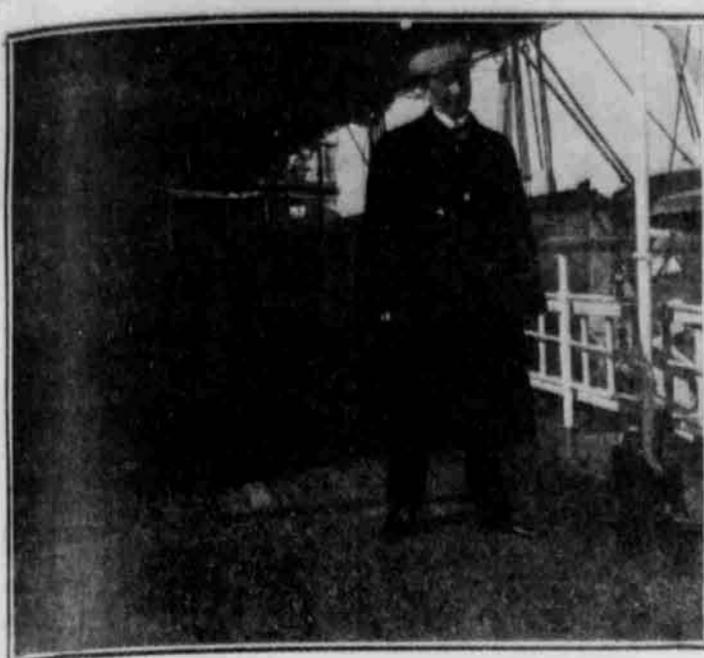


Cook-Peary Controversy.



DR. COOK ON THE UPPER DECK OF OSCAR II.

A LETTER received by Lieut. of Police John Hempel from his brother, Capt. Wilhelm Hempel, master of the steamship Oscar II, on which Dr. Cook recently returned to the United States, contains an account of the explorer's homeward voyage and the above photo of Dr. Cook taken on board the steamer.

On the voyage home Dr. Cook was the guest of honor at a number of formal government affairs given by the ship's officers and the passengers, on the night of Sept. 16 he was tendered an elaborate reception and banquet at which he gave an interesting talk in which he described his discovery of the north pole and the route taken by him. Dr. Cook had prepared a rough map and sketch of the route taken by him, with which he illustrated his address.

Invitations to the reception were printed on board on an elaborate scale and would have been a credit to any job office ashore. The invitations, a copy of one being sent to Lieut. Hempel, carry printed verses written for the occasion by Elias Kraemer, a passenger, which run:

BITTER CONTROVERSY.

It is exceedingly unfortunate in the minds of naval officers and scientists in general that a controversy should exist between the two men over the discovery of the pole. But the controversy exists and it is more than likely that it will continue to grow in bitterness as the months pass by and the ultimate outcome will be beyond question that there will be a division of sentiment as to the authenticity of reports of Dr. Cook no matter how well he may be able to prove his statements.

He who has the power to make public first through Copenhagen and afterwards through a general publication of those data. The apparent success of Commander Peary and Dr. Cook will probably serve as an encouragement of further exploration of the arctic region. But at the same time it is believed that the success of the American explorer will result in the efforts of the other two to locate the sub-equatorial pole. According to Commander Peary far less hardships are to be expected in the antarctic search than has been experienced by the long polar night.

Defying all man's capacity, Where only stars and the bright north-light reign.

Hold the guard for all eternity! Masked with all your knowledge, you must.

Hear the call and then, taking the road,

In the depths of the unknown, a dark ice-crust.

Go and search with the aid of your God—

"Look at the scenes in earth's great drama.

America's fort is raised up By Columbus! Then Vasco da Gama In its ship rounds the Cape of Good Hope.

Our thoughts then turn to the northern land.

With their deserts of ice so vast.

There Andrew and Franklin—martyrs—these—

Found their graves—they were brave to the last!

The starry signals are once more alame.

To four millions the message has gone:

The work of hundreds, men of fame,

Has now at last been done."

To Cook all honor and glory!

In our legends his name will be known!

Bright letters of gold stands the story.

He has won and will wear the Pole's crown."

According to Capt. Hempel, Dr. Cook is the real hero in Sweden and Denmark and is universally hailed and recognized by the people of those countries. The real discoverer of the north pole, with little credence is given to the statements of Peary.

AT WASHINGTON.

There are half a score of scientific societies in Washington who are taking deep interest in the Cook-Peary controversy. When the news first came from Denmark and from Greenland that Cook and Peary each claimed the discovery of the pole, there was a strong inclination was manifested on the part of most of the members of these scientific bodies to take a sceptical view of Dr. Cook's claims largely because Peary had so much more experience in the arctic than his fellow townsman and fellow countrymen. Therefore word was passed around that the coast and geographic survey, the geographical section of the Census club and all the rest of the scientific bodies would wait full evidence before passing judgment upon the claims of Dr. Cook.

Then came the somewhat impudent statements of Peary from Greenland and the ill advised criticisms of his friends in New York and Brooklyn

and the real discoverer of the north pole, with little credence is given to the statements of Peary.

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