

**WHAT PEARY HAS ACCOMPLISHED.**  
The recent return to Sydney, N. Y., of the Peary relief steamer Erik reveals the results of that daring and industrious explorer during the past two years. While Lieutenant Peary has not yet succeeded in reaching the north pole, his achievements are considerable and satisfactory. His greatest success consists in having discovered and charted the northernmost island of the Greenland archipelago, which is also the most northerly known land in the world. He has called the island Melville Land and expresses the belief that there is no land anywhere lying nearer the pole. With pardonable pride the lieutenant congratulates the Peary Arctic club on the fact that through its instrumentality the most northerly cape of Greenland has been "lifted out of the arctic mists and obscurity." Henceforth the geographies will no longer print the map of Greenland without northern boundaries.

It is gratifying that Lieutenant Peary has been able thus to complete in person the work which he began when he discovered and charted the coast about Independence bay in 1892. That bay is on the northeast coast of Greenland. This time Peary landed on the north-west coast and traveled all the way around the shore to Independence bay. This remarkable march was made in the summer of 1900 with Henson and a small party of Eskimos. He started from Etah, his landing place, on April 15 and on May 8 reached Lockwood's farthest north cairn. Thence he pushed forward to latitude 83 degrees 39 minutes, where he found the coast turning sharply to the east. Here he struck northward and tried a "dash for the pole," but at latitude 83 degrees 50 minutes he was compelled to turn back by open water and broken ice. This is the highest latitude ever gained by an American.

On regaining the coast he completed his survey of the shore line and returned to Fort Conger to prepare for another advance upon the pole in the spring of 1901. That attempt was made from Cape Hecla, the northern extremity of Grinnell Land, but after ten days in the field it was found that the men and dogs were not in fit condition, and the explorer was obliged to return and prepare for another expedition in the spring of 1902.

At present Lieutenant Peary is in comfortable winter quarters at Cape Sabine, on the west coast of Greenland, where he has accumulated the meat of 180 walrus, or about ninety tons of food for men and dogs, besides the meat and skins of forty deer. With an ample supply of provisions pushed forward to Fort Conger, he expects to take the field from that point again with the returning light in April. If persistency, courage and endurance get their fair reward, this intrepid pole chaser will find the object of his long and dangerous quest.

Rear Admiral Sampson has been detached at his own request from service as commandant of the Boston navy yard. His successor is Rear Admiral Mortimer L. Johnson, formerly commandant of the Port Royal naval station. Admiral Sampson's reason for retiring from active duty is that his health is broken. He will go on the retired list in February of next year, as he will then have reached the age limit of sixty-two years. Under the clause which permits a naval officer to be retired after forty years of service Admiral Sampson is now eligible for retirement, but as officers of the navy take pride in completing the full term of service he will probably ask to be kept on waiting orders until February. Admiral Sampson has served through two wars and has done signal service on nearly all of the naval boards.

Kwang Su, emperor of China, has sent to Mutsumi Hito, emperor of Japan, a cordial and whole-hearted apology for China's affront to her late conqueror contained in the assassination of the chancellor of the Japanese legation at Peking. There is in it a sincerity quite lacking in Prince Chun's late humiliation before the German emperor. It is more than an apology. It invites the sovereign of Japan to "draw closer and closer the bonds of friendship uniting the two empires." There is a promise of something like a Japanese-Chinese alliance in this invitation, which, it is believed, the Japanese emperor would be willing to accept. Such an alliance might have very important consequences to the world.

President Roosevelt's first official act was the signing of the commission as brigadier general of Lieutenant Colonel James M. Bell. This promotion had been decided upon by President McKinley, and President Roosevelt's prompt ratification of it shows how literally he is fulfilling his promise to carry out the plans of his predecessor.

Sanctus Dumont does not appear to be having much luck with his dirigible balloon, but he is accumulating considerable celebrity as an aerial acrobat.

The staff of Governor McKim's of Tennessee consists of five generals and twenty-two colonels. Tennessee must be anticipating a border war.

John Armstrong Chamber may be perceived from the fact that he cannot deny that James married Anna's twin.

**THE OCEAN ELECTION LAW.**  
The Cuban constitutional convention has formally adopted the law which defines the methods and terms of conducting elections in Cuba. Among the provisions of the law are these:  
The constitutional convention is to open the first day of election and to scrutinize the election of the president of the republic. The president of the constitutional convention is to preside at the opening of the new congress, but only provisional executive committees are elected by the two chambers of congress. Boards of canvassers are provided to examine the credentials of all candidates for appointment. Registry boards are to begin their work eighteen days after the law is promulgated and to continue it for fifteen days. After this the provincial boards of canvassers take charge, and the various elections at the intervals of fifteen days take place in the order named above.

The law has been submitted to Governor General Wood for the approval or disapproval of the United States. It is reported by newspapers and seems quite probable that this government will criticize most strongly that part of the proposed law which provides for separate elections for senatorial electors, for governors and councilors, for representatives and presidential electors and finally for senators. The feeling in entertained in Washington that the law provides for too many elections. Four elections taking place at intervals of fifteen days would, it is felt, have a tendency to keep the people overexcited on political questions, to interfere with ordinary business and nonpolitical pursuits and to keep alive political animosities.

Possibly Venezuela has been devoting too much time to asphalt and not enough to the cultivation of olive branches.

Horse racing has now come to be recognized as a money making enterprise—for the fellows who don't own the horses.

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