

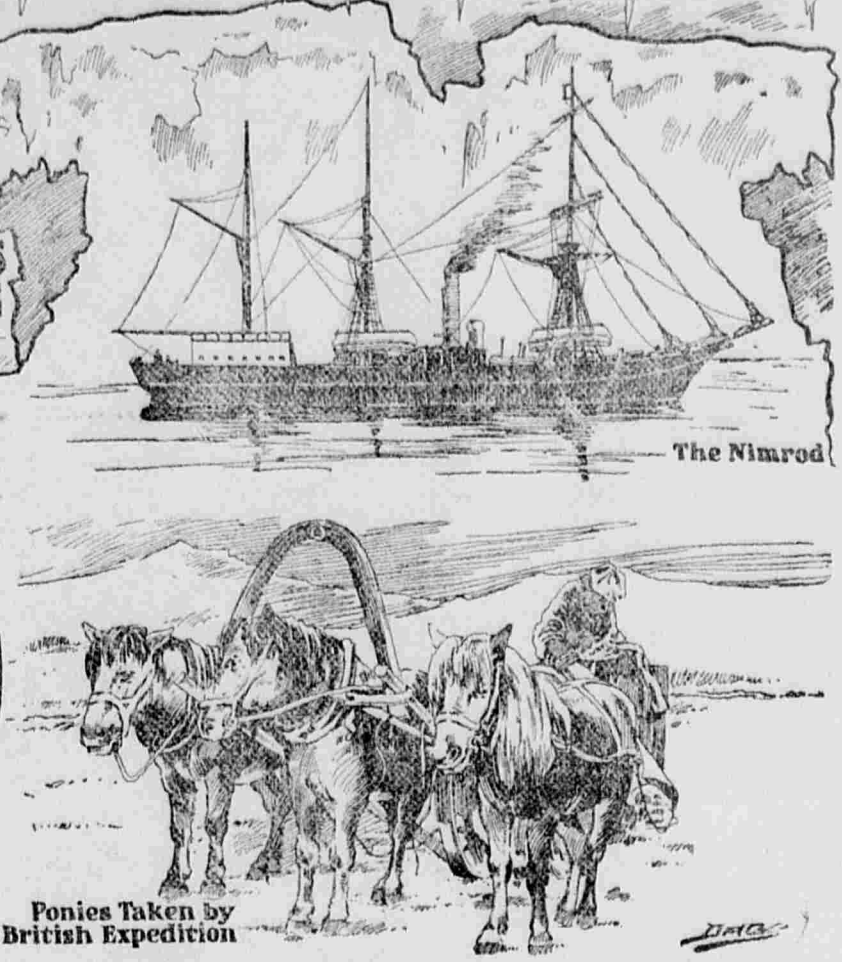
SOME NEW ANTARCTIC EXPEDITIONS



ONE
SAILED
RECENTLY
FROM ENGLAND
AND TWO OR THREE
FROM OTHER COUNTRIES
ARE TO FOLLOW BEFORE THE
CLOSE OF THE SEASON



E.H. Shackleton,
Leader of British
Expedition



Ponies Taken by
British Expedition



open seas, barriers of hummocks and the impossibility of fixing stations are not to be feared in the south polar region.

THERE have been antarctic expeditions almost without number, but until recently none of them has set sail with the north pole as a destination. This is in striking contrast to the many ventures in quest of the north pole. The chief public interest for people of all countries, the apparent hopelessness of its attainment having been a perpetual challenge resulting in the international race for the farthest north, the austral pivot of the globe has been strangely neglected.

Although the antarctic has never appealed to the imagination of explorers with the attractive force exerted by the frozen north, there has been no lack of adventurous penetration into the unexplored mysteries that lie at the extreme south. Since Captain James Cook, at a period just prior to the American Revolution, proved the non-existence of the hypothetical southern continent to balance the earth here has been an almost annual effort in the part of several European powers to make new records in antarctic research.

Four Separate Expeditions.

This year there will be at least three expeditions sent out from Europe. One of them, the British, is already on its way. The Belgian and French will follow, and all of them are prepared to remain in antarctic waters more than one season. A fourth expedition is that planned by the daring American, Dr.

Frederick A. Cook, the man who climbed Mount McKinley. Dr. Cook was surgeon of the Belgian expedition of 1897-99, and is now one of those who are especially zealous in the search for the south pole. He maintains that the south pole can and will be discovered by the members of the first expedition who really have an intelligent idea of the problem in hand, and he does not hesitate to predict that it will now be a matter of comparatively short time.

He admits that it is no task for the haphazard adventurer; that its accomplishment will require a thorough understanding of the polar environment as well as peculiar powers of endurance. He believes also that the hardships involved are greater than those experienced in the arctic, but he thinks there is an assurance of success over a continuous land route not offered by the search for the north pole.

The north pole is believed to be in the center of a sea of moving ice, and its conquest depends on the uncertainty of drift and weather. Over this constantly moving pack no advance or return stations can ever be established. Supplies must be moved for at least a campaign of four months.

About the south pole the conditions are quite different. A ship may approach much nearer without great risk. Then the route lies over fairly smooth permanent ice upon which stations can be placed so that advance would be possible for at least nine months of the year. The distance to be traversed by land before the pole could be reached would be 750 miles almost in an air line course.

The British Scheme.

Mr. E. H. Shackleton, who is the leader of the present British expedition, seems to agree perfectly with Dr. Cook in the opinion that the discovery of the south pole is wholly feasible. Mr. Shackleton was a member of the famous Scott expedition of 1901-04, and he has had a great deal of experience in such work. He expects to fix his base of operation on King Edward's Land, the most easterly point reached by the expedition of 1901-04. From this base the interior will be penetrated by means of a motor car specially constructed for the work by a Scotch firm. This car is built to withstand extreme cold and will be operated by a fluid that will work satisfactorily in low temperatures. The car

is also provided with three different sets of wheels for use on surfaces of differing softness. It is realized that this car is only an experiment, and the chances of success are not centered in it.

Another experiment will be the use of Siberian ponies in place of the usual dogs. The animals taken with the expedition were specially selected specimens that have developed unusual hardness and strength on the bitterly cold plains of eastern Siberia, where they remain in the open all winter. The Nimrod, in which the party sailed recently, will proceed to New Zealand, whence it will start for the antarctic in the first week of the new year, reaching its base in February, when the twelve explorers will be landed. They expect to make sledge journeys in three directions, and after a year's work will await the return of the Nimrod, re-embark and sail homeward along the coast.

Dr. Cook's Plans.

Dr. Cook is also in favor of trying some of the new ways of locomotion in the search for the south pole. He realizes that a device which will not work in the temperate zone is not likely to do better in the frigid, and he knows that a machine may work well enough here and prove to be a failure in the antarctic. He believes that there is little hope of successful ballooning, mainly because the summer temperatures at an altitude at which a balloon must move are too low. Besides this objection, which is serious, the winds would be opposed to poleward movement. He thinks very favorably of the automobile scheme and purposes to give it a trial.

His main dependence, however, will

be on sledging with Eskimo dogs. There should be about seventy-five of these hardy animals, and they should be provided with sufficient food to last two years. The sledges should be of a type to suit the particular kind of snow found in the region. The general food and equipment need not differ radically from that used in the arctic. The boat should be sent to Australia in winter and during the following summer go back to the antarctic to meet the explorers on their return.

Dr. Cook wants only eight men in his expedition. This small force, he maintains, would be more efficient than a larger number. They would have a busy time preparing for the winter, but part of them would push on immediately, trying their equipment and establishing stations of food and fuel. Before the fall of the captain of the long winter night the entire freight for the next season's campaign should have been advanced 200 miles.

About the first week in August of the next year the train of dog sledges should be sent rapidly over the first 200 miles, advancing stations from there while a party of two or at most three men pushed desperately on to the pole. Dr. Cook declares that it would only be a question of persistence. If failure were the outcome of the first effort, success would be likely to come with the next. He made several attempts before he accomplished his wonderful ascent of Mount McKinley, and he does not regard the south polar journey of 750 miles as an impossible task. The discouraging conditions that have made the arctic problem so unfruitful—the moving ice packs, the

Old Route Chosen.

Scientists seem to be agreed that the previous British expeditions have marked out the most promising route to the pole. This is the one leading in from the regions south of New Zealand. It is here that the largest glacier known yields its icy output directly from the overland sea of ice which gathers about the south pole. This glacier is believed to be the route to the south pole that is likely to prove successful. In this forbidding region the summer temperature is normally a few degrees below freezing, and the winter temperature is the coldest on earth. Strong winds blow for long periods, and the snowfall, even in summer, is prodigious. Still the season for travel is much longer than in the arctic, for there is no ice disruption in summer.

The Shackleton expedition carried sections of a land hut in which the members will pass the long winter night when the Nimrod has returned to New Zealand. It is especially designed with double wool packed walls to resist the cold, is to be set up on piles and is to be lined with cases of goods. There is also a special portable boat with detachable buoyancy apparatus to be fitted to the sides of the craft. It will be carried on the exploring journeys to provide against the emergency of water. In that event the party will embark and proceed to land. The Nimrod was formerly a Newfoundland sealer, and she is known to be admirably adapted to her present purpose.

CHARLES E. LAMBERT.

BRIEF ILLUSTRATED RECORD OF CURRENT EVENTS: LIFE AND ITS MANY PHASES AT HOME AND ABROAD

ROMAN ILLITERACY.

In Italy and France the application of the law with regard to compulsory education is so disregarded that Rome, with a population of 507,000 inhabitants, has only 30,000 pupils in her primary schools, whereas she should send 70,000. About 20,000 of the pupils attend the public schools.

A TITLED SALVATIONIST.

Count Lagercrantz, the new Swedish minister to the United States, has been a follower of General Booth for the last twenty years. As an officer in the Salvation Army he has done excellent work in the slums of Stockholm. The countess was a Salvation lassie before her marriage, and the distinguished couple always wear the Salvation Army uniform.



More than thirty years ago the discovery was reported that alcohol could be made of peat. The Swedish government recently spent 10,000 crowns to ascertain if such alcohol could be made profitably. It cost a little over a cent a liter, or a cent more than the imported potato alcohol, which in Germany sells at less than 4 cents a liter for industrial use.

PEAT ALCOHOL.

The 220,000 miles of main track of the railways of the United States represent property to the extent of \$16,000,000,000, or as much as the total value of all the property in the country in 1860, the year of Lincoln's election. Their income of over \$1,000,000,000 a year is very nearly four times the annual revenue of the United States government. The number of men on their list is 1,500,000, an army as great as the combined forces that Oyama and

BLIND ARTIFICIAL FLOWER MAKERS.



The picture shows an artificial flower factory in which practically all of the work is done by blind and crippled girls. Formerly much of the finest of this work was done on the continent of Europe, especially in French convents. Now, however, some of the most artistic creations in silk and velvet are fashioned by the trained fingers of the blind.

A FAMOUS WALL.

The famous wall of Severus, separating England from Scotland, was thirty-six miles long and guarded by twenty-four forts. It was twenty feet high and twenty-four feet thick and to the north was protected by a moat forty feet wide and twenty feet deep.

GROWTH OF FINGER NAILS.

Finger nail growth is more rapid in children than adults and slowest in the aged. It goes on more rapidly in summer than in winter, so that the nail that requires 122 days to renew itself in winter would do the same work in 116 days in the summer.

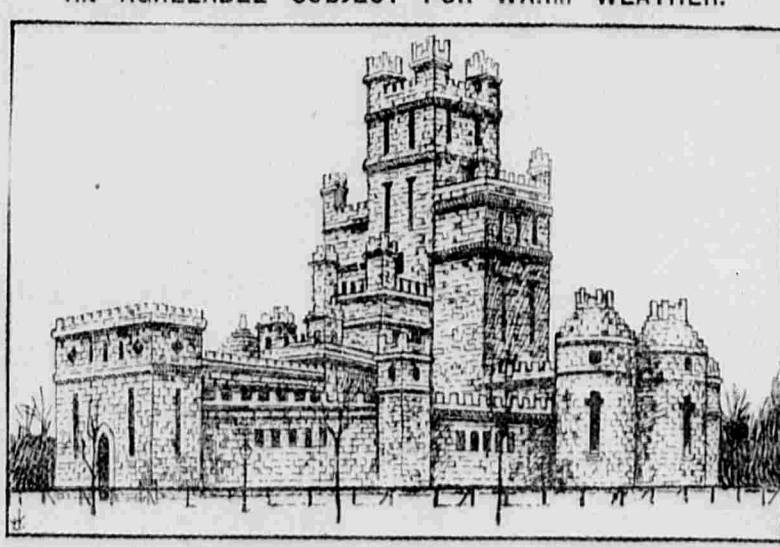
GORKY IN WOOD CARVING.

The picture shows a recent portrait of the noted Russian agitator and novelist Maxim Gorky carved in wood by



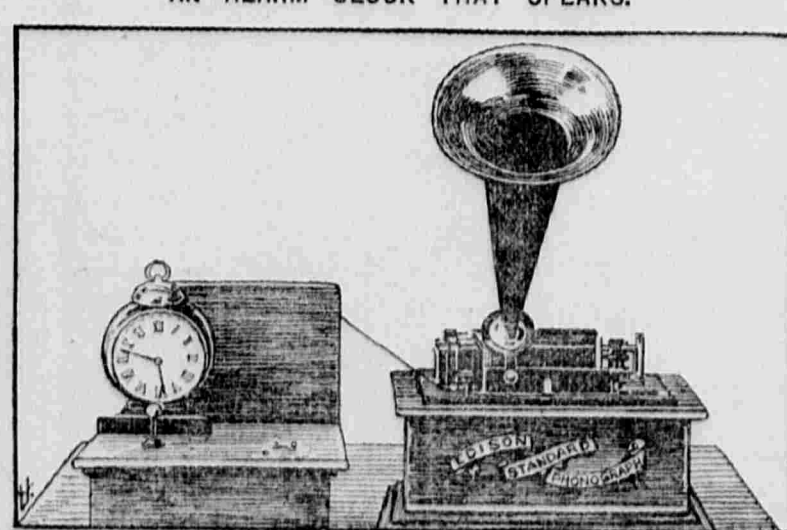
Franz Zelezny, the famous Austrian artist. The carver is a devoted admirer of the great Russian, and this portrait in wood is a masterpiece in this difficult art.

AN AGREEABLE SUBJECT FOR WARM WEATHER.



The palace of ice depicted herewith is a pleasant object to recall during midsummer. It stood in Windsor square, Montreal, and was built of ice blocks taken from the St. Lawrence river. Those who found it rather inhospitable looking at the time remember it during the fervid midsummer days without a shiver.

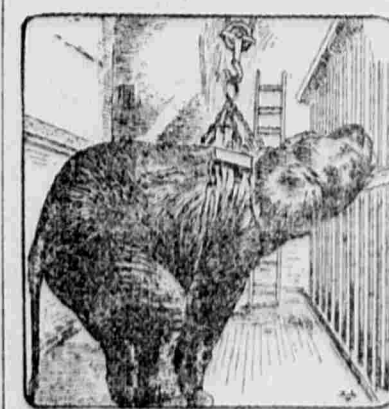
AN ALARM CLOCK THAT SPEAKS.



The clock shown in the cut is run in connection with a phonograph and may be set to go off at any hour. At the appointed time there issues from the phonograph any message that has been recorded for the purpose. The German Kaiser uses a similar device to remind him of engagements.

REST CURE FOR ELEPHANT.

The cut shows a strange procedure that is sometimes resorted to in the zoological gardens. In order that an elephant's injured foot may be relieved



of the enormous weight of the beast's body an apparatus is used by means of which the huge animal is slung in the air until the diseased member has had time to heal.

FATAL QUICK LUNCHES.

The leading physicians of Chicago declare that half the cases of suicide in that city are due to the quick lunch habit. According to the physicians, this haste over meals causes indigestion, which affects the nervous temperament and causes emaciation, moroseness, mental disorder and suicide.

MANAGES A BIG THEATER.

Miss Elizabeth Shober is the only woman in the country who actually is responsible for every detail of the management of a big theater. She has re-



cently concluded her third successful season at the Temple theater, Chicago. Miss Shober was formerly the manager of a shoe factory at Dixon, Ill., and is a remarkable business woman.

THE ANAESTHETIC STOVAINE.

The curious name of the anaesthetic stovaine is due to its discoverer, M. Fourneau. M. Fourneau was anxious to perpetuate his own name in connection with it, but as the anaesthetic was of the nature of cocaine and no compound resembling that could be contrived out of Fourneau he translated the name into its English equivalent of stove and added the necessary termination.

seated on a horse suspended from her balloon.

It requires an investment of about \$1,700 to house each tenant in New York city. That means that there has been an expenditure of \$1,000,000,000 for tenement houses in the last five years, which has built 18,155 houses for 585,021 tenants.

There are more opportunities for getting a free higher education, which extends into all of the trades and professions, in New York city than in any other city in the world.