

**Fridtjof Nansen  
King of the North**

A Career of Achievement in Many Fields, Lies Behind Fridtjof Nansen, the Famous Explorer, Who is Now Visiting America and Who, Instead of Resting on His Laurels, Plans, at the Age of 67, New Conquests in the Polar Regions

By Vilhjalmur Stefansson, Noted Arctic Explorer, Scientist and Author, in New York Herald-Tribune.

Several years ago, including myself, and used by being produced to and common. (I have no other well known traveler is present) as the "greatest living explorer." But when no potential explorer is present and when much information and interest in the matter are gathered together, the name is always the same—that of Fridtjof Nansen, that citizen of the north, born in Norway, who has just landed in New York for a tour through the United States.

There are several explorers living who are great in their own fields, if you judge greatness at all to a craft of this nature. Dr. Nansen, so far as we can judge, would have been a great, or at least a distinguished and outstanding man had he followed almost any other cerebral occupation. And many occupations are congenial to him. He is a man of varied tastes and numerous talents. He does not win the Nobel Prize, for instance, through any achievement in the line of a profession or through work which has proved of distinct benefit to humanity. He was the first to humiliate the lack of marshaling the relief forces of the world against the Russian famine which has been made, in our eyes, even more terrible than it was by the propagandists who work to blame it exclusively on the Russian people.

There are predecessors to every inventor, there are steps in every discovery, even in such great ones as Nansen's. The "Geogedret" under the Austrians, had drifted with the ice in 1824, showing that it could be done to the Arctic. The "Geogedret" and "Fram" had drifted north-westward through what was really water, although it had been supposed to be land, and her commander, the American naval lieutenant DeLong, had even formulated some plans that could be based on the kind of drift.

Perhaps Dr. DeLong, lived his might have been the originator of the rounded-out Nansen plan of building a ship that was peculiarly adapted to resisting ice pressures. Stocking her with wholesome food, planning to live aboard or near her an active operation. His drift year after year, counting on fresh meat secured by hunting to maintain the health of the crew, and this, as a well planned scientific laboratory, drifting across the Arctic basin by setting the vessel fast in the ice on the side from which the drift appeared to come and expecting her, when enough years had passed to emerge at the opposite side.

Nansen studied all the facts and concluded that the drift across the Arctic basin was from the side of Alaska, Bering Strait and eastern Siberia, toward the side of the Atlantic, Norway and Iceland.

He built the Fram and put her in the ice in 1893. She emerged in 1896 with the complete vindication of a theory and a method that were not only demonstrably new from the historical point of view but were so new from the scientific or logical point of view that most of the highest authorities in the world had called them every-day and suicidal to insane.

Nansen is a man of rounded character and balanced genius. His drift, accordingly, was no mere triumph of one theory but carried with it the gathering of the largest body of accurate and important knowledge that has ever been brought together by a single Arctic expedition.

One sample from many will show how novel the conclusions were in some ways. Before that time even scientists had commonly believed that the Arctic was particularly stormy. Nansen accumulated a mass of data which enabled him to show that in no part of equal size in the world are storms so few and mild on the average.

How novel this view was when he set it forth in 1897 you can convince yourself if you look over the various popular books about the Arctic. For it is doubtful that you will find more than one or two of them, even thirty years later, that do not express or imply the old belief in the prevalence of violent storms, ignoring not only Nansen's own testimony but all the mass of corroborative testimony that has been published since then including, for instance, the reports of my own expeditions which have covered an aggregate of more than seven years within the Arctic Circle.

The time is just coming when the world is to make practical use of this Nansen finding. The rarity and average mildness of storms in the Arctic is one of the cornerstones in the program for use of the Arctic as an aerial highway to fly by the shortest routes between such populous centers of the north temperate zone as lie on opposite sides of the Arctic from each other, as, for instance, Chicago and Stockholm, Seattle and Berlin, New York and Peking, London and Tokyo.

Nansen does not retire, nor rest on his laurels. After becoming foremost among explorers, he took part in winning for Norway her independence from Sweden, and later represented Norway as Minister to London. He who was a politician and diplomat, he carried it on, too, who as a statesman representing the League of Nations, he administered the famine relief in Russia.

He is carrying on oceanographic work and at sixty-seven is about to re-enter polar exploration, though on a basis entirely different from his pioneer work of thirty-five years ago. He is doing now nothing that is revolution-

ploration, the ease of its "difficult" achievements, is based, too, that says, "I could do it for an explorer to take the public into his confidence about how easy some of the heralded feats really were. It is safe by now, however, to tell the truth about the crossing of Greenland, for both of the conquerors, Peary and Nansen, have since taken to unassailable heights, recognized as leaders in their craft by explorers as well as by the public. Their reputations now rest safely on the doing of really great and fundamentally important as well as difficult things.

It is the mood of children to kick at obstructions. The small and petulant Peary to conquer nature and to bend her forces to their will. They are driven to magic and misdeeds and to thwarted struggles against the impossible. On the part of such children of a larger growth there had been, before Nansen's time, many high expressions of lofty but ineffectual purpose about conquering the Arctic. There had been too, advances by a few men of genius—by Eric the Red, by Peary, by McClintock, and perhaps as many others as you can count on the fingers of two hands.

Still none, even of these great ones, had done more than to stop fighting natural obstacles, to adapt themselves to them as they found them and to go ahead with their work on that basis. Nansen was the first to formulate and carry out a plan by which the so-called hostility of the Arctic could be actually made to cooperate in a plan for its own subjugation.

Even Peary had been outright defeated by the circumstances that the public sees it not covered with one vast expanse of ice which you can treat as if it were solid land, but with vastitudes of cakes of ice which offer a constant alternation between solid and liquid, and which are, moreover, in constant drift—constant only in that they are moving, but not in the direction of their motion. Nansen was the first to make planned use of this "difficult."

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Happy in the Wilderness of Mid-Ontario



SNOW-BATHED WOODLANDS, KEEN AIR AND HEALTH. The Jolly weekend party, in the depths of the Muskoka woods, is in high spirits with every nerve a-tingle to the air's exhilaration. Neither are their four-legged companions wasting time.

also in 1893-96. The fact he gathered then and the principles he established would begin after thirty years (to fill the press dispatches if those methods were followed, and might even succeed in getting a footing as low down as our common school textbooks, Nansen's ideas might begin to move the world.

But whether or not the public decides to find out and understand what Nansen has done, let's treat him well in any case, now that he is among us. For the Nobel Prize and the gold medals of scores of learned societies certify that he is a great man. And we are used to worshipping great men, even if we do not understand them—men like Einstein. For instance, it does a lot of good, the thrill has a tonic effect.

Perhaps because the Arctic is the home of Santa Claus, we seem nationally and internationally unwilling that any realities shall prevail in our thoughts of the far North. Personally fond of Santa Claus, I would be the last to desire that any one should handicap that benevolent saint materially. It seems to me I have found a way around the apparent dilemma.

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FOR SCHOOL HOURS. A patterned wool jersey, whose smartness is instantly recognized in flaring sides of skirt, achieved through shirring at hips. The attractive turn-over collar, turn-back flared cuffs and applied band at centre front of blouse, are of plain jersey. Style No. 379 is designed in sizes 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. It is also effective in navy blue wool crepe, with light red gros-grain ribbon-pleated to trim collar, band and cuffs. Printed sateen plain jersey, wool challis, lightweight tweed, linen, chambray and velveteen also suitable. Pattern price 20c in stamps or coin (coin is preferred). "Wrap coin carefully."

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS. Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by an early mail.

**Royal Road to Learning**

Reading Aloud to Boys and Girls Called Easy Road to Culture

Recently Charles F. D. Bolden, director of the Boston Public Library, had the secretary of the Henry E. Huntington Foundation, in Boston, that it would give him pleasure to come down and read aloud one evening to a group of boys in the Huntington Library. "How many will be there?" Mr. Bolden inquired. "As many as you like, from a dozen to 500," the secretary said. "Eight hundred is too many," said Mr. Bolden. "I do not wish to make a special party of it. I am going to read a story. Stories are best read to small groups."

So, on a certain evening, Mr. Bolden read Conrad's story called "Youth" to about 20 boys. Later he is room at the library, Mr. Bolden explained what he had in mind in reading aloud to boys himself, and arranging for others to do so at intervals. He is a tall spare man of recede speech; his room is small and airy, with a long black table—

the vaulting in the low ceiling is picked out in the turquoise blue that ancient Egyptian prints are loved. Two floors of the room stood open, he twined the Mr. Bolden walked, he went and forth, back and forth, back of the door for a moment when he had turned, before crossing the floor again.

"Look Conrad's story," Mr. Bolden said, "because my own boys of the Huntington Library, I had been happy hearing it read aloud. At the time their ages were between eight and seventeen. I approved it at the time as the best of the Foundation might start, but a good one's best, that there are beautiful illustrations beyond the printed word. One would not read it and, therefore, the reading matter."

Subsequently, Mr. Bolden arranged for others to take turns at the reading. Professor Ross of the Emerson College of Oratory, Mr. and Mrs. John Crosby, the Mr. Bolden story club, and others. Mr. Bolden speaks of Professor Crosby, the famous "Crosby" of the idea of all readers.

Mr. Bolden asked what he believed lay in reading aloud that was more provocative to boys and girls, said, "Well, in my house the children say 'And now Mother, will you read us a chapter after supper?' Mrs. Bolden says, 'Wind in the willows.' 'Huckleberry Finn.' 'Then' bedtime and she says, 'We will go on with this another time.' I am certain that the children will not want to be someone to go on with it another time, but that they will go on with it themselves. It is a very little of that, you know, a book which has nothing to do with the school, (compulsory) and everything to do with the pure joy of investigating."

**Marketing Breakfast Eggs**

How to Tell Which Is New and Which Is the Election Variety

"...with a view to helping hospitals—and his suggestion has been adopted by the ordinary home cook—'egg marketing' which came into force the next few months the eggs will undergo another process that may well be of supplemental importance. The scheme, it is believed, is to be a voluntary one, and it is a pity that it is not being carried out more widely.

The eggs which are marketed in this way are of the variety known as 'election' eggs. They are of a pale yellow color and are of a size which is larger than the ordinary 'breakfast' egg. They are also of a size which is larger than the ordinary 'breakfast' egg. They are also of a size which is larger than the ordinary 'breakfast' egg.

It is interesting, for the hospital administration, to know that the supply of eggs is being increased. It is also interesting, for the hospital administration, to know that the supply of eggs is being increased. It is also interesting, for the hospital administration, to know that the supply of eggs is being increased.

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**Will We Have What We Want**

Points to Be Considered in Selecting Your Motor Boat

A number of qualities should be considered when buying motor boat. A number of qualities should be considered when buying motor boat. A number of qualities should be considered when buying motor boat.

There are certain qualities, like sea-worthiness in choppy water, speed in rough water, speed in smooth water, comfort for every other use, and maneuverability in rough water, which are paramount in certain types of motor boats. When these are sought by the designer in unusual degree he sacrifices other things for it. We must recognize that specialized models have their drawbacks as well as their strong points.

If you want a boat which folds up, continues motor, do not expect it to be as stout or capable of absorbing as much abuse as a compass old white pine row-boat about a commercial anchorage. It won't stand it. And that's no fault of the maker, either. If you really want a boat which folds up and is easily transportable, you want it light enough to take care of it, use it within its limitations, and keep it in good shape for the next trip. If you don't give up the idea.

"If it is seaworthiness that you want, stop and think. Seaworthiness where? If it is speed, what kind of speed? and where. If it is comfort, remember that is also a comparative term. How much comfort? You can't have the comforts of a 30-foot cruiser in a 10-foot rowboat."

Good Natured Gossip. The spire's pretty young daughter, accompanied by the new curate, was examining the children of the village school. "Now, children," she began, "can you tell me what a miracle is?" "There was no answer for a moment, and she was about to repeat the question when a little maiden held up her hand. "Well, Nellie," said the spire's daughter encouragingly, "tell the class what a miracle is." "Please, miss," the little girl replied, "mother says it'll be a miracle if you don't marry the new curate!"

Love is an art that must be learned. Once learned, it is a very pleasant thing, though there are dangers. —Shirley Eddy.

**Just Another Day**

It was little Lucy's first day on the railway train, and the screaming and wailing had reduced her to a state of hysterical astonishment. Suddenly the train rounded a bend and, with a piercing shriek from the whistle, entered a tunnel. "There were gasps of surprise from the corner where little Lucy sat on the window. A few seconds later the train rushed into broad daylight once again. This proved too much for the child. "Dadde, she cried at the top of her shrill little voice—"daddy, it's morning!"

**A Local Directory**

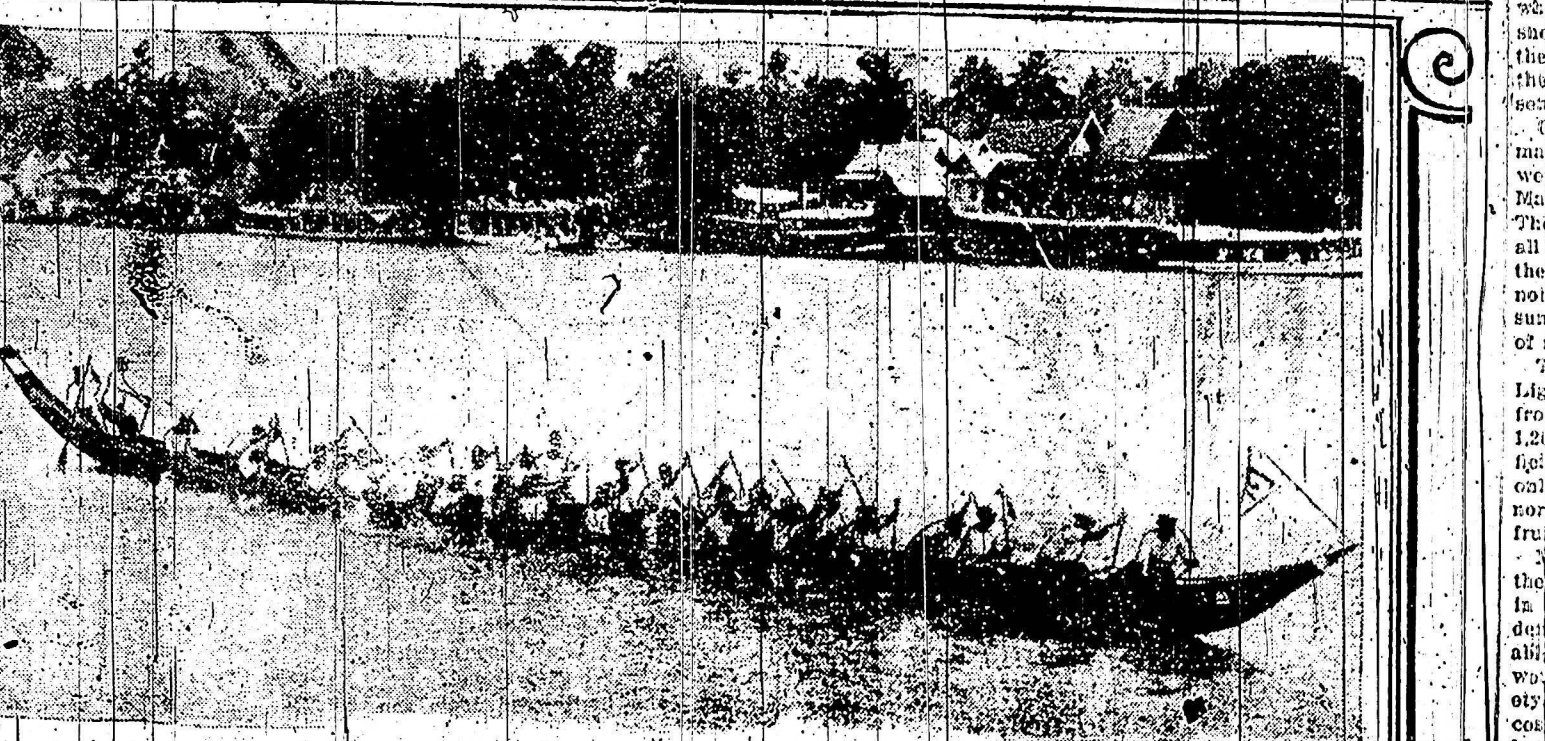
After several months of silent courtship the young man found his advances coldly rejected, and he took it very badly. "If you were to look on my name," he pleaded, "you'd find your name engraved on it in imprishable characters." "But the girl was not a bit impressed. She knew that he had proposed to every girl in the district at least once during the ten years he had lived there.

**Strawberries Without Sun**

Electric Lights Prove Sufficient to Produce Good Fruit But Costly. Paris.—One of the coldest winters ever recorded in the history of France, the savants of the Academy of Science recently ascribed the failure of the strawberry crop to the fact that the plants were not exposed to the sun. Careful studies had shown that the plants, which were in full bearing, were not exposed to the sun. The result was that the berries were all killed by frost. The scientists concluded that the plants were not exposed to the sun.

Members of the academy declared the berries to rank with the best in flavor and quality. Their president, however, said it was not probable that the berries would be of any use to the gardener. The academy was explicit. The cost of growing by electric lights had been 125 francs (\$3) for each strawberry.

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Something in Siamese Sampans or a Big War Canoe. SIAMESE CLAIM RECORD LENGTH FOR THE CLASS OF WAR CANOES. Siamese paddlers, in picturesque traditional garb, paddling the world's longest craft of its kind at the water carnival at Nondapuri, near Bangkok, the capital of Siam. It carried gifts for the temple.

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