

A New Memorial to the North Pole Discoverer



REAR ADMIRAL R. E. PEARY



The Proposed Monument at Cape York



The Arctic Wastelands



Peary's Monument in Arlington

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON



LAST month there sailed from New York a romantic expedition. It went aboard the schooner Effie M. Morrissey, commanded by Capt. Bob Bartlett, and its destination was Cape York, Greenland, 76 degrees north. On one of the high cliffs at Cape York the members of the party will erect a monument, rising 60 feet in the air and tapering to a shining cap of non-corrosive steel which will catch the beams of the midnight sun and act as a beacon to ships which come that far into the Arctic regions. This monument will be a memorial to one of the greatest Arctic explorers in history, the man who first reached the North Pole, Admiral Robert E. Peary of the United States navy.

The story of Peary's career and his final attainment of the North pole, the goal of explorers from every nation for centuries, is the story of an heroic American to whom there was literally "no such word as failure." More than that, he has justly been called "the first perfect Arctic scientist" for in his preparations for his Polar expeditions he never left anything to chance.

While still a student in Bowdoin college Peary became interested in the Arctic regions and took a well planned course in Arctic geography, polar science and dietetics. His civil engineer degree from Bowdoin had been the result of a carefully planned course to fit himself for polar exploration. He applied and was given a commission in the navy in 1881 and during his tour of duty in Central America spent all his leisure studying further in polar navigation. In 1886 he secured leave of absence to test out his theoretical knowledge by a short trip to Greenland.

His next trip, 1891, was such another reconnaissance of the ice cap. He went north up the Greenland coast to within a few miles of Elisha Kent Kane's old base and proceeded with three companions on a sledge trip across the island. At a point 130 miles from camp, he sent two companies back, they having fulfilled their mission of carrying reserve food for the two who were to make the final dash. He completed the overland journey on July 4, 1892, scaled a cliff 4,000 feet high to get down to the sea, making on the outward journey nearly 600 miles, a record for such exploration. In returning to camp, he struck directly across the island, reaching an altitude of 8,000 feet and traveling 500 miles.

In 1893, accompanied by his wife, he returned to a location just north of the great glacier that had defeated Kane. It was at this camp that, on September 12, his daughter was born.

On March 6, 1894, Peary started inland across the ice again with eight men and ninety-two dogs. At an elevation of 5,500 feet and 134 miles from camp, he was snowbound; his dogs began dying, and his men were frost-bitten. A general advance was manifestly impossible; so caching his reserve stores and sending back the disabled men, he pushed on indomitably with only three companions. In fourteen days thereafter, he made only eighty-five miles; to try further was inviting catastrophe, and so he retreated to camp, arriving with only 25 of his original 92 dogs.

When the relief ship came for him during the summer, he decided, in spite of his short supplies, to remain with two volunteers an-

other winter to achieve what he had failed to do the last winter. His wife and child, and the rest of the party returned to the states. From Eskimo neighbors he got four volunteers and increased his dog pack to 63; with these and his two companions he started across again. The third day out one of the Eskimos deserted, but undeterred, the intrepid explorer continued. His cache of the preceding winter could not be found so that failure seemed certain. He ordered the Eskimos back and with 41 dogs and his two men continued.

Reaching the eastern coast toward the end of May, he killed 10 musk ox and with food for 17 days and a frozen man who had to be hauled on the sledge he began a push for camp against starvation. Almost exhausted he reached camp June 25. Having achieved his objective, he returned to the states on the relief ship which came for him a month later.

In 1898 he was back for a four-year attempt for the pole. He put his ship in for the winter near Cape Sabine, just south of Greeley's tragic camp. Through ice floes and crevasses he followed the coast, sending Eskimos and men back as they became exhausted or injured, finally on January 6 reaching Greeley's observatory on Lady Franklin Bay. On February 18, 1899, they were back at the ship. It was found necessary to amputate seven of the commander's toes which had been frozen and further exploration that summer was abandoned. In March 1900, he moved up to Fort Conger, making all along the coast caches of food against a forced retreat. On April 15, he crossed the ice with his faithful negro servant, Henson, who accompanied him on every expedition, and five Eskimos, to the Greenland coast, and pushed north on sledges.

Skirting the north point of Greenland, proving finally that Greenland was an island that did not extend to the pole, he made complete maps of the whole region. From Fort Conger, during the winter of 1900-1901, he made short trips to the north preparatory to an advance in the spring. This attempt for the pole he was forced to abandon north of Grant Land and returned to Fort Conger for another winter. He left Fort Conger on February 24, for another try for the pole; after making a new farthest north, 84:17, he again met a great open lane in the ice and had to abandon the attempt. He returned to the states in September, 1902.

Undaunted, he renewed his attempt in 1905. Again at 84:36 in Grant Land he came across the open lead and for six days was unable to cross. When the young ice formed he made a dash to cross the lead. Most of the sledges made the passage when a gale sprang up, breaking up the thin ice, with most of the provisions still on the south side. There was nothing to do but push on to the north. At 85:12 a storm of snow held them up inactive in camp for six days. Meanwhile, they steadily drifted some 70 miles southward.

On April 21 they had reached 87:3, a new farthest north; realizing the foolhardiness of further advance, Peary faced south for the return to camp.

His final expedition came in 1908. Accompanied by 11 scientists, ice experts and Matt Henson, his faithful servant, he returned to the base on Grant Land. On March 1, with a great ice army of 6 men 17 Eskimos, 133 dogs and 19 sledges, in two divisions under himself and Captain Bartlett, he started straight out over the ice. They made good speed to the north until the opening of the spring season began to make the pack disintegrate. As men became exhausted or incapacitated from frost, Peary sent them back. As provisions became lower, more of the party were sent back, in order to enable those remaining to continue. By March 22, with less than 140 miles between him and the pole, Peary was alone with his negro, Henson, and four Eskimos. In forced marches, feeding full rations and pushing forward as rapidly as possible, he found himself on the morning of April 6 at 89:57—less than three miles from his goal. A few hours later he was at the point where it was south no matter where he looked.

At the spot where his observations determined the North pole to be Peary planted the American flag given him by his wife fifteen years before for that purpose. The colors of his college fraternity, of the Navy league and of the Red Cross were added and records of the event left. Thirty hours were consumed in observations, rest and preparations for the hazardous journey back.

But when Peary returned to civilization to reap the rewards of his achievement, it was to find that he had a bitter controversy on his hands. Dr. Frederick Cook, who had accompanied previous Peary expeditions as a surgeon, had claimed that he had reached the pole on April 21, 1908, ten months before Peary. At first Cook's claims were accepted by scientists, then rejected as insufficiently proved. Peary's data were accepted by the National Geographic society as positive proof that he had reached the pole. Later from other sources recognition came to Peary—medals from learned societies, the acclaim of rulers and scientists, a pension and the rank of rear admiral from his own country. When he died on February 20, 1920, the world joined in honoring his memory and now 12 years later his name is heard again throughout the world as those who knew him and loved him best prepare to pay the fitting tribute of erecting to his memory a monument in the land he won his fame.

DEATH OR SLAVERY FATE OF CHILDREN

"Crusades" That Were Doomed to Misfortune.

There were no less than three movements called "children's crusades," the first in 1212, the second in 1237, and the third in 1458. The first is the one usually referred to as the children's crusade, because it far surpassed the others in magnitude and importance.

It consisted of two distinct movements. At about the same time, in the early summer of 1212, two immense armies of children were gathered at Cologne, Germany, and at Vendome, France, in response to the summons of boy prophets who proclaimed themselves inspired by heaven.

The prophet leaders are known to history as Stephen of Cloys and Nicholas of Cologne—each of them about twelve. The crusade they preached was not a crusade of blood against the Saracen, but one of prayer. The children were to march to the sea, which would open for them as it had for the Israelites, to permit them to pass over to Palestine dry shod. There they would convert the leaders of Islam, baptize the heathen and by prayer and faith accomplish what the armored hosts of kings and knights had failed to do.

The excitement aroused by this preaching spread like the plague among children of all classes. There was parental opposition, but the mania spread, and finally the cry of heresy was raised against those who sought to check it. Within short intervals, two unarmed hosts of German children—most of them under twelve and many of them girls—left Cologne to march to the sea. They are believed to have numbered about 40,000. Soon the army of 30,000 French children, under Stephen, left Vendome.

The German children crossed the formidable Alpine passes—which generals had never traversed without great difficulty—and descended into Italy to gain the sea. The losses of their columns were probably 30,000 between Cologne and Italy; while the French army lost 10,000 of its number before it reached Marseilles, heat and hunger straying the pathway with bodies. Of the 70,000 children who joined the crusade probably less than 20,000 were ever heard of afterward by their parents or friends. The most of those who survived were such as had been unable to keep up with the rest and had dropped out of the ranks in their own countries.

When the army of Nicholas reached Genoa and found that the sea would not open, there was a general breaking up. The Genoese cared for and fed bands of these waifs and assisted some of them in returning home. But the larger number pressed on to Pisa, whence they obtained passage by ship. Others gained Brindisi, and were also "shipped to Palestine." Most of those who did not die on the way were sold as slaves to the Turks and Arabs. Of the French children, 5,000 fared equally ill, for they were induced by merchants of Marseilles to ship with them for the Holy Land, and all who survived the voyage were sold, like the German children, into slavery.

White Indians Found

A Harvard museum explorer has confirmed the long reported existence of white Indians in South America. Returning from an expedition during which he penetrated the alternate arid and jungle country of northeastern Paraguay, Dr. Donald S. Wess, of that institution, reports the finding of white Indians with blond hair living in both the jungle and Grand desert like wild animals. He says they do not have clothes, shelters or traps of any kind. The bow and arrow is their chief weapon. They were so shy and wild he couldn't even get a picture of them.

No Occupation

A teacher was explaining to a third-grade class what the word occupation meant. She asked each child to tell what his father's occupation was. All responded except one.

"Pauline," queried the teacher. "What work does your father do?" "Oh," responded the eight-year-old with a superior air, "My father doesn't have to work; he's a salesman."

Culture Will Out

Mrs. Smith—Has it broadened the mind of your son to send him to college?

Mrs. Jones—Oh, yes; why, he treats his parents almost as his equals now.

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J. K. Lowndes, Chicago fly fisherman, had a catch which he boasts is the most original ever made by a fisherman. In the process of making a cast, he flipped his line straight behind him. The line caught a many and much irritated black bear, the fly catching in the bear's left ear. Returning to the spot an hour later, Mr. Lowndes found the bear gone and his rod broken, but he had a thumb nail patch of bearskin as proof of his prowess.

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Another date broken... Couldn't stay on her feet a minute longer! Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound always relieves cramps. Try it next month.

"Humanitarian" Dog

An unusual dog is owned by a farmer of Baljarg, Ayrshire, Scotland. He is a black and white collie. He was seen catching a rabbit; but evidently was sensitive as to the spilling of blood and refused to worry the rabbit to death. Instead of that, he hauled his captive to a burn, where he held his head under water till it was drowned. He has never, the farmer says, done other than drown his rabbits.

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Spot Without Rain

There is no need to go so far afield as Australia and South America to find a really dry place. In Lerca, on the Mediterranean coast of Spain, there has been no rain to speak of for the past seven years, and more than 20,000 people have left for wetter latitudes. Why it should be so dry in this particular district is a puzzle which the weather experts cannot solve.

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Profitable Shooting

At Chicago, Tom Anderson's shooting was so good that he won a turkey at a rifle range. Inside the turkey's gizzard his wife found a diamond. The bird came from a farm somewhere in Michigan, but Anderson said he was not worrying about that.

Unfortunate Expedition

There were 120 ships in the Spanish armada which attacked England in 1588; only 54 survived the expedition to return home.

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