

NORTH POLE TALK

Touches Upon the Peary Expedition and Kindred Reflections

Concerning Arctic Explorer Peary's proposed expedition in the near future, which is receiving much favorable press comment throughout the country, a writer commenting upon the discovery of the North pole summarizes his views in this wise: "The benefit to mankind of such a consummation will be too small to be capable of computation, etc."

In the face of the past efforts of the scientific world to make this discovery and by the most intelligent men in the ranks, men who have stood at the head of successful research, this sentiment seemed to have been allowed to creep in without the customary weight which should, and usually is, accorded questions involving such magnitudes.

Familiarity with the innumerable questions which now exist in the astronomical and geological fields, questions of the very highest importance to the world at large, would set at naught any such mistaken idea that the discovery of the North Pole and its attributes will be of little or no consequence. These questions involve the safety and comfort of both the mariner and field explorer, to say nothing of the astronomical calculations which are waiting and biding upon this, one of the greatest of all final riddles in the progressive path of natural knowledge. These observations raise the pertinent question as to the exact applicability of the referred sentiment. Even though the past attempts may have been mercilessly fraught with disaster and little progress, wherefore decry the possibilities of the future? Is it a proper remembrance of our immortal Franklin, Kane, Nansen, to strike from the rolls of martyrs to the cause of human progression and advancement? These men, who were far above the average in point of intelligence, deserve a better recognition at our hands than a belittling of their heroic efforts. These men have gone upon that path which turns not this way again, but their deeds will ever remain sacred to the world of scientific research. These men left the warm office and cozy fireside, with its more personal responsibilities for the larger and greater demand of mankind, and went forth with the genuine spirit of enterprise. They left their closer relations bent upon a discovery the importance of which to every living being upon the globe, instead of being "too small for computation," is indeed, far beyond the sense of comprehension with which we find the average man vested. The value of this discovery cannot be estimated, much less trying to fix a relative point in importance through conjecture. The discovery will settle many questions under scientific dispute. The compass, after passing beyond a certain degree north, sets its needle at right angles to all points south. Behind this interesting phenomenon may lie a most important and vital fact to the scientific world. The actual causes of the dispensation which reverses the poles of the earth every 20,000 years (according to a recent calculation) will be another solution when the pole is reached. These matters have appeared to the scientific-loving world, at least, as sufficiently essential to justify any and all attempts to reach this heretofore inaccessible territory. To appreciate the value and significance of these expeditions, one must be naturally imbued with the genuine spirit of investigation. We find only the intelligent races seeking this discovery. The heathens never bothered themselves over what might lie beyond the land of the midnight sun. Is the fact that the human race leans so naturally towards the North Pole any indication of its being in its ascendancy, and because of this find so little effort directed toward the frigid zones of the South? Admitting the importance of the discovery of the North Pole of little consequence, for argument's sake, is it not valuable to us all if it serves to speed the human race in its upward tendencies, and if it gives freedom and exercise to the rising impetus? A world sits waiting for the news from the far north. The scientific department stands tip-toe. Once the pole is reached, its mysteries unveiled, most of the causes of present geological and astronomical conditions in which mankind finds himself will be understood. The settlement of the theory that the earth is hollow, like a coral apple, will be of inestimable value. Greatest of all, is the stimulus offered by the possibilities involved. The northern regions are liken unto a large house. It is a great place, whose walls conceal a world, a mystery. From the windows

we get occasional glimpses of its inhabitants, the aurora borealis, the splendid Northern lights, the marvelous midnight sun, the remarkable vegetation and the wonderful glaciers, etc., and with each new face at the window we are stimulated to become better acquainted with this mysterious family living inside. After much looking around, and trying to get access from various sources and ways, we find the only path which leads to this coveted entrance. We haven't yet found the means, but we have found the path, which is two-thirds of the battle to the indomitable American explorer. Lacking in means of transportation, we have tried to get up a satisfactory acquaintance through the windows by means of our telescopes and glasses and by the aid of mathematics. Once the question of transportation is solved, to open the door to this new world will be only a matter of a short time, and the wealth and beauty of vision will exceed our wildest hopes and imaginations. We will have turned the wheel of progress ahead a complete revolution. We have seen this house called the North Pole at a distance. We have seen its bright and celestial faces at the windows as they throw their images upon the sky's vanished dome, and mirror their reflections in our upturned telescopes. We have searched and found the entrance. We have tried to reach the door, but have failed. We are busy replacing those who have failed by others. We are determined to know. It has become our duty to know. Our papers will reveal in genuine news when its doors swing open to our eager expectations. A news coming over the frozen plains of the far north in Mareconigrams which will rival in interest, if not in splendor, the reports brought to Europe from the newly-discovered America. The importance of getting inside this house will never be fully realized until we are in it, and begin to learn what is hid away in its impenetrable fortress of ice and water.

ROBBED FRUIT VENDER

One drunk made up the police docket this morning, and he, George F. Weston, being an old offender, was given five days' board at the expense of the city. Weston is an old soldier who a few days ago started a little celebration, and ended in the city jail, but was floated, as he told the tale that he was on his way to the soldiers' home at Roseburg. It seems though that the old man thought that Salem would suit him better than Roseburg, and so he proceeded to stay, and will do so for five days more now, after which time no doubt he will take up his residence elsewhere.

Weston was arrested last evening for helping himself to a banana from the hand wagon of a crippled vender of fruit. When the latter remonstrated with Weston, he received a good cursing, and the fruit cart was kicked around. Officers Lewis and Murphy were called and escorted Murphy to limbo.

State Days at the Big Fair.

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 6.—Four states had their innings at the world's fair today. They were Ohio, Michigan, New Jersey and Maine. A considerable number of visitors were on hand from each of the commonwealths, the delegations being headed by the governors and their staffs. Brief exercises were held at the respective state buildings, followed by public receptions in honor of the distinguished visitors.

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Mormons Entertain Senator.

Elko, Nev., Oct. 6.—Senator Fairbanks arrived here at 8:15 after a pleasant night's ride through Nevada. He spoke to a large crowd on the issues of the campaign. He is still seriously hoarse. Senator Smoot, of Utah, joined the party here, and Senator Kearns, of Utah, is to join it today. The only other meeting today is at Ogden.

The Edison is the home of vaudeville.

Prohibition in Horeb.

A petition for a prohibition election to be held in Horeb, November 8, 1904, was filed with Clerk Roland this morning. The signers are made up of residents of Mills City, and there are 20 signatures affixed to the petition, D. S. Johnson heading the list.

This is the first petition for a precinct election to be filed.

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