

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1901.

## Baldwin's Arctic Trip.

All preparations for previous expeditions to the Arctic seem insignificant in comparison with the plans for the party that will leave New York city in June of the present year. This enterprise, which is known as the Baldwin-Ziegler expedition is under the direction of Evelyn B. Baldwin and is financed by William Ziegler of Brooklyn, who has announced his intention to expend \$1,000,000 if necessary in his effort to float the Stars and Stripes first at the North Pole.

The route selected by Mr Baldwin is one never traversed before. There is a large territory in Franz Josef Land, lying between the British Channel and the Austrian Sound, called by Mr Baldwin the inter-channel route, which has never been charted. It includes the regions to the north and northeast of Crown Prince Rudolph Land. It is the explorer's intention to cross this territory, making a complete geographical chart of it, and then to make his dash for the Pole from the most northern point.

Mr Baldwin accompanied the Peary expedition of 1893 and is therefore familiar with the theories of his chief rival in his race for the pole. He is by no means a believer in many of them. For instance, Lieut Peary has always contended that a polar exploring party should be made up of the fewest possible persons in order that the danger of accident and delay due to sickness might be reduced to a minimum. The young American who now seeks to fight his way through the region of perpetual snow and ice takes the stand that with in bounds there is strength in union.

In pursuance of this policy the Baldwin-Ziegler party will have the most extensive transport train ever carried on such a voyage. For moving the supplies an apparatus there will be employed 400 Esquimaux dogs and fifteen Siberian ponies, and, just to indicate the matter in which the comfort of the beasts as well as of the men is to be looked after, it may be noted that fifty tons of special prepared dog food are included in the list of equipment.

In the exploring party proper there will be some thirty men, although if the sailors and other men aboard the vessels be included the total will probably exceed seventy-five persons. The explorer will, however, allow to accompany him only the hardest men. Each member of the party understands that he will be expected to do rough work from beginning to end and that the journey is not to be regarded as in any sense a pleasure excursion. It is significant that almost all the men who will accompany Mr. Baldwin are young Americans of exceptional energy.

This invasion of the frozen north will be made with two vessels. The steamer America, which is to carry the exploring party and is now being refitted at Dundee, Scotland, is 157 feet in length, 29 feet beam and 19 feet in depth. The America was formerly the crack whaler of the Dundee fleet and has been an exciting service in the Arctic regions. She is a three masted sailing vessel, with auxiliary steam power, driving a single screw, and it is of wooden construction, since no experienced explorer would think of taking a steel craft into the ice pack.

This vessel, lately remained in honor of Mr. Baldwin's native land, carried the Swedish expedition under Prof. Koltoff to Greenland last year, and it may be asserted the Arctic better constructed than the America to withstand the perils peculiar to seas of ice. The Norwegian sealer, the Fritjof, will accompany the America, carrying supplies and provisions as far north as Franz Josef Land, where Mr. Baldwin proposes to establish his base of operations.

The personality of the man who is in command of the expedition is such as to inspire confidence, and his achievements in the past would seem to fit him for the post. Mr. Baldwin was born in a federal camp during the Civil War and when a boy made a trip on foot and by bicycle all over Europe and over the greater part of the United States, winding up with the first wheel trip ever made through Yellowstone Park. He was with Peary in the Arctic in 1893, and arrangements had been made for him to join the ill-fated An-

drée in the latter's balloon expedition, but at the last moment he was forced to remain behind, it being found that there was less room in the car than has been expected.

Pushing northward after this disappointment, Mr. Baldwin spent the season studying Arctic conditions, and in 1898-99 he went to Franz Josef Land as a member of the Wellman Arctic expedition. He spent three or four months last year in Europe making investigations bearing up on his present project, and probably no other expedition has had plans so carefully mapped out to the minutest detail in advance.

Mr. Baldwin's chief concern now is to beat out Lieut. Peary and Capt. Sverdrup, who are in command of two separate expeditions which are making for the Pole by what is known as the Greener route. Mr. Baldwin's plans contemplate a voyage to the Antarctic should the northern goal be reached by another before his party has taken up the race, and with this contingency in view the equipment of the two ships has been made ample for a most extended voyage.

There will be stored in the holds of the Baldwin vessels more than 72,000 crystallized eggs and fully 400,000 rations of coffee. This coffee is of a new brand, a Japanese preparation known as kato and it has been prepared in the tablet form. A tablet no larger than a cough lozenge affords a delicious cup of coffee. Practically all the food taken will be of the concentrated variety, and immense quantities of condensed milk will also be stored away in the floating larders.

Mr. Baldwin expects that his men will shoot enough seals, bears and birds to provide a fair proportion of fresh meat, but he is not relying upon this source of supply to any considerable extent. Dried and tinned meat is to be carried in large quantities, and the new form of ration with which the United States War Department recently made experiments will be employed to some extent. Dried potatoes and a great variety of canned fruits will serve to ward off scurvy.

The immense pack of dogs which will accompany the Baldwin-Ziegler party constitutes one of its most novel features. The 400 animals—a dozen times as many as Nansen had—all picked for their qualifications of beasts of burden, have already been purchased in Siberia and will be ready to join the expedition when the America reaches the Norwegian rendezvous. That these dogs can be utilized to immense advantage may be inferred from the fact that a good dog team will travel from fifty to sixty miles a day, a team of five dogs frequently moving from 1,000 to 1,500 pounds. The load is strapped to a sled perhaps seven or eight feet in length.

The scientific side of the expedition is likely to prove very important. Although the projectors have been somewhat reticent regarding this part of their plans, it is understood that several scientists will accompany the party. Thousands upon thousands of dollars have been expended for an equipment of instruments of the most modern and most expensive character, and how complete will be this phrase of the enterprise may be imagined from the fact that arrangements have been made to employ telephones and electric searchlights in signaling operations.

The astronomical programme which has been mapped out includes the determination of latitude and longitude by many methods, as well as investigations along lines not usually taken up. Magnetic and hydrographic work will of course have considerable attention, and Mr. Baldwin expects that his experience of several years in Weather Bureau work will enable him to secure meteorological data of value. A specialty will be made of photographic work. A photographer is to accompany the party, and it is the intention to have the camera record Arctic conditions and phenomena much more completely than on any previous occasion.

Explorer Baldwin has one hobby which he will carry out if possible during the present voyage. This is to erect and live in the northernmost house in the world. With this end in view, the equipment of

the party includes a portable house somewhat of the order of the structure which Count von Waldersee carried with him to China. The structure has been elaborately planned with reference to the exclusion of cold. Great quantities of the material which formed the roofs of the buildings at the Omaha Exposition are also being put aboard the vessel in order to provide sheds and windbreaks for the dogs and to shelter the men when making observation of various kinds.

The same precautions which distinguish other phases of the enterprise characterize the preparation of clothing for the men. Furs will be used, Mr. Baldwin believing that nature's bestowal of this covering on animals indicates the best defence against extreme cold. Furs will be supplemented in all cases by woolen underwear and all the fur, whether designed for clothing or sleeping bags, has been especially selected and treated with exceptional care.

### HE INVENTS DANCES.

Original Ideas That Bring Pin Money to a Slender Young Woman.

The slender young woman balanced herself and gyrated gracefully before the mirror. Presently she stopped short and kicked spitefully at the cretonne-covered shoe box.

"It's no use," she said. "I can't test it by myself. I'll have to get the girl's to come in and see how it looks when it's done right."

"When what is done right?" asked the visitor.

"Why, that new dance," said the slim woman. "It is possible that you don't know what I've been trying to do?"

The visitor confessed her ignorance.

"How stupid!" said the slim woman.

"Whom do you mean?" retorted the visitor. "Me or yourself?"

"Well," laughed the slim one, "I don't just know who is to blame, but wherever the fault lies the result is deplorable. Here I've spent three solid weeks studying out that step, yet after all the thought and physical strength expended upon it you admit that you didn't even recognize it as a terpsichorean stunt. This is my first step of the year and judging by the inauspicious beginning I'll have to put it in my vacation figuring out new measures, if I expect to be ready for the dancing masters in the fall."

The visitor looked at the slim woman with a wrinkle of perplexity on her brow. The slim woman hastened to explain.

"I'm an inventor," she said, "an inventor of dances. I devote three or four months of each year to the production of new steps. You wouldn't believe, unless you were in a position to know, how very obtuse the masters themselves are in the matter of invention. The majority of them haven't a spark of originality, yet for the sake of his reputation each feels it his bounden duty to suggest several new dances at their annual conventions. Not being able to devise these new measures for himself, where do you suppose he gets them?"

"From you?" hazarded the visitor.

"From me to be sure," said the slim woman. "So few new dances are accepted by the public that the layman, no matter how light-footed, has no idea of the great number of dances introduced at all of these conventions. Very few of them ever see the festive light of the ballroom but die an ignominious death right there on the convention floor. Most of these corpses are the children of my own fertile brain and twinkling too."

"But where do you get all your ideas?" asked the visitor. "Do you work them up out of your imagination?"

"Some of them, but not all. I travel a good deal and make a study of the folk dances in different countries. Many of my own steps are a composite of the best parts of several dances, with perhaps the addition of an original touch of my own. There isn't much money in studying out the ordinary ballroom dance. A person who has enough originality to figure out novelties for the stage is an alchemist who can turn his brain into all kinds of money. Fortunately, I am qualified to give some valuable hints to the professors of that form of the art, so all told I make at least pin money out of my inventive genius."

### Art Illustration.

Teacher—Of course you understand the difference between liking and loving?

Pupil—Yes, Miss. I like my father and mother, but I love apple pie.

## A Plot to Steal Millions.

Another chapter is added by A. L. Drummond to the history of the gang of criminals concerned in the theft of Gainsborough's portrait of the Duchess of Devonshire in London. It relates to the secret which was the price of freedom for Little Joe Elliot, the forger. This secret was a plot to rob the United States Sub-Treasury at Baltimore. It has not been made public before in full. There was a slight reference to it in Mr. Drummond's annual report as chief of the Secret Service in 1892, but no particulars were given, as Elliot was at the time being used to discover another crime.

In 1886 Elliot was sentenced to the State prison at Auburn for fifteen years for uttering a forged check on the Flour City National Bank of Rochester. Six years later in 1892, the story of the plot to rob the Baltimore Sub-Treasury begins. Mr. Drummond says:

"At that time I was chief of the Secret Service of the United States Government. One day a prominent attorney of New York city called on me and stated that he had a client who had some valuable information for the Government which would be given if in turn I would assist in having his client pardoned. Upon inquiry I discovered that the client was none other than Little John Elliot who was still in Auburn Prison under his fifteen years, sentence for forgery."

"I was induced to visit Elliot in Auburn Prison where he turned over to me information that enabled me to secure certain impressions of a counterfeit five-dollar national bank note, and the identical fifty-dollar plate for which the notes had been printed that George Wilkes and other forgers of the gang circulated in 1878 in Europe to the extent of one or two hundred thousand dollars. He also put me in the way of discovering information that uncovered a scheme for one of the most gigantic robberies that I had ever heard of, and said his counsel would give me details, if I would promise to help him."

"The scheme was this, I afterward learned: The United States Sub-Treasury in Baltimore was to be looted. The idea was to get from nine to a dozen tried, true thieves of courage, who were to go to Baltimore on a Saturday evening. The Sub-Treasury and the Custom House in Baltimore were in a building known as the Old Exchange Hotel. The building occupied nearly a whole block: in fact it was surrounded on all sides either by streets or alleys."

"The Old Exchange Hotel was a place used during the days when slaves were brought to Baltimore city to be sold at public auction. The basement of this building was almost entirely unoccupied save for two or three small offices that were used by some of the customs officials in two of the corners. The rest of the cellar basement was taken up entirely by cells about ten feet square. These cells had been used long years before for the purpose of keeping the slaves in until they were taken out on the large platform or block, as it was called, and sold. There were tiers of these cells, and passageways running from the centre to the four different side walls; possibly there were twenty or more corridors, a row of cells on each side."

"The information further stated there were quite a number of windows and quite a number of doors going from each of the alleys and from the streets into the basement that the basement was about two steps down from the sidewalk; that the doors were the old fashioned swinging doors, two coming together in the centre with a large wooden pole on the inside to hold them, that these bars fitted staples on either side; that the hinges and fastenings of the doors were almost entirely rotted away."

"The scheme was to have these men go down one of the alleys to one of these doors, and with a very slight pressure the door would give way. They were to enter the basement, and from the basement they were to go upstairs where they would find an ordinary door, half glass, between them and the part of the building that was occupied by the Custom house, but that door would not be locked because of the fact that one of the watchmen inside was in the

conspiracy, and he would render such assistance as he could, and at the same time keeping himself from being discovered by his associates."

"While this appeared to me a preposterous story, I believed it to be my duty to investigate it, and I did investigate. I went to Baltimore and introduced myself to the Collector of the Port. The assistant Treasurer at that time was named Wellington, the present United States Senator from the State of Maryland; but he was absent from the city and I did not meet him, and as the collector was in charge I made my business known to him, and together we went through the door that had been described to me, down the stairs and into the basement of the building. I found that the bottoms of many doors were rotted away, so much so that a dog could have easily gone under them. In two places I took hold of the door at the bottom to pull it open, and pieces twice as large as my hand gave away. With another pull the staples came away from the wall, and the doors swung back without my using more strength than a child of 5 years would have used."

"In fact I found the rows of cells, the unoccupied basement, covering, as I said, almost an entire square, the windows and the doors in even a worse condition than had been described to me by the prisoner. It was a revelation to the collector. No one else at that time was taken into the secret. He asked me the name of the watchman. I told him, and he said: 'Thank God, he was removed a month ago!'"

"I asked him to keep the matter quiet, but to be extra vigilant until such times as I could make a report to the secretary of the treasury the condition that I found things in, and was directed by him to make my recommendation. I thereupon recommended that the secretary appoint a committee of disinterested persons in the department to go to Baltimore to examine the building and to report what should be done, in order to guarantee the safety of the money then stored in the sub-treasury, which I learned was about \$25,000,000 in currency and about \$15,000,000 in gold."

"The plan of the robbers was after getting into the Custom House, to seize the two watchmen from that side, then to seize either side of the grating around the windows where the cash was paid out from the Sub-Treasury, pull that out and go through that opening where the vaults were. It was not their intention to kill anyone unless they had to, but every man was to be heavily armed and the watchmen on the Treasury side were to be covered with from two to three guns and kept with hands until the men could get through, and all were to be tied up with ropes, gagged and kept quiet."

"They intended to have from midnight on Saturday until midnight on Sunday to do their work in. During that time they no doubt would have been able to get into the currency vault and take everything they could haul away. Of course, they had figured on a relief coming at 6 o'clock on Sunday morning and they had provided for that. They would have opened the door, and as each man entered he would have been pounced upon and tied up as the others were, and so would any one else who visited the building. It was known that sometime the assistant-treasurer or the cashier or even the collector visited the office on Sunday."

"After looking the ground over I was fairly convinced that the scheme was a feasible one, and that Elliott had done a great service in giving the information. The committee appointed by the secretary of the treasury went to Baltimore, examined the condition of things and reported that nearly all of the doors, if not all—I don't remember exactly which now—should be walled up with solid masonry and where it was necessary to have a window or a door it should be made of the most improved steel, bars, etc. I think, in fact I know that it cost the government thousands of dollars to make the repairs, but when they got through there was no chance for Elliott or any other thief to get into the building, no matter how many there were of them."

"In view of these facts and of the further facts that Elliott had served seven years on his term and was in feeble health, Mr. Drummond applied for a pardon for him and one was granted by Gov. Flower about Oct. 15. Elliott came to New York and died two months later at St. Luke's hospital of an overdose of Chloral-