

How Commander Peary Discovered the North Pole

Thrilling Narrative of Arctic Explorer—Proofs Refused Committee of Congress Revealed in Magazine Under Contract—The Prize of Three Centuries Achieved.

Commander Robert E. Peary, in the August number of *Hampton's Magazine*, tells how he made his calculations to determine his position on the march to the North Pole and at the pole itself. It was on these calculations that the medals of the National Geographical Society of America, the Royal Geographical Society of London, the Imperial German Geographical Society, and the Royal Italian Geographical Society were awarded to Commander Peary.

These calculations, or proofs, are the same which Peary refused to submit to the committee of Congress which was considering the resolution giving him national recognition and reward as the discoverer of the North Pole. His refusal was based on his contract with *Hampton's*, which provided that the magazine should be the first medium of their publication.

Commander Peary does not repeat all his calculations as made near the pole after Bartlett turned back, but gives a facsimile of the calculation he made Nov. 7, when he was in Camp Morris K. Jesup, the morning after he reached "the top of the world." These figures show him to have been there at latitude 89 degrees 55 minutes, or within less than two miles of the pole.

Just before Capt. Bartlett turned back both made independent observations and calculations, determining their position then to have been 133 miles from the pole.

Final Dash for the Pole.
With picked men and dogs Commander Peary set out to cover this distance in five forced marches of a little more than 25 miles each day. He found conditions of ice and temperature better than he had expected. On the fifth day he felt he was close to the goal of three centuries of heroic effort. In this connection, under the caption, "At the Pole at Last," he writes:

"About 10 o'clock in the afternoon of April 6 I called a halt. I had now made my five marches, and estimated that we were in the immediate neighborhood of our goal; and at local noon, on the Columbian meridian, I made my first observation at our polar camp, named the Morris K. Jesup camp, which indicated our position as 89 degrees 57 minutes.

"Though now at the end of the last long march of the upward journey and with the pole in sight, I was too weary with the accumulated days of weariness of forced marches and nights of insufficient sleep to realize just yet that I had practically achieved my life's purpose. When our two igloos were completed and we had eaten our dinner, the dogs were doubly rationed. Then, while Henson and the Eskimo unloaded the sledges and got them in readiness for necessary repairs, I turned in for a few hours of absolutely fatigue-compelled sleep.

"When I awoke a few hours later I wrote in my diary: 'The pole at last. The prize of three centuries. My dream and goal for twenty years. Mine at last! It all seems so simple and commonplace.'

Starts With Eskimos.
"I had turned out to be in readiness for an observation at 6 p.m. On the Columbian meridian time, in case the sky should be clear. Unfortunately, it was

overcast, but as there were indications that it would be clear before long I started out with my two men, Eging-wah and Si-gloo, and a light sledge, carrying only my instruments, and a tin of pemmican, drawn by a double team of dogs, and went on, an estimated distance of ten miles. It had cleared while we were travelling, and at the end of the journey I was able to get a satisfactory series of observations at Columbia meridian midnight, which observations indicated our position as being beyond the pole.

"It seemed strange to me, even then, when everything was too strange to be realized, that in a march of a few hours I had passed from the western to the eastern hemisphere, and had verified my position on the summit of the world.

"It seemed hard to realize that on the first miles of this brief march I had been going north, and on the last, although still going ahead in the same direction, I was travelling south; that in order to return to my camp I must turn and go north again, and then still keeping on in a straight line, go south.

Position Hard to Realize.
"Going back along the trail I tried to realize my position, tried to realize that from every point of the horizon, the circle of which was in both hemispheres, the spirits of those whose bones lay around the Arctic Circle, were looking at me; that east, west and north had disappeared for me, and that every direction was south; that every breeze which could blow upon me, no matter from what point of the horizon, was a south wind; that a day and a night were a year, and that a hundred days were a century; that two steps only separated me from an astronomical noon or from astronomical midnight; that had I stood there during the six months' arctic winter instead of during the six months' summer day I would have seen every star in the northern celestial hemisphere circling the sky at the same distance from the horizon, with Polaris practically in the zenith overhead.

"When I had taken my observation at Camp Jesup, in the western hemisphere, at noon of April 6, Columbia meridian time, the sun had been in the south. When I had taken my observations at midnight between the 6th and 7th, at the end of my ten-mile march, in the eastern hemisphere, the sun was in the north. But to those at the camp on the other side of the world, only ten miles away, it was in the north.

"I returned to the camp again in time for a final and satisfactory series of observations, at Columbia noon, which gave results essentially the same as my observation 24 hours previous. I had now taken thirteen single, or six and a half double, altitudes of the sun at two different stations in three different directions at four different times, and to allow for possible errors in instruments and observations had traversed in various directions an area of about eighty by ten miles across. At some moment during these marches and counter-marches I had for all practical purposes passed over the point where north and south and east and west blended in one."

The Instruments Used.
As no one had ever seriously questioned Commander Peary's honesty, and as his observations had been checked by Capt. Bartlett to within less than 10 miles of the pole, the chief doubt, if any existed, is said to have arisen on the score that Commander Peary himself had possibly been mistaken through the insufficiency or inaccuracy of his instruments. These instruments, then, became the most important hinge on which the justness of his claim turned, it was frequently pointed out when the controversy was at its height. Commander Peary therefore devoted considerable space to a description of the instruments used and his knowledge of their use, under the caption, "How I Determined My Position at the Pole." He says:

"The instruments used in taking observations for latitude may be either a sextant and an artificial horizon, or a small theodolite. Both of these instruments were taken on the sledge journey; but the theodolite was not used, owing to the low altitude of the sun. Had the expedition been delayed on the return until May or June the theodolite might have been more convenient in determining our position than the sextant.

"The method of taking meridian observations for latitude may be either a sextant and an artificial horizon, or a small theodolite. Both of these instruments were taken on the sledge journey; but the theodolite was not used, owing to the low altitude of the sun. Had the expedition been delayed on the return until May or June the theodolite might have been more convenient in determining our position than the sextant.

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opening to the south. If there is no wind, this is not necessary. The instrument box is firmly bedded in the snow, and snow is packed around the box. Then something, usually a skin, is thrown over the snow, partly to prevent any warmth from the sun melting the snow and shifting the bearing of the box; partly to protect the eyes of the observer from the intense reflected glare of light from the snow.

The Mercury Trough.
"The mercury trough of the artificial horizon is placed on top of the level box and the mercury, which has been thoroughly warmed in the igloo, is poured into the trough until it is full. In the case of the artificial horizon a trough devised and used on the last expedition it was possible to bring the surface of the mercury level with the edges of the trough, thus enabling us to read angles very close to the horizon.

"The mercury trough is covered with what is called the roof—a metal framework carrying two pieces of very accurately ground glass, set inclined, like the opposite sides of the roof of a house. The object of this roof is to prevent any slightest breath of wind disturbing the surface of the mercury, and so distorting the sun's image in it, and also to keep out any fine snow or frost crystals that may be in the atmosphere. In placing the trough and the roof on the top of the instrument box the trough is placed so that its longer diameter will be towards the sun.

"A skin is thrown down on the snow between the box and the inner end of the trough, and the observer lies down flat on his stomach, his head to the south. He rests both elbows on the snow, holding the sextant firmly in both hands, and moving his head and the instrument until the image or part of the image of the sun is seen reflected in the surface of the mercury.

Figuring Latitude.
"The method by which the latitude of the observer is figured from the altitude of the sun at noon is very simple. It is this: That the latitude of the observer is equal to the distance of the centre of the sun from the zenith, plus the declination of the sun for that day and hour. The declination of the sun is a quantity which schoolboys know, its distance north or south from the equator, measured in degrees and minutes, declination being simply celestial latitude. It is a varying quantity, as the axis of the earth is inclined to the plane of its orbit. The declination of the sun for any place, at any hour, may be obtained from tables prepared for that purpose, which give the declinations for noon of every day on the Greenwich meridian, and the hourly change in the declination.

"Such tables for the months of February, March, April, May, June and July, together with the ordinary tables for refraction to minus 10 degrees Fahrenheit, I had with me on pages torn from the *Nautical Almanac* and *Navigator*."

Commander Peary proceeds thereafter to describe just how the sextant is used, and finally to tell what the North Pole really is, and how on the afternoon of April 7, after 230 hours at the pole, he and his party turned their faces southward again for a lonely march of more than four hundred miles to land.

BATHTUB FOR MULES.

A concrete bathtub some 40 feet long and a few inches more than four feet deep has been installed in the Henry Colliery of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company at Pottsville, Pa., for the accommodation of the mine mules. This mine improvement is built at the entrance of the mule bar. The long-eared beasts are pretty tired when they conclude the day's work, but when they strike the bath all fatigue disappears, and they rush in, crowding each other for the deepest place in the tub.

Directly over it runs a perforated pipe, and when the mules have disported themselves in the water in the tub the shower bath is turned on. The speed with which a mine mule will hurry to the barn when the day's work is over is proverbial, yet with all their desire to get the second meal of the day they have to be driven out of the bath.

One old fellow is said to take such delight that no amount of coaxing will get him to leave the tub until he has had at least ten minutes of the fun. Others will not leave the tub until the shower is turned on, and it seems that this feature is the most enjoyable. Some of them, the mine foreman says, will look at the attendants longingly, and then swing their heads appealingly toward the spray pipe until someone turns it on.

The bath is expected to prolong the vigor and vitality of the mules. The driver boys are the only workers in the mine who are not absolutely in sympathy with the innovation, the bath keeping them from the work for fifteen minutes longer than before, yet the enjoyment of their charges seems to offset this inconvenience to a great extent.—*Popular Mechanics*.

VARYING COLORS OF THE MIGHTY SEA

Black, White, Green and Blue Waters—Change Is in Ratio to Saltness.

Poets are fond of talking of the "deep blue sea." Yet the sea which beats upon British coasts is certainly not blue. On the east coast it is brown with sand and mud churned up by the waves from the vast mud flats; on our southern shores, where there is no mud to stain it, it is a rich green.

But visit the Mediterranean or the Caribbean and here you find the true blue. The Gulf Stream, which pours like a gigantic river out of the boiling pot of the Caribbean and drives its way northward in a volume of water greater than the Amazon, is blue as the sky and affords a most startling contrast to the green Atlantic, through which it flows. Its temperature is 74 degrees, that of the ocean on either side not above 50 degrees, and its edges are marked by long lines of foam and jetsam—driftwood, canes, palm leaves, all sorts of tropical debris.

As the Gulf Stream runs on its way past Cape Hatteras it widens from 37 to 73 miles and grows much shallower. Before it reaches our latitude it has become a mere shallow sheet overlying the colder strata below, till gaining the banks of Newfoundland you can notice in calm weather stripes of green water invading the blue of the great tropical current.

Why is the Gulf Stream blue and the more northern ocean green? The answer is that it has been proved that the blueness of sea water is in constant ratio to its saltness. In the tropics the tremendous evaporation induced by the blazing sun causes the water to be much more salt than it is in higher latitudes. For about 30 degrees both north and south of the equator the waters of the world's oceans are of an exquisite azure blue. Beyond these latitudes the blue fades and changes to green and in the Arctic and Antarctic oceans the greens are almost as vivid as the tropical blues.

The extraordinary blueness of the Mediterranean has two causes. One is that very few large rivers of fresh water run into this sea; the second, that the Mediterranean is practically landlocked and being exposed to a powerful sun evaporation is great. By powerful test the waters of the Mediterranean are heavier and more salt than those of the Atlantic.

But blue and green are not the only colors observed in the world's seas and oceans. In January, 1909, a river of yellow water three miles wide and of enormous length was observed running parallel with the Gulf Stream. It stretched from Cape Florida to Cape Hatteras and was undoubtedly caused by some tremendous submarine upheaval, probably of a volcanic nature. It remained for several weeks.

Again about nine years ago the sea turned almost black off a large portion of the California coast. The whole of Santa Cruz Bay assumed this extraordinary inky hue and fishing came abruptly to an end. In this case the darkness seemed to have been caused by millions of tiny animalcules known as whale food.

The dull reddish tint which is occasionally seen in the Red Sea and which has given that sea its name has a similar cause. The water becomes full of microscopic algae—tiny weed.

China's Yellow Sea is usually supposed to owe its origin to the flood of muddy water which its great rivers pour into it. But recent living organisms are responsible.

Occasionally, and for some cause as yet undiscovered, great areas of the ocean turn milk white. In March, 1904, the passengers and crew of a Japanese merchant vessel steaming at night between Hongkong and Yokohama ran into a snow-white sea; not an opaque, phosphorescent surface, but an expanse of pure snow-white, having a dazzling effect upon the eyes. The phenomenon had proved for hours and alarmed the passengers so greatly that not one slept at all that night.—*Answers*.

EUROPE'S IMMENSE BANK BALANCES

A Mass of Figures Showing Where a Portion of the World's Wealth Is Held.

The Bank of England improved its gold position in the year ended June 30 by \$6,617,745, to \$211,981,755, and the Imperial Bank of Germany shows a small decrease on balance; its stock of gold having declined \$7,619,250 to \$183,550,000, while its silver has risen \$7,144,750, to \$73,148,500.

In the other European centres the differences with one exception, are not very large. The Bank of Spain has slightly increased its gold holdings to \$81,200,000, while its stock of silver has declined \$5,475,000, to \$155,800,000. Spain has the second largest stock of silver in Europe.

The three Italian banks of issue hold \$241,200,000 gold, a slight increase compared with last year, and only \$27,200,000 silver.

The Bank of Belgium's figures are almost stationary; but the Netherlands Bank shows for its size a relatively heavy decrease of \$4,856,175 gold, to \$45,736,305, while its silver is also down \$3,800,000, to \$11,281,550. This accounts for the fact that the Amsterdam rate of discount which was 3 per cent last year, is now 5 per cent, while the German and Austrian rates are now 4 per cent, and the Russian and Spanish 4½ per cent.

English advocates of protection find a strong argument in their favor in comparing the prices of Government stocks in the various European countries.

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tries. While free trade England's consols have declined in value since June last year from \$4.25 to \$2.43, and free trade Holland's 3 per cent bonds from \$2.37 to \$2.37, the 3 per cent Government stock of protected Germany has only declined from \$5.40 to \$4.75, and the 3 per cent French rentes have gone up from \$7.40 to \$8.22.

Russia's four have risen from \$8.50 to \$9.12. Austria enjoys still better credit, since her 4 per cent gold rentes now stand at \$16.50. Italy's credit is also fractionally better, her 3½ per cent stock standing at 104.50, while Spanish rehabilitation of the country since the war with America by their price, 94, although last year's figure was as high as \$7.50.

APPENDICITIS AND SOFT FOODS

Theory That Dread Disease Is Caused by Overtaxed Stomach.

Some curiosity has been aroused by a statement made by Sir Lauder Brunton before the public health conference, and reported in the *London Daily News*, to the effect that the increase in appendicitis "apparently coincides with the alteration in the method of grinding corn."

"What Sir Lauder Brunton is evidently referring to," said a famous London surgeon, "is the suggestion that particles of steel are introduced into flour during the process of grinding with steel rollers. It has been thought that these particles set up irritation in the stomach, and so cause appendicitis."

"The theory is worth about as much as a great many other theories on the subject. I myself am more inclined to believe that the large number of cases of appendicitis is due to the increasing use of soft foods. Many people have almost forgotten how to masticate their food properly, with the result that the stomach is continually overtaxed."

In the flour trade it is absolutely denied that any irritant is added to flour by the use of steel rollers. "The rollers are of specially hardened steel," a member of one of the largest firms declared, "and to assert that rough particles are ground off into the flour is quite absurd. The rollers wear as glass would wear, that is to say, they become highly polished with use. Stone rollers did not remain in the wheat fine enough to suit people nowadays."

Other theories about appendicitis that have recently been advanced are that it is caused by the consumption of oatmeal, and the use of lactic ferments in the form of sour milk or cheese.

CURE FOR CANCER NOT IN SIGHT

Statement Made at Meeting of Imperial Research Fund—Good Work Being Done.

Mr. Balfour presided on July 22 over the annual meeting of the general committee of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and in moving a resolution of thanks to the chairman and members of executive committee, the sub-committees, the honorary treasurer and others who had assisted in the work of the fund, he pointed out the views of the critics who thought that the work should have been greater and more direct results. It seemed to him that a precisely opposite conclusion ought to be drawn from the various reports.

One result of the investigations of the fund was to show that they were now dealing with quite a different set of phenomena from those with which ordinary infectious diseases were concerned. The investigations of the fund had given birth to great and important generalizations, which might be the foundation of a somewhat hopeful outlook as to the future. One was the investigation with regard to the hereditary character of cancer. The result, surely, was of the utmost importance, for the conclusion was that the question of heredity in connection with cancer was almost negligible. Investigations went to show that there were causes which undoubtedly produced cancer in the tissues which in the case of people leading the ordinary normal life hardly ever showed any malignant growth. At all times, surely, must be an indication that something could be done to prevent or to diminish cancerous growth. (Hear, hear.)

Turning to the other, the more difficult, more critical, and the more important problem of how malignant growths when they were present had to be dealt with, he thought it would be a cruel kindness to suggest that they were even within sight of anything that could be called a new remedy for cancer. Yet they ought to draw encouragement from the remarkable series of investigations in which it had been shown that the growth and the spread of implanted cancer could be checked. It was not unduly sanguine to say that it is certain circumstances it had been found possible to deal successfully with the implanted growth, they need not abandon hope that by further researches they might be able to deal also with the more virulent and refractory form of the original growth.

A BANK ON WHEELS.

A motor bank, the latest novelty in progressive finance, will leave Brighton (England) on a tour through Sussex villages on its trial run.

A travelling bank is already known in America, but this will be the first of its kind in England to serve outlying districts where there is no bank.

The motor bank will be run by the People's Bank, which has branches in many of the chief towns. Every detail of a bank in miniature will be found in the car, which will set out from the Brighton branch in Old Steine.

It is a covered car with a removable back, which discloses a brass-railed counter. It will and will be the first of its kind in England to serve outlying districts where there is no bank.

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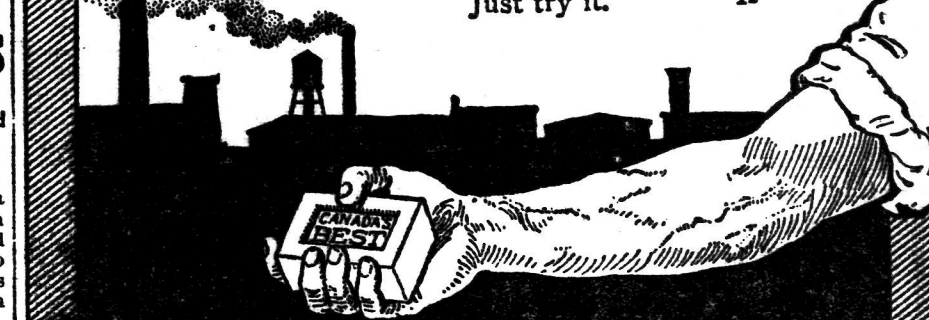
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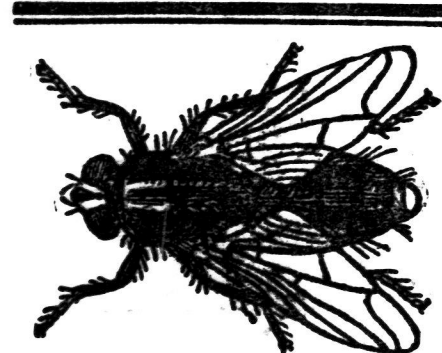
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