

1909 WAS BIG WITH ACHIEVEMENT

REMARKABLE YEAR BROUGHT TO ITS END LAST NIGHT

In Discovery, In Invention, in All Branches of Human Endeavor Past Year Looms Out.

Discovery of Pole and Progress in Aeronautics the Epoch Markers—Canada and the Empire

When all the political events of the year are forgotten—the twelve months of 1909 will undoubtedly be remembered in history for two things: the aeroplane and the discovery of the north pole.

The aeroplane, to be sure, had made great progress in the preceding year, but it is the twelve-month just closed that has brought the invention to a point where its definite adoption into the transportation system of the human race is no longer in doubt.

Virtually all the principal countries of the world used some form of airship in the annual manoeuvres, even Japan not being excepted. In Germany the dirigible balloon accomplished important results in scouting and, after the manoeuvres were over, executed a dramatic surprise against two of the strongest forts in the empire.

But the excitement caused by the Wrights, the Berliors, the Goppeltts, the Lathams, piled into comparative insignificance when on Sept. 1, came the startling announcement that Dr. Frederick Cook of Brooklyn, had discovered the north pole on April 28, 1909—made all the more startling by the news five days later that Commander Robert E. Peary had returned to the Labradorian outpost of civilization and there declared that he had located the north pole on Oct. 12, 1909—adding that to him accrued the honor of being the first man ever to stand at the tip of the world since he could prove it.

Instantly there resulted that extraordinary controversy between the adherents of Peary and Cook which set the entire world by the ears. Peary's statement that he has been to the pole has been endorsed by scientists generally, he having had his records corroborated in October by a committee appointed by the National Geographic Society to examine them; while Dr. Cook's records were submitted to the United States authorities.

Dr. Cook promised to submit the matter, on his return to civilization, to the Danish government, but he claimed the pole's discoverer by that country's king and leading men and women generally; and those authorities on Dec. 30 returned their judgment that Dr. Cook's evidence as to his reaching the pole was valueless—thus ending what seems to have been the feud of an age.

Until the world was treated to the truly unique situation of two Americans returning from Arctic fastnesses within a few days each other and asserting their right to immortal fame as the pole's true discoverer, interest in exploration activities had been confined to the Antarctic achievements of Lieutenant E. H. Shackleton, of the British navy.

25 INJURED IN EXPLOSION AT MONTREAL

Scene Of Indescribable Confusion At Place Viger Station Late Last Night When Gas Explosion Occurred.

EXTENT OF DISASTER NOT YET KNOWN

Special to The Standard. Montreal, Que., Dec. 31.—Twenty-five people were injured, some fatally, in an explosion which occurred at 11:30 tonight at the C. P. R. Place Viger station here.

The Quebec train was just about to pull out and the platform was thronged with people wishing the passengers good-bye and a happy New Year. A lighted cigar fell into a leaking tube underneath the platform from which the pitch gas is fed to the trains and the explosion which followed, ripped up the whole platform. There was a scene of indescribable confusion and a general ambulance call was sent out. So far it has not been possible to recover all of the victims from the wreckage but work is being rushed feverishly. One poor woman had her leg torn right off, while many others are so badly injured that their recovery is not expected.

Will Die. Later reports from the hospital state that Madame Dubault whose legs were torn from her body is so badly injured that she will undoubtedly die. Amongst others badly injured are E. Bertrand, H. Labelle, R. Sanson, S. Borrie, T. J. Cullen, H. J. Bellerose and J. Filteau all of whom were taken to the hospital. The hospital attendants were kept busy for some time in carrying the victims out on stretchers and a large crowd gathered around the station. The platform of the station was completely wrecked but none of the passengers on the train were injured and the train got off with a short delay.

AMERICAN COMPANY FORCED TO SELL OUT

Montreal, Dec. 31.—The Quebec Bank has purchased the large building of the New York Life Insurance Company, the company being compelled to sell owing to the changes in the insurance laws of New York. No price was announced, but the property has been in the market for some time at \$275,000. The bank has for some years occupied the greater portion of the ground floor.

ZELAYA ASKS RELEASE OF HIS SON-IN-LAW

Mexico City, Dec. 31.—Former President Zelaya, of Nicaragua, has sent several messages to Managua, asking his friends there to secure the release of his son-in-law, Joaquin Pasos. He says that the arrest was a measure of retaliation and that the president cannot prove the charges made. There is good reason to believe that Zelaya is arranging to stay for weeks or months in this country.

The New Year Makes Its Bow



Ahem—in this, my very first appearance upon any stage it is but fair if you accord me some indulgence. In coming before you—I say that in coming before you—I, or well, I come before you. However, enough of that. My purpose is to forecast in a general way the work I have to execute while among you for the next twelvemonth. Our relations together will be pleasant, I hope, and I shall strive to make myself agreeable in many ways, and to form acquaintances of each and every one of you before my term of usefulness ends.

There is much I will attempt that is not now in the proper form for divulging and I couldn't if I would give you a straight tip on everything which will happen for much yet remains to be worked out. However it is no breach of confidence to forecast a few events of public importance. It may not be out of place to remind you that we will enter upon the forty-third year of our national existence as the Dominion of Canada and as the years go by we still more the wisom of our fathers in hatching out the great scheme of confederation. It behooves us to mark each milestone of our progress with expressions of redoubled patriotism.

We will have this year the Canadian Navy emerging from its aridling clothes, a weak and puny infant indeed, but when I have passed from the stage of action and others come and go, bringing a change of administration, there is hope for this youngster and it may yet become a lusty young giant carrying all before it and a worthy offspring from a worthier mother navy. We love our peace but oh, you preparation for war. (Laughter.)

The work on the Transcontinental will proceed at enormous cost and sooner or later this unwieldy project will near completion. A new start will be made on the Quebec bridge and Sir Robert Perks will continue to agitate for the Ottawa ship canal.

In St. John I will venture to predict the preliminary work for the building of an immense dry dock will be undertaken and the sugar refinery built.

In the West the golden grain will flow in still more generous streams towards the ports of entry and civilization will press northward towards the wastes of the Arctic circle.

Before my administration is over, I hope to dispose of the pugilistic championship of the world. I promise that the heavyweight belt will rightfully adorn the waist of a husky guy whose first name begins with a J. It is up to you to guess the answer. I will not go a whit further in naming the baseball pennant winner. Suffice it to say that one of the clubs now claiming it so confidently will have the hunting ears football again incarnadined greenward.

As for outdoor sports, Charcot is looking for the south pole, and it may be discovered. We may also find out whether the north pole was discovered. (Laughter, and fist fights between Cook and Peary partisans in various parts of the hall.) Come to order, please! Aviators will fly oftener and higher and farther, and some of them will fall harder. (Giggles.)

Abroad we may have war scores resolve themselves into the real thing, much as we would hate to see Germany and England grapple. China will wake up some more, and Korea will be put more soundly to sleep. There will be big political questions posed in South Africa, and Great Britain's elections will decide the status of the House of Lords. Ireland may have home rule. Brazil will probably give up a show-down of her mysterious bid to become a naval power. Mexico will again go through the motions of holding a presidential election. Spain will have cause to remember Fenner, and Portugal may get the tar knocked out of her in her squabble with China over Macao.

We are to have Halley's comet with us in all its effulgence. It will be brightest May 10. We are also scheduled to witness right through its tail—everybody pull a hair out of it as we go through! (Laughter.) You can look for four perfectly good eclipses. There will be a total eclipse of the sun on May 8, but you won't notice it unless you are in Australia. There'll be a partial eclipse you can see on Nov. 1. The moon will be totally eclipsed on May 23-24 and on Nov. 16, and you can observe the performance without smoked glass.

In conclusion, I will say you are going to have doubled holidays for New Year's and Labor Day, because they fall on either Saturday or Monday, and you can count in Sunday if you want to. Christmas will be on Sunday and you can be celebrating Friday evening and leave off Tuesday morning. And, best of all, there'll be an extra Saturday in the year, providing a total of 53 pay days!

Thanking you for your kind attention one and all, I wish you a Happy and Prosperous 1910! (Prolonged cheering.)

MORSE IS OFF TO SERVE TIME

Convicted Banker Relinquishes All Hope Of Another Trial—Trip To Atlanta To Be Made Today. New York, Dec. 31.—Charles W. Morse, the convicted banker, will, in all probability, be on his way to the Federal prison at Atlanta, Ga., before noon of New Year's day. Mrs. Morse and the prisoner's two sons will probably travel with him on the same train, which will leave Jersey City about 10 o'clock.

NO NEW YEAR HONORS LIST

Political Honors In Great Britain Go By The Board With Present Budget Crisis—Acquith Consistent. London, Dec. 31.—Contrary to custom no list of political honors will mark the coming of the new year. Had the usual practice been followed Premier Asquith scarcely could have escaped the elevation to the peerage of some of his staunch supporters and in view of the present denunciatory attitude of the Radicals toward the Upper House, it was considered apparently to be inconsistent to add to its members.

THREE KILLED IN TRAIN WRECK

Spreading Rails Thought To Have Been The Cause Of Distressing Accident On Rock Island System. Trenton, Mo., Dec. 31.—Three persons were killed and 45 injured today by the derailing and partial burning of a westbound Rock Island passenger train near Southern Trenton.

INCREASE IN CUSTOMS RECEIPTS IS NOTED

Washington, Dec. 31.—An increase in customs receipts of \$20,743,770 and internal revenue receipts of \$8,412,000 during the first six months of the fiscal year 1910 as compared with the corresponding period of the fiscal year 1909 is the showing of the operations of the treasury, according to the latest figures available which lack one or two days of being complete.

SENATOR COX HURT IN FALL YESTERDAY

Toronto, Dec. 31.—Senator G. A. Cox caught his foot in a ring while leaving the Canada Life offices and sustained a bad fall. He went down two stone steps and struck the pavement, cutting his head and bruising his left leg. He was severely shaken up.

MOLEOD, SOLICITOR, ETC.

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