Mr. Good-talker we pursue our chase but again we meet with disappointment. Again we ask the source and Mr. Close-listener is named, and with hope about extinguished we pursue our investigation only to find that there is not even the shadow of the report left.

After a few such experiences we began looking for the cause, as we did not like to lose faith in humanity, and we had been con-

fronted with so many cases of unwarranted enlargement that it began to look like down-right deception, and yet those through whom the information came were people of ordinary good standing.

After considerable thought and observation we began to comprehend conditions that led to enlarged reports. We have learned that most people are very good talkers, but all are not good listeners, and that when one meets another and they begin to converse, that often while one is speaking the other is thinking what he or she will unfold in return, and as they separate and pass on they begin to ponder upon what they have heard. Soon a second person is met and hailed with a, "Say, have you heard the news?" This party then begins to give out what has been taken in, but not having listened closely he, or she does not remember just what has been told but they do remember the impression it has produced in his, or her mind, and the impression is told instead of what has been heard. It only requires a few repetitions, under like circumstances, to grow a large story out of practically nothing.

Seeing these things are true, we should be good listeners and careful only to repeat that which we have heard, and if it is derogative of another person's character we should be slow to hear and believe and leave off the repetition. A little thoughtlessness soon cultivates a large tale out of perhaps only a suspicion.

Indiana has abolished hammer throwing, as an athletic contest on the ground that it is dangerous. The stand seems to be well taken and for the same cause football might be relegated to oblivion also. Amusements that endanger life and limb to any very great extent certainly should be discountenanced as unworthy a civilized and humane public.

Yankee pluck and energy has planted the stars and stripes at the North Pole and given Uncle Sam dominion over the extreme northern region, and now John Bull comes to the fore with his covetous eye on the earth's southern extremity, and is reaching out to plant the union jack and have dominion at the South Pole. Whatever these celebrities will do with these barren, frigid claims, can't even be imagined except, perhaps, each may mount his pole of frosty mornings and pipe to the other,

We are told that ship owners will raid congress for the purpose of getting a ship subsidy law passed. Certainly they will raid congress and if they have their wishes granted, they will proceed to raid the U. S. treasury and the people at large. It is now several years since this measure was first introduced, but congress seems to be gradually yielding and we believe the measure will yet become a law. Possibly the resources of this country will enable the people to bear this added burden, but suppose that the ship owners here are able to run other nations off the high seas and absorb all the transportation of the ocean traffic, what will be the end of the matter? Our congressmen should have a care for the Ship of State.

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Church Directory.

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L. C. HOOVER, Pastor

Morning service at 11:00 o'clock
Evening service at 7:00 o'clock
Sunday School at 10:00 a. m.
Y. P. A. Meeting at 6:30 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday evening.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

W. A. WOOD, Pastor.

Morning Service at 11. a. m.
Evening Service at 7:00 p. m.
Sunday School 9:45 a. m.
Y. P. S. C. E. 6:30 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 7:30 p. m.

W. C. T. U.

Local Union meets every second and fourth Friday in the Evangelical church at 2:30 p. m.

Laura Price, M. D.

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L. L. Hewitt, M. D.

Independence, Oregon

Office in Cooper Building

Office hours: 9 to 12 a. m. and 2 to 6 p. m. Both Phones.



Normal Lodge, No. 204

Meets every Monday night at 7:30 o'clock.

W. R. GRAHAM, N. G.

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Monmouth Camp No. 49

Meets every Wednesday night.

Visiting Neighbors cordially welcomed.

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