

# Cook Says He Isn't Liar and Attacks Peary

(Continued from page one)

dollar geographers in that society, and some of them have gone in on the ground floor without paying the two, which explains the color of the geographic news. This society appointed a jury, three personal friends of Mr. Peary, three of his own official associates. Chief in that jury was Rear Admiral Chester. Now, Chester is a good fellow, but he happens to be related by marriages to the fur trader where that million dollars of the illegitimate trade had been divided. He was the right kind of an honest, disinterested juror. The others were of the same type. These men promptly bartered their souls to Mr. Peary's interest and at once said that it was sure that Mr. Peary had reached the Pole and that it was equally sure that I had not. A year later in congress, when compelled to be honest, this same jury admitted that in the Peary proofs there was no proof.

"My material had been sent to the University of Copenhagen. The Danes were not interested in me, financially or otherwise. I am not a Dane, as is generally supposed. I am an American born of German parentage in New York state. They went over that material, severely, perhaps, but honestly, and they promptly came to the conclusion that on account of the long range of unavoidable inaccuracy in all such material and because there was but one white man present, that there could be no academic proof. This did not carry the interpretation that the Pole had not been reached, as the press of this country printed. The Danes have never said that I did not reach the Pole; quite to the contrary, they showed their good faith by bestowing upon me the honor of Ph. D. and by giving a gold medal. The press has many times printed that these and other honors have been withdrawn, one of the many lies. No honors ever extended to me have been withdrawn, no door ever opened to me has been closed.

"The controversy continued for over a year, during which time all kinds of mean, undignified things were said and printed about me. Faked, forged and perjured news items were sent out over the press wires of this country from a paid press bureau, as news. I brand them all lies, lies with the seeming endorsement of the government and the navy behind them. I am going to prove that to you by the analysis of just one charge, the one which is of most interest to you, the climb of Mt. McKinley. Now, I want you to listen carefully in this, for if what I am about to say is not true, then the prison doors are open to me. Mr. Peary charged that I had not climbed Mt. McKinley, aiming by this side issue to throw discredit upon my Polar claim. I had climbed Mt. McKinley and climbed it honestly in 1906. In the last part of that climb I had with me but one man, Edward Barrill, of Darby, Montana. For three years Barrill had told everybody he knew just how I had climbed Mt. McKinley and how he was with me at the top. The Peary interests crossed the continent, came to Darby and there offered Barrill a bribe of a thousand dollars to say that Mt. McKinley had not been climbed. We next find Barrill in Hamilton, Montana, and there in the office of and in the presence of a man by the name of Bridgeford there was another offer of another bribe of five thousand dollars. Barrill's reply to that was that he wanted that five thousand, that he needed it, but to get it he would have to sell his own soul.

"Now watch and see how that soul was marketed. We next find Barrill in Seattle, Washington, and there, in the office of the Seattle Times and in the presence of its editor, there was another offer to sell that soul as a news item for ten thousand dollars. Still the deal is not closed. Then we come over to Tacoma. We have in that community a weak-kneed, back-handed lawyer by the name of Ashton. Ashton said publicly that he had been engaged to dig up the McKinley business, but he did not know by whom, whether by Cook or Peary. Can you imagine a lawyer who doesn't know on which side his bread is buttered? But he was engaged. He admits that, and he was engaged in a business so contemptible that he did not dare to tell the source of the money. We find Barrill there for two days with him. We next find Barrill in a bank in Tacoma and there in the presence of a man whom I am ready to produce that soul was marketed, in the presence of a man whom I am ready to bring forth. Barrill was paid fifteen hundred dollars in one hundred dollar bills. He put those in his belt and spent two of them at Missoula, Montana. This was a part payment of a promised bribe of twenty-five thousand dollars. In response to that money, Barrill made an affidavit then and there denying the climb of Mt. McKinley. That affidavit was slipped by Ashton to the Peary press bureau. Here is a clear trail of bribery and conspiracy—a black-hand effort of character assassination right up to the door of Admiral Peary and General Ashton. If these are not the meanest cowards in all history, let them come forward and explain that Mt. McKinley bribery. Furthermore, Ashton knew, positively knew, that that affidavit was a lie before Barrill signed it. There is something for investigation by the State Bar association.

"You will say, perhaps, I am severe. I am bound to be severe; I have tried mild methods. I am now defending my honor and that of my family, and I must show this in its true light. I insist that we have a national investigation of this contemptible intrigue. I am ready to meet every word that I have said with legal documents, with my own money and with my fist if necessary.

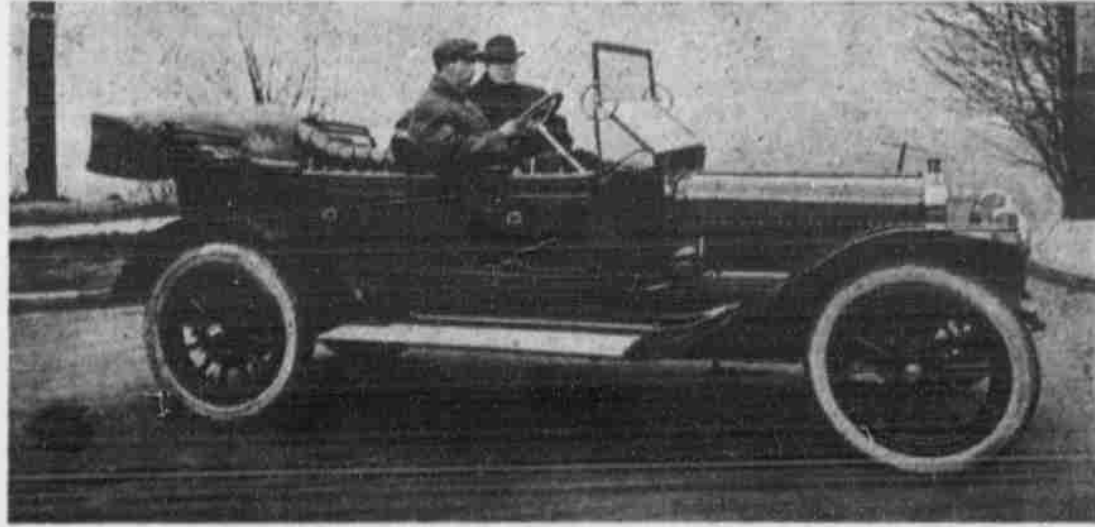
"How will the matter end? Truth will prevail, truth has prevailed, for my narrative, which is now out in book form, has been under the microscopic eye of all the world for three years and not one line has been truthfully discredited. There is the proof of history. On the other hand, the data as presented in that narrative has been sent to the explorers of all the world. They have had three years to examine and re-examine the whole problem and they have now come out in black and white and have endorsed my claim and among them are such men as Captain Roald Amundsen, who has reached the South Pole; Captain Otto Sverdrup, who discovered the land over which our work was done; Professor Leconte, secretary of the International Bureau of Polar Research; Captain Baldwin, the late Rear Admiral Schley. These and thirty other Arctic explorers believe that I have reached the Pole. On the other hand, those against me, and for Mr. Peary are three long-fingered politicians, three monkey-wrenches of that 'Steam Roller,' three men who have never seen a piece of Arctic ice. Now, seriously, these men do not know the difference between the North Pole and a barber pole.

"In the end, in the last analysis, you are bound to depend upon expert opinion, but you may choose your experts. Will you take the word of thirty explorers from all lands who have no axes to grind, or will you take the word of three long-fingered politicians in Washington? I leave my case with you. Think it over, and remember I want no money, no pension, no government favor, no favor whatsoever, but, as a private citizen, I do want the credit, and the honor of a work for which I have spent my own money, and at which I have risked my life during twenty years, and all that I need to get that is plain American fair play. You, I am sure, will grant that.

"FREDERICK A. COOK."

When two glass tumblers or dishes stick together so that there is danger of breaking in getting them apart, put cold water in the inner one and hold the outer one in warm water, and they will separate at once.

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(IN ANSWERING THIS AD, PLEASE MENTION "Current Features")

One of the Beauties of the Western Hills



A thousand mountain streams in the Northwest furnish ten thousand enchanting scenes at their headwaters. Starting from beneath the snows of some lofty mountains or springing unheralded from the mosses of a green hill, these streams tumble and roar over rocks in their mad haste to reach the sea. Now foaming with impatience, now flowing clear and cold, they hasten downward to join others bent on the same restless mis-

sion. Unceasingly, tirelessly, without thought of the turbulence in the mind of man, the silent watcher, they go to fulfill their destiny as his servant in turning the mill, watering his crops or transferring their restless energy into the more restless electric current. The traveler stands in awe before the ambitious purpose of the brook and reiterates the thought of Tennyson: "Man may come and man may go, but I go on forever."

Densely timbered and rugged mountains mark its source, where game is found in abundance and the fondest hopes of the sportsmen are realized. Far up its turbulent waters the gamey trout lurks in deep pools or shoots the rapids in plain view of the watching fisherman. Solitude is here, deep and impressive. The cool fragrance of the woods allures one on and on, farther and farther into the virgin depths where nature alone holds sway. The whir of the partridge or the stealthy tread of the deer rouses one from his reverie as he plods upward along the bed of the stream.

### Too Haughty for Him.

Farmer Gray kept summer boarders. One of these, a school-teacher, hired him to drive her to the various points of interest round the country. He pointed out this and that, at the same time giving such items of information as he possessed.

The school-teacher, pursing her lips, remarked: "It will not be necessary for you to talk."

When her bill was presented there was a \$5 charge marked "Extra."

"What is this?" she asked, pointing to the item.

"That," replied the farmer, "is for sass. I don't often take it, but when I do I charge for it."—Country Gentleman.

### Enough to Start With.

Frank A. Munsey, since magazine and newspaper successes have made him a multi-millionaire, is said to be a heavy contributor to various charitable organizations.

"But I don't believe in promiscuous charity which pauperizes," said Mr. Munsey, in speaking of his experiences recently. "That sort of charity always makes me think of Aunt Sallie Higgins of my old home town."

"Aunt Sallie went to the richest woman in the town one day and asked for the loan of a dollar."

"What do you want a dollar for, Aunt Sallie?" came the inquiry.

"Please, ma'am," said Aunt Sallie, "I'm gwine to git married."

"But if your man hasn't even a dollar to pay for the marriage license how will the pair of you get along?"

"Well, ma'am," said Aunt Sallie, "tomorrow's yo birthday, and we're both comin' to yo picnic in de birch woods. You always gives us sum-thin' to take home from yo' birthday picnic, and de day after dere's yo' usual free basket distribution fo' de unemployed. Dat'll keep us a week easy, and by dat time Joe and me'll be on our feet mebbe."—Country Gentleman.

Western legislators will give much time to the consideration of good roads measures, during the next few weeks. The roads could stand some improvement.

It is said that a dry bran is an excellent cleanser for dusty velvet flowers and woolen fabrics. Rub the soiled spots harder than the rest; then brush it all off.

Soon the Bulgars and the Turks will be at it again, if the signs read according to the old rule. But then, the powers may stop it.

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