

THE ST. JOHN EVENING TIMES, TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1905

PEARY'S ATTEMPT TO REACH THE POLE.

It Will be the Fifth---He Wants \$100,000 More Toward Building His Vessel---An Interesting Letter and Article.

Commander Robert E. Peary has written a letter to the New York Tribune, telling what he needs to fit out his new Arctic expedition, as follows:

An organization known as the Peary Arctic club has been incorporated under the laws of the state of New York for the purpose of raising and expending funds to aid in completing the geographical conquest of the large unknown area in the North Polar Basin and secure for this country the honor of attaining the extreme top of the earth.

Among its directors are Morris K. Jessup, Henry Farish, John H. Flagler, Anton A. Raven and Professor H. F. Osborne.

This organization has raised, principally from its own membership, a considerable sum of money, and in order to avoid decay, which would be fatal, has assumed the responsibility of contracting for, and is now building, a special ship of exceptional strength and powerful engines, to be completed about March 1, 1905.

This ship will be the first ever constructed in this country for Arctic discovery, and the ablest built anywhere for that purpose.

Additional funds to the amount of \$100,000 are necessary for the completion of the ship and equipment of the expedition, and the government broad-minded men who have taken the initiative and put their shoulders to the wheel do not believe that the great mass of other generous, public-spirited men in this city and the country generally will allow the project to fall now for lack of the additional funds needed.

The project is not a purely personal one, but one which will redound to the credit of the city and the country, and if full success is attained will be a matter of enduring fame and honor to both.

The ship, when completed, will come to New York to fit out. She will make trial trips from here, to timber and adjust her machinery. She will start from here. The expedition will be a direct, tangible, right at home reality, not a remote abstraction.

While no project of bigger, broader, more universal interest could be found to commend itself to a man of large wealth as an opportunity not only for immediate good, but possibly of securing for himself an immortal name, yet the money seems more likely to come from a considerable number of men and women of moderate means, who while unable to contribute a large amount, could, by knowing the situation, undoubtedly, gladly contribute a hundred or two.

It seems proper to put the matter clearly and frankly before as wide an audience as possible. Briefly stated, the situation is this: Additional funds are needed. Without them the project will fail.

Large subscriptions will be very gladly welcomed, yet no one who is interested and who would feel a sense of satisfaction in having a large amount. One thousand subscribers at \$100 each will solve the problem just as effectively as twenty at \$5,000 each.

Should you see fit to make use of this in your columns, any one interested can send their check to the New York Life Insurance Company, No. 52 Wall street, for the credit of the Arctic Fund, R. E. PEARY.

An Interesting Article. The fact that the intrepid Robert E. Peary is actively engaged in preparation for a fifth attempt to reach the elusive geographical point known as the north pole is certain to revive the somewhat waning interest in arctic exploration.

The hull of the ship in which the indefatigable pale searcher is to make a further effort to penetrate the ice-bound mystery is now building in a Maine shipyard under the personal oversight of the explorer. The ship, hitherto employed in arctic exploration, have all been built with the purpose of affording maximum sailing capacity and have been furnished with auxiliary engines with which to steam back. In the construction of the new vessel there is a reversal of this plan. It will have a maximum steaming and coal carrying capacity and only just enough sail equipment to enable it to crawl slowly back home after all the fuel is gone.

The hull of the new explorer will be so constructed that it will offer no resistance to the ice when it is caught between two floes, but will be squeezed up out of the water somewhat as a watermelon seed is forced upward between the thumb and finger. This situation is not at all uncommon in arctic navigation. Shifting tides release the vessel, and it is then possible for it to advance again. Commander Peary expects that the hull of his new vessel will be completed in February next, and he has planned to sail northward at some date between July 1 and July 15.

The expedition will follow the so-called American route---that is, through Davis strait, Baffin's bay, Smith sound, Kennedy and Robeson's channels and on through the central polar sea. The plan is to reach the northernmost land limit before the long arctic night begins and in the lingering twilight leave the ship and start across the frozen sea on the remaining 500 miles of the journey, reach the pole if possible and return to the ship before the ice breaks up. The party which will accompany Peary will number two months before the final dash across the ice.

pack will contain only three white persons---Commander Peary, a surgeon and one other. All the remainder will be Eskimos. There will be at least twenty sledges, and each dog team will be in charge of an Eskimo.

Should the ice conditions of the first season make it possible for the expedition to reach the contemplated winter quarters, Commander Peary would be obliged to modify his plans, and upon the second voyage would winter quarters at the point farthest north that could be reached. At the opening of the second arctic summer he would push the ship to the northern shore of Grand Land, beginning the arctic journey in the second February after his departure from New York.

The work as outlined by Commander Peary comprises two distinct and important stages---the navigation of the ship to the northern shore of Grand Land and the traversing of the polar ice pack with sledges from the northernmost extremity of Grand Land to the pole.

Four ships---the Polar, the Alert, the Discovery and the Proteus---have accomplished the navigable part of the journey. The stretch of ice navigation is a matter of eight or ten days, and the distance of 350 miles of difficult and uncertain ice navigation.

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Repeated trying experiences. Commander Peary determined to provide against the difficulties by the construction of a vessel designed especially to overcome these natural obstacles. He found that what he actually needed was a craft that would be able to traverse the ice alone best qualified to form the serviceable contingent of an arctic party.

Life and work in that inhospitable region are their heritage. It is Commander Peary's intention to redistribute the entire experience in such a manner as to afford him the most assistance, leaving the less competent ones at Cape Sabine, whose duties will be in easy communication with the walrus hunting grounds, and to establish intermediate depots between the northern shore of Grand Land. He will take the strongest men of the tribe with him on board the ship to winter at the northern base and to form his party across the polar pack.

The proper agent for effective work in the arctic regions of the western hemisphere above 76 degrees north latitude is a team of six or eight good dogs and a sledge with a load not to exceed 500 pounds as the maximum of weight. This sledge is a unit of maximum speed and radius of reach. The heavy man sledge drawn by four, six or even twelve men, with a load of from 1,000 to 2,000 pounds, is no longer used by arctic explorers.

And what is it that Commander Peary expects to accomplish? He hopes to find the north pole. It is the north pole? It is the exact center of the northern hemisphere, and it is distant in an air line from New York city less than 3,000 miles. To be more explicit, it is the mathematical point at which the axis on which the earth revolves intersects the globe's surface. It is the spot where there is only one day in the year, and no longitude, no east or west, no north---only south. Only two steps separate noon from midnight. All the heavenly bodies move in horizontal circles. It is the last great geographical prize that the world has to offer. It is the prize for which all the nations of the civilized world have been competing for centuries. It is a trophy which any nation might be proud to win.

The polar quest today in such capable hands as are those of Commander Peary is not a foolish fancy, the idle dream of an enthusiast. It has assumed the dignity of a broad national proposition, a business undertaking which is capable of producing tangible results. It will mean a revolution in scientific attainment. It will render exact the floating problems of physics and astronomy. It will pave the way to man's final physical conquest of the world.

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WITH THE HUMORISTS.

Thompson---Mrs. Woods says that the widow's lot is a heavenly one. Mrs. Thompson---Which reminds me that one has to suffer death to enter paradise.

Aunt Jane---But do you really believe young Mr. Amos loves you as much as he says he does? Emma---Of course not, Aunt Jane. A lover who can't exaggerate his affection is just no lover at all.

Footpad---Now, then. Have you anything valuable about you? Jones---Nothing but some acetate that I have just received at my initiation at the lodge.

Footpad---I said "valuable." Mrs. Grimes---Have you heard the news? Ethel---No. You don't mean it. Evidently she means to punish him as severely as possible for his most despicable act, but I didn't think she'd be quite so hard as that.

Glady---I refused Perry two weeks ago, and he has been drinking heavily ever since. Ethel---Isn't it about time he stopped celebrating? People who haven't auto shouldn't run down those who have.

Mr. Hammer---Is the shooting good, local doctor?---Too blame good. It's so local that there hasn't been no call for a doctor far high on three years.

"No, see here? cried the good natured doctor, "I don't mean the sleds, and I'll tell you this, you won't see me other way." replied his patient.

"Yes, sir, this country should have a new warship christened every day." "No, sir, I'm a wife agent."

"You don't know what the trusts are going to do next." "No," answered Farmer Cornelius, "and until I had out my head from my neck, I don't know what to worry about it."

Head---Don't you tell a soul, Gustie, but Fred kissed me last evening! Gustie---Yes, but it was a little wet bit of a kiss.

Edith---They say Grace's parents are opposed to her match with Charlie. "I don't care," replied Edith, "I'm not going to be opposed to it so long as I keep Fred from getting lukewarm in his attentions to Grace."

Mrs. Manning---When they returned they found Mr. Fisher lying in bed. "He was through an arctic expedition," returned him. "He was an inveterate snow eater."

Impresso---Kate received a letter from Mr. Person the very next day, just think but she committed it to the fire. "Why, she told me she flung it into the fire."

"As Shakespeare says," remarked Captain Jones, "what is a name?" "Well," answered the friend of the "hoodlum," "it's a name that you can't do without an 'O' or 'I' or 'U' or 'Y'."

"Did you have to pay damages to the man you ran over?" "No," answered the friend of the "hoodlum," "I was the one who was run over."

Doctor---"I think I'll have to call in some other physician." "Get as many as you wish."

"There are a great many risks in politics," answered Senator Sorghum. "The science of government is to avoid them, and other fellow take them."

Yes, he did have a political job, but he resigned. "I was him he told me his job was a regular piece of cake." "Yes, but it became a little insecure recently."

Aunt Jane---Of course it's no business mine kiss you last night? "No, it's no business mine kiss you last night, but I know he has a way of kissing all the girls who come near him."

First Savage---So you have seen a good deal of life in the United States? Are they a wholly civilized people? "I don't know," said the friend of the "hoodlum," "but I thought so until I saw one of their football games."

You seem to have a good deal of faith in doctors, said the friend of the sick man. "Yes, replied the tourist customer, "you can't hold a candle to our goods. Are you in the hay business?"

First Poker Player---I say we quit the same now we're even. Second Poker Player---Even! How do you make that out? "I say we quit the same now we're even, and now I've got all your money."

Do you place any reliance on the weather predictions? "Yes, answered Farmer Cornelius, "I thus give 'em credit for one thing. The weather mentioned is always produced sooner or later, although the date aren't always strictly accurate."

Just one kiss before I go, he pleaded. And will you be satisfied with over six asked. "That's all right, she said."

Cook to the new maid, listening to her mistress playing the piano---plan you do that? "Mad (appalled)---Do I have to do that? In my last place the mistress always did it herself."

Bessie---Sister's a funny thing. She says it is such a bore to have one's picture taken that she won't have one's picture taken at all for her. Grace---Yes, but it is after I have lost the weight.

Aunt Jane---No, Clara, you aren't pretty. But I suppose the young man who calls upon you tells you you are the most beautiful woman in all the world. Clara---Yes, but it is after I have lost the weight.

Offer---If you haven't a license you will have to accompany me. "I can't go with you, sir, what will you sing?"

"I'm a self made man," remarked the loud voiced individual. "The other fellow said so, but I don't accept your apology," he said.

Daughter---I see the life of a pianist is said to be ten years. "The other fellow said so, but I don't accept your apology," he said.

Thirsty Tim---Get well, suppose do trust should raise the price on beer? "Weary Willie---Well, we'd only have to raise the price on beer."

"On what grounds do you ask for a divorce?" queried the judge. "My wife, having her mother live with us, you honor," replied the wife with a flourish. "There's granted," said the judge. "Why, even the Bible says no man can serve two masters."

Fuddy---There ought to be some equitable way of regulating tariff legislation. "Daddy---There is an equitable way. All that is necessary is to make it favor our interests and put the burden on the other fellow."

Mamma. Fighting again, Willie! Didn't I tell you to stand and count one hundred whenever you were angry? "Willie---But it didn't do any good. Look what the Jones boy while."

Church---Haven't seen you at the theater lately? "Gosh---No, I'm laying the foundation for a fund which is to be divided between the number and the coal man this winter."

Visitor---Your governess seems very good natured. "City of the House---Yes, poor thing, her father lost a lot of money so I took her as a governess for the children."

Visitor---Poor, poor thing, isn't it terrible how unfortunate some people are! "No, they aren't. They're just poor."

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