

# PEARY REFUTES THE CLAIMS OF EXPLORER COOK

ISSUES LONG PROMISED STATEMENT IN NORTH POLE DISPUTE.

GIVES STORY OF THE ESKIMOS

The Statement Is Signed by Peary, Bartlett, McMillan, Borup and Henson of the Roosevelt Party—Eskimo Boys Closely Questioned by All.

(Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1909, by the Peary Arctic Club, in the office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington, D. C.)

New York, Oct. 12. — The following statement of Commander Robert E. Peary, which he submitted, together with the accompanying map, to the Peary Arctic club in support of his contention that Dr. Cook did not reach the north pole, is now made public for the first time. The statement and map have been copyrighted by the Peary Arctic club.

### INTRODUCTION BY PEARY.

Some of my reasons for saying that Dr. Cook did not go to the north pole will be understood by those who read the following statements of the two Eskimo boys who went with him, and who told me and others of my party where he did go. Several Eskimos who started with Dr. Cook from Anoratok in February, 1908, were at Etah when I arrived there in August, 1908. They told me that Dr. Cook had with him, after they left, two Eskimo boys, or young men, two sledges and some twenty dogs. The boys were Itook-a-shoo and Ah-pe-lah. I had known them from their childhood. One was about eighteen and the other about nineteen years of age.

On my return from Cape Sheridan and at the very first settlement I touched (Narke, near Cape Chalon) in August, 1909, and nine days before reaching Etah, the Eskimos told me, in a general way, where Dr. Cook had been; that he had wintered in Jones Sound, and that he had told the white men at Etah that he had been a long way north, but that the boys who were with him, Itook-a-shoo and Ah-pe-lah, said that this was not so. The Eskimos laughed at Dr. Cook's story. On reaching Etah, I talked with the Eskimos there and with the two boys and asked them to describe Dr. Cook's journey to members of my party and myself. This they did in the manner set out below.

(Signed) R. E. PEARY.

Signed Statement of Peary, Bartlett, McMillan, Borup and Henson, in Relation to Testimony of Cook's Two Eskimo Boys.

The two Eskimo boys, Itook-a-shoo and Ah-pe-lah, who accompanied Dr. Cook while he was away from Anoratok in 1908 and 1909, were questioned separately and independently, and were corroborated by Panikpah, the father of one of them (Itook-a-shoo), who was personally familiar with the first third and the last third of their journey, and who said that the route for the remaining third, as shown by them, was as described to him by his son after his return with Dr. Cook.

To go more into details: One of the boys was called In, and, with a chart on the table before him, was asked to show where he had gone with Dr. Cook. This he did, pointing out with his finger on the map, but not making any marks upon it.

As he went out, the other boy came in and was asked to show where he had gone with Dr. Cook. This he did, also without making any marks, and indicated the same route and the same details as did the first boy.

When he was through, Panikpah, the father of Itook-a-shoo, a very intelligent man, who was in the party of Eskimos that came back from Dr. Cook from the northern end of Nansen's strait, who is familiar as a hunter with the Jones Sound region, and who has been in Commander Peary's various expeditions for some fifteen years, came in and indicated the same localities and details as the two boys.

Then the first boy was brought in again, and with a pencil he traced on the map their route, members of our party writing upon the chart where according to the boy's statement, they had killed deer, bear, some of their dogs, seal, walrus and musk oxen.

The second boy was then called in, and the two went over the chart together, the second boy suggesting some changes as noted hereafter.

During the taking of this testimony,

MAP SHOWING WHAT PEARY CLAIMS IS ROUTE TRAVELED BY DR. COOK



It developed that Dr. Cook had told these boys, as he told Mr. Whitney and Billy Pritchard, the cabin boy, that they must not tell Commander Peary or any of us anything about their journey, and the boys stated Dr. Cook had threatened them if they should tell anything.

The narrative of these Eskimos is as follows:

They, with Dr. Cook, Francke and nine other Eskimos, left Anoratok, crossed Smith's Sound to Cape Sabine, slept in Payer Harbor, then went through Rice strait to Buchanan bay. After a few marches Francke and three Eskimos returned to Anoratok.

Dr. Cook, with the others, then proceeded up Flagler bay, a branch of Buchanan bay, and crossed Ellesmere Land through the valley pass at the head of Flagler bay, indicated by Commander Peary in 1898, and utilized by Sverdrup in 1899, to the head of Sverdrup's "Bay Flord" on the west side of Ellesmere Land.

Their route then lay out through this flord, thence north through Sverdrup's "Heuerka Sound" and Nansen strait.

On their way they killed musk oxen and bear, and made caches, arriving eventually at a point on the west side of Nansen strait (shore of Axel Heiberg Land of Sverdrup), south of Cape Thomas Hubbard.

A cache was formed here and the four Eskimos did not go beyond this point. Two others, Koolootingwah and Inughto, went on one more march with Dr. Cook and the two boys, helped to build the snow igloo, then returned without sleeping.

(These two Eskimos brought back a letter from Dr. Cook to Francke, dated the seventeenth of March. The two men rejoined the other four men who had been left behind, and the six returned to Anoratok, arriving May 7. This information was obtained not from the two Eskimo boys, but from the six men who returned and from Francke himself, and was known to us in the summer of 1908, when the Roosevelt first arrived at Etah. The information is inserted here as supplementary to the narrative of the two boys.)

After sleeping at the camp where the last two Eskimos turned back, Dr. Cook and the two boys went in a northerly or northwesterly direction with two sledges and twenty-odd dogs, one or more march, when they encountered rough ice and a lead of open water. They did not enter this rough ice, nor cross the lead, but turned westward or southwestward a short distance and returned to Heiberg Land at a point west of where they had left the cache and where the four men had turned back.

After being informed of the boys' narrative thus far, Commander Peary suggested a series of questions to be put to the boys in regard to this trip from the land out and back to it.

Did they cross many open leads or much open water during this time? Ans. None.

Did they make any caches out on the ice? Ans. No.

With how many sledges did they start? Ans. Two.

How many dogs did they have? Ans. Did not remember exactly, but something over twenty.

How many sledges did they have when they got back to land? Ans. Two.

Did they have any provisions left on their sledges when they came back to land? Ans. Yes; the sledges still had about all they could carry, so they were able to take but a few things from the cache.

From here they went southwest along the northwest coast of Heiberg Land to a point indicated on the map (Sverdrup's Cape Northwest).

From here they went west across the ice, which was level and covered with snow, offering good going, to a low island which they had seen from the shore of Heiberg Land at Cape Northwest. On this island they camped for one sleep.

From this island they could see two lands beyond (Sverdrup's Ellef Ringnes and Amund Ringnes Lands). From the island they journeyed toward the left-hand one of these two lands (Amund Ringnes Land), passing a small island which they did not visit.

Arriving at the shore of Amund Ringnes Land, the Eskimos killed a deer as indicated on the chart.

The above portion of the statement of the Eskimo boys covers the period of time in which Dr. Cook claims to have gone to the pole and back, and the entire time during which he could possibly have made any attempts to go to it.

If it is suggested that perhaps Dr. Cook got mixed and that he reached the pole, or thought he did, between the time of leaving the northwest coast of Heiberg Land at Cape Northwest, and his arrival at Ringnes Land, where they killed the deer, we must then add to the date of Dr. Cook's letter of March 17th, at or near Cape Thomas Hubbard, the subsequent four or five sleeps at that point, and the number of days required to march from Cape Thomas Hubbard to Cape Northwest (a distance of some sixty nautical miles), which would advance his date of departure from the land to at least the 25th of March, and be prepared to accept the claim that Dr. Cook went from Cape Northwest (about latitude eighty and a half degrees north) to the pole, a distance of

five hundred and seventy geographical miles, in twenty-seven days.

After killing the deer they then traveled south along the east side of Ringnes Land to the point indicated on the chart, where they killed another deer.

They then went east across the south part of Crown Prince Gustav sea to the south end of Heiberg Land, then down through Norwegian bay, where they secured some bears, but not until after they had killed some of their dogs, to the east side of Graham Island; then eastward to the little bay marked "Eld's Flord" on Sverdrup's chart; then southwest to Heil's Gate and Simmon's peninsula.

Here for the first time during the entire journey, except as already noted off Cape Thomas H. Hubbard, they encountered open water. On this point the boys were clear, emphatic, and unshakable. They spent a good deal of time in this region, and finally abandoned their dogs and one sledge, took to their boat, crossed Heil's Gate to North Kent, up into Norfolk Inlet, then back along the north coast of Colin Archer Peninsula to Cape Vera, where they obtained fresh elder duck eggs. Here they cut the remaining sledge off, that is shortened it, as it was awkward to transport with the boat, and near here they killed a walrus.

From Cape Vera they went on down into the southwest angle of Jones Sound, where they killed a seal; thence east along the south coast of the sound, killing three bears at the point noted on the map, to the peninsula known as Cape Sparbo on the map, about midway on the south side of Jones Sound. Here they killed some musk-oxen and, continuing east, killed four more at the place indicated on the chart, and were finally stopped by the pack ice at the mouth of Jones Sound. From here they turned back to Cape Sparbo, where they wintered and killed many musk-oxen.

After the sun returned in 1909 they started, pushing their sledge, across Jones Sound to Cape Tennyson; thence along the coast to Clarence Head; (passing inside of two small islands not shown on the chart, but drawn on it by the boys), where they killed a bear; thence across the broad bight in the coast to Cadogan Flord; thence around Cape Isabella and up to Commander Peary's old house in Payer Harbor near Cape Sabine, where they found a seal cached for them by Panikpah, Itook-a-shoo's father. From here they crossed Smith Sound on the ice, arriving at Anoratok.

(Signed) R. E. PEARY, U. S. N. ROBERT A. BARTLETT, Master S. S. Roosevelt. D. E. McMILLAN, GEORGE BORUP, MATTHEW A. HENSON.

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**Ambiguous.**  
Harold—What did she say when you turned out the gas and kissed her?  
Rupert—Said she felt as if she never wanted to see my face again.—Philadelphia Record.

**Is Poor Consolation.**  
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**Suggestion as to Clothing.**  
Clothing ought to be made with the soft ancient Egyptian or modern Chinese buttons. Maybe removable ones are better still. If it were not for buttons most laundering could be done by machinery.—New York Press.

**Salt Whale.**  
Already quite a trade is done with Japan in canned and salted whale meat. It is said to be more tender than beef and to taste like it.—National Food Magazine.

**Damage Done by Brown Rat.**  
The brown or Norway rat is regarded by the United States department of agriculture as "the worst mammal pest in the United States, the losses from its depredations amounting to many millions of dollars yearly."

**Peculiar Florida River.**  
The St. John's river in Florida is the only navigable river in the country that flows in a generally northerly direction into an ocean.

**Sad.**  
Two little girls were out walking when they passed the big brick building of an orphan asylum. "That, Minnie," said Rosy, anxious to impart her knowledge to her younger sister, "is where the little orphans live. Mr. and Mrs. Orphan are both dead."

**A Foolish Notion.**  
Most of the men who think the world is against them are so insignificant that the world has never noticed them.