

# AMUNDSEN WINS SOUTH POLE RACE

The Norwegian Explorer Tells of His Antarctic Dash.

## GRAPHIC ACCOUNT OF THE TRIP

Captain Amundsen's Own Narrative of His Attainment of the South Pole December 14, 1911.

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Hobart, Tasmania, March 8.—At 2 a. m. on the 10th day of February, 1911, we commenced to work our way toward the south, from that day to the 11th of April, establishing three depots, which in all contained a quantity of provisions of about 3,000 kilos, including 1,100 kilos of seal meat, were cached in 80 degrees, 700 kilos in 81 degrees and 800 kilos in 82 degrees south latitude.

As no land marks were to be seen these depots were marked with flags, seven kilometers on each side in the easterly and westerly directions. The ground and the state of the barrier were of the best and specially well adapted to driving with dogs. On February 15, we had thus traveled about 100 kilometers. The weight of the sledges was 300 kilos, and the number of dogs was six for each sledge. The surface of the barrier was smooth and fine with no sastrugi. The crevices were very local and were found dangerous in only two places.

For the rest long, smooth undulations. The weather was excellent, calm or a light breeze. The lowest temperature on these depot trips was minus 45 celsius or centigrade, (49 degrees below zero, fahrenheit.) On the 4th of March, on our return from the first trip beginning on the 15th of February, we found out that the Fram had already left us. With pride and delight we heard that her smart captain had succeeded in sailing her furthest south and there hoisting the colors of his country, a glorious moment, for him and his comrades, the furthest north and the furthest south, good old Fram the highest south latitude attained was 78 degrees 41 minutes.

**Winter on the Ice Barrier.**  
Before the arrival of winter we had 6,000 kilos of seal meat in the depots, enough for ourselves and 110 dogs. Eight dog houses, a combination of tents and snow huts were built.

Having cared for the dogs the turn came to use our solid little hut. It was almost entirely covered with snow by the middle of April. First we had to get light and air. The Lux lamp, which had a power 200 standard candles, gave us a brilliant light and kept the temperature up to 20 degrees celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit) throughout the winter, our excellent ventilation system gave us all the air we wanted.

In direct communication with the hut and dog houses on the Barrier were workshops, packing, rooms, cellars for provisions, coal, wood and oil, a plain bath, a steam bath, and an observatory. Thus we had everything within doors if the weather should be too cold and stormy.

The sun left us on the 22nd of April and did not return until four months later. The winter was spent in changing our whole outfit, which on the depot trips was found to be too clumsy and solid for the smooth surface of the Barrier. Besides this, as much scientific work as possible was done, and some astonishing meteorological observations were taken.

**Open Water all Winter.**  
There was very little snow, and there was open water close by throughout the winter. For the same reason higher temperature had been expected, but it remained very low.

In five months there were observed temperatures between minus 50 and 60 degrees celsius, (58 and 76 degrees below zero Fahrenheit) the lowest temperature on the 13th of August, being minus 59 degrees celsius. It was then calm. On the 1st of August the temperature was minus 58 degrees celsius, and there were six meters of wind.

The mean temperature for the year was minus 26 degrees celsius, (14.8 below zero Fahrenheit.)

I had expected hurricane after hurricane, but I observed only two moderate storms and many excellent auroras, in all directions.

The sanitary conditions were of the best all the winter and when the sun returned on the 24th of August he met the men sound in mind and body ready to set about the task that had to be solved.

Already the day before we had brought our sledges to the starting place for our march toward the south. Only in the beginning of September did the temperature rise to such an extent that there was any question of setting out.

### First Start for the Pole.

On the 8th of September eight men, with seven sledges, ninety dogs and provisions for four months started. The ground was perfect. The temperature was not bad. The next day it appeared that we had started too early, as the temperature of the following days fell and was kept steady

between minus 50 and 60 celsius (58 degrees and 76 degrees) below zero Fahrenheit. Personally we did not suffer at all from this cold. Our good furs protected us. But with our dogs it was a different matter. It could easily be seen that they shrank from day to day, and we understood pretty soon that they could not stand the long run to our depot at 80 degrees south.

We agreed on returning and to wait for the arrival of spring. The provisions were cached and off we went for the hut. With the exception of the loss of a few dogs and a couple of frozen heels everything was all right.

Only in the middle of October spring came in earnest. Seals and birds appeared. The temperature was steady between 20 and 30 celsius (68 degrees and 86 degrees Fahrenheit).

The original plan that all of us should go toward the south had been changed. Five men had to do this work, while the other three were to start for the east and visit King Edward VII land. This last mentioned trip was not included in our program, but owing to the fact that the English had not reached it, at least this summer, as was their intention, we agreed that the best thing to do was also to make this trip.

On October 20, the southern party started, five men, four sledges, fifty-two dogs, and provisions for four months, everything in excellent order.

**The Journey to the Pole.**  
We had made up our minds to take the first part of the trip as early as possible in order to give ourselves and the dogs a rational training, and on the 23rd we made our depot in 80 degrees south. We went right ahead. In spite of the dense fog an error of two to three kilometers happened once in a while, but we were caught by the flagmarks, and found these on our way without difficulty.

Having rested and fed the dogs on all the seal meat they were able to eat, we started again on the 26th, with the temperature steadily between minus 20 and 30 celsius (4 degrees and 22 degrees below zero, Fahrenheit). From the start it was the intention not to drive more than 30 kilometers a day, but it appeared that this was too little for our strong, willing animals. At 80 degrees south we began to build snow cairns of a man's height, in order to have marks on our return trip. On the 31st we reached the depot at 81 degrees, and stopped there one day and fed the dogs on as much pemmican as they wanted.

We reached the depot at 82 degrees on the 5th of November, where the dogs for the last time got all they wanted to eat. On the 8th, southward again, with a daily march of 50 kilometers.

In order to light our heavy sledges we established depots at each degree of south latitude.

**Like a Pleasure Trip.**  
The trip from 82 to 85 degrees became a pleasure trip, excellent ground, fine sledging, and an even temperature. Everything went like a dance.

On the 9th, we sighted South Victoria land and the continuation of the mountain range which Sir Ernest Shackleton mentioned in his chart as running toward the southeast from the Beardmore glacier, and on the same day we reached 83 degrees and established here depot No. 4. On the 11th we made an interesting discovery that the Ross barrier terminated in a high toward the southeast at 86 degrees south latitude and 163 degrees west longitude, formed between the southeast mountain range running from South Victoria land and a range on the opposite side running in a southwesterly direction, probably a continuation of King Edward VII land.

On the 13th we reached 84 degrees where we established a depot, on the 16th we were at 85 degrees, where also, we made a depot.

From our winter quarters, "Framheim," 78 degrees 38 minutes south latitude, we had been marching due south. On the 17th of November, at 85 degrees, we arrived at a place where the land and barrier were connected. This was done without any great difficulty. The barrier here rises in undulations to about 300 feet. Some few big crevices indicated the limited boundary.

Here we made our head depot, taking provisions for sixty days on sledges, and leaving thirty days' provisions on the spot.

The land under which we lay and which we had to attack looked quite imposing. The nearest summits along the barrier had a height from 2,000 to 10,000 feet but several others further south were 15,000 feet or more.

The next day we began the climb. The first part of it was an easy task, light stops and well filled mountain-sides. It did not take a long time for our willing dogs worked their way up. Further up, we met with some small but very steep glaciers. Here we had to harness twenty dogs to each sledge and take the four sledges in two turns. In some places it was so steep that it was difficult enough to use our skis.

Some big crevices forced us from time to time to make detours. The first day we climbed 2,000 feet, the next day mostly up some small glaciers, camping at a height of 4,500 feet.

The third day we were obliged to go down on a mighty glacier, "Axel Heiberg's Glacier," which divided the coast mountains and the mountains further south.

The next day began the longest part of our climb. Many detours had to be made in order to avoid broad cracks and crevices. These were apparently mostly filled up, as the glaciers in all probability had long ago stopped moving, but we had to be very careful, never knowing for cer-

tain how thick was the lower that covered them.

Our camp that night lay in very picturesque surroundings at a height of 5,000 feet. The glacier here was narrowed in between the two 15,000 feet high mountains, the "Fridtjof Nansen" and the "Don Pedro Christopherson." From the bottom of the glacier rose mount "Ole Engstad"—a big snow cone 13,500 feet high.

The glacier was very much broken in this comparatively narrow pass. The mighty crevices seemed to stop us from going further, but it was not so serious as it appeared. Our dogs, which up to this time had covered a distance of about 7,000 kilometers, the last few days very hard work, ran this day 35 kilometers, the ascent being 5,000 feet, an almost incredible record.

It took us only four days from the barrier to get up on the vast inland plateau. We camped that night at a height of 10,600 feet. Here we had to kill twenty-four of our brave companions and keep eighteen, six for each of our three sledges.

We stopped here four days on account of bad weather. Tired of this we set out on the 28th of November. On the 26th in a furious blizzard and in a dense snow drift absolutely nothing was to be seen, but we felt that contrary to expectations we were going fast down hill. The hypsometer gave us a fall of 800 feet.

The next day was similar. The weather cleared a little at dinner time and exposed to our view a mighty mountain range to the east, and not far off, only for a moment, and then it disappeared in the dense snow-drift. On the 29th it calmed down and the sun shone, though it was not the only pleasant surprise he gave. In our course stretched a big glacier running toward the south. At its eastern end was the mountain range going in a southeasterly direction. Of the western part of it no view was to be had, it being hidden in the dense fog. At the foot of this glacier, the "Devil's Glacier," a depot for six days was established, at 86.21 degrees south latitude. The hypsometer indicated 8,000 feet above sea level.

On November 30 we began to climb the glacier. The lower part of it was very much broken and dangerous. Moreover, the snow bridges very often burst. From our camp that night we had a splendid view over the mountain to the east. There was "Helmer Hansen's Summit," the most remarkable of them all. It was 12,000 feet high and covered with such broken glaciers that in all probabilities no foothold was to be found. "Oscar Wisting's," "Sverre Hassels," and "Olav Hjanlands" mountains also lay here, beautifully illuminated in the rays of the bright sun.

In the distance, and only alternately to be viewed in the fog, appeared from time to time "Mount Nielsen," with its summits and peaks about 15,000 feet high.

We only saw the nearest surroundings. It took us three days to surmount the Devil's glacier, always in misty weather.

On the 1st of December we left this broken glacier, with holes and crevices without number, with its height of 9,100 feet. Before us, looking in the mist and snowdrift, like a frozen sea, appeared a light, sloping ice plateau filled with small hummocks.

The walk over this frozen sea was not pleasant. The ground under us was quite hollow, and it sounded as though we were walking on the bottoms of empty barrels. As it was, a man fell through, then a couple of dogs. We could not get our skis on this polished ice. Sledges had the best of it.

The place got the name the "Devil's Dancing Room." This part of our march was the most unpleasant. On December 6 we got our greatest height, according to the hypsometer and aneroid—10,750 feet at 87 degrees 40 minutes south.

On December 8 we came out of the bad weather. Once again the sun smiled down on us. Once again we could get an observation. Dead reckoning and observation were exactly alike, 88 degrees, 88 minutes, 16.6 seconds south.

Before us lay an absolutely plain plateau, only here and there marked with a tiny sastrugi.

In the afternoon we passed 88 degrees 23 minutes. (Shackleton's furthest south was 88 degrees, 25 minutes.) We camped and established our last depot, depot No. 10. From 80 degrees 25 minutes the plateau began to slope down very gently and smoothly toward the other side.

On the 9th of December we reached 88 degrees 39 minutes, on December 10, 88 degrees 56 minutes, December 11, 89 degrees 15 minutes, December 12, 89 degrees 39 minutes, December 13, 89 degrees 45 minutes.

Up to this time the observations and dead reckoning agreed remarkably well, and we made out that we ought to be at the pole on December 14 in the afternoon.

That day was a beautiful one, a light breeze from southeast, the temperature minus 23 celsius (9.4 degrees below zero, Fahrenheit), and the ground and sledging were perfect.

The day went along as usual, and at 3 p. m. we made a halt.

According to our reckoning we had reached our destination. All of us gathered around the colors, a beautiful silk flag, all hands taking hold of it and planting it.

The vast plateau on which the pole is standing got the name of the "King Haakon VII Plateau." It is a vast plain, alike in all directions, mile after mile during the night we circled around the camp.

In the fine weather we spent the following day taking a series of ob-

servations from 6 a. m. to 7 p. m. The result gave us 89 degrees 55 minutes.

In order to observe the pole as close as possible we traveled as near south as possible, the remaining 9 kilometers.

On December 16 there we camped. It was an excellent opportunity. There was a brilliant sun. Four of us took observations every hour of the day's twenty-four hours. The exact result will be the matter of a professional private report.

This much is certain, that we observed the pole as close as it is in human power to do it with the instruments we had, a sextant and artificial horizon.

On December 17 everything was in order on the spot.

We fastened to the ground a little tent we had brought along, a Norwegian flag and the Fram pendant on the top of it.

The Norwegian home at the South pole was called "Polheim."

The distance from our winter quarters to the pole was about 1,400 kilometers. The average march a day was 25 kilometers.

We started on the return trip on the 17th of December. Unusually favorable weather made our way home considerably easier than the journey to the pole. We arrived at our winter quarters, "Framheim" on the 25th of January, 1912, with two sledges and 11 dogs, all well.

The daily average speed on the return trip was 36 kilometers, the lowest temperature was minus 31 celsius, (23.3 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.) The highest minus 5 celsius, (23 degrees above zero Fahrenheit).

Among the results are the determination of the extent and character of the Ross Barrier, and the discovery of the connection of South Victoria land and probably King Edward VII land, with their continuation in the mighty mountains running toward the southeast which were observed as far as 88 degrees south, but which in all probability continue across the antarctic continent.

The entire length of the newly discovered mountains is about 850 kilometers. They have been named "Queen Maud's Range."

The expedition to King Edward VII land under the command of Lieut. Prestud has given excellent results. Scott's discoveries have been confirmed, and the survey of the Bay of Whales and of the Barrier Dome by the Prestud party are of great interest.

A good geological collection from King Edward VII and South Victoria land is being brought home.

The Fram arrived at the Bay of Whales on the ninth of January. She had been delayed by the "roaring forties" on account of the easterly winds.

On January 16th the Japanese expedition arrived at the Bay of Whales and landed on the Barrier near our winter quarters. We left the Bay of Whales on January 30th. It was a long voyage with contrary winds. All are well.

### RAOLD AMUNDSEN.

**A Full Line.**  
March is busy showing weather  
With much glee.  
Has arranged the styles together,  
As you see.

Snow in winter, heat in summer,  
Rain in fall,  
March has samples, like a druggist,  
Of them all.

**On the Firing Line.**  
"Son, I hear you have joined the  
boy scout movement."  
"Yes, dad."  
"Well, s'pose you scout ahead now  
and see what sort of humor your  
mother is in."

**Being Pressed.**  
"I like to examine the dictionary  
during spare moments. You find  
many unexpected things in it."  
"Yes; I've noticed that. I sometimes  
find queer-looking feminine ap-  
parel in ours."

**Great Progress.**  
"Developed your gold mine any as  
yet?"  
"Yes, indeed. I started with desk  
room, and now I have a fine suite of  
offices."

There are no blizzards in the  
Yukon Valley in winter, and there is  
little wind. Snow about two feet  
deep covers everything from early  
October till spring.

**The Political Situation.**  
Are the times uplifting?  
Here we go.  
Whither are we drifting?  
I dunno.

**This Slim Craze.**  
"Hips and curves have had to go."  
"Yes; modern woman is almost  
back to the original rib."

All of Berlin's sewage is pumped  
out of the city to disposal farms  
which have a total area of about 40,  
000 acres.

Paris bakers have formed a syndi-  
cate to maintain a laboratory in  
which all their flour is scientifically  
tested.

**An Educated Bird.**  
"Polly want a cracker?"  
"Naw; gimme two cards."

Peking, the only capital in the  
world without a street car system,  
soon is to have an electric line.

The cost of Italy's Tripoli expedi-  
tion is estimated at \$2,500,000 a day.

# FORGET OLD DAYS

Must Taft and Roosevelt if They Do Kind of Fighting That's in Them.

## LIKE DAMON AND PYTHIAS

Ties of Affection Broken by Colonel's Candidacy Not Equalled by Any Who Have Served for Friendship's Comparison.

By GEORGE CLINTON.

Washington.—If William H. Taft and Theodore Roosevelt are to do the kind of fighting for the next three months that it is in them to do they must keep their minds off the old days." It was the politician-legislator who has known both men intimately from the day when they began their Washington life, who said this.

President Taft did not believe until six o'clock Sunday, February 25, that Theodore Roosevelt was to declare himself, even in effect, an active candidate for the nomination. He hung on after other men had let go their hold to a faith that something in friendship would keep the colonel from saying the definite word which would put him into the field as a rival of the man who as secretary of war sustained him in executive endeavor. Mr. Roosevelt's friends say that Mr. Taft broke the bonds of friendship when he departed three years ago from the promised path. The blame is thrown one way by some men and another way by others, but wherever it belongs the friendship seemingly has gone, though it may be, as Mr. Taft is reported to have said recently to one of his friends, that one day after the troubles time when retirement comes, it will return.

Damon and Pythias, David and Jonathan, Aeneas and Fides Achatas and all the rest who have served so faithfully for friendship's comparison must pass when the once existing affection of Theodore Roosevelt and William H. Taft for each other is considered.

### The Ranking Officer.

There is a Washington newspaper story to the effect that the society editor of a local journal went to the White House one morning when Mr. Roosevelt was president to get some information on precedence and while there he asked some one who the ranking officer of the cabinet was. The president overheard the question and turning said: "The secretary of war." So he was to Theodore Roosevelt.

Many things showing the affection between Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Taft are brought to mind today by the breach between two men who once came as near to being one as human circumstances would admit. One night in December, 1907, two or three months before Mr. Taft became an announced candidate for the nomination, President Roosevelt, talking to some friends in the White House, said that the country was calling certain legislative policies "the Roosevelt policies." Then he said that he did not know whether they were Roosevelt policies or Taft policies. His uncertainty as to the proper name was due, he said, to the fact that long before he had any thought that one day he might be president of the United States he was thinking along lines of what he considered to be proper public policies, and wondering if ever they might be given legislative effect. While wondering he found out that another man was thinking along the same lines and also wondering if his thoughts might one day take the form of legislation. The other man, Mr. Roosevelt said, was William H. Taft. As the story came from Mr. Roosevelt, he entered into a correspondence with Mr. Taft, exchanged views and opinions and found that they were identical. Roosevelt said that from that date until the day he was speaking the two had been close in counsel, in friendship and in endeavor.

### Story Pleased Taft.

It was only a few weeks ago that President Taft was told this story of the words of the man whom even then it was expected might be his rival in the 1912 field. He liked the story and said it was good to hear it. Before the country knew generally that Mr. Roosevelt hoped that his secretary of war could be induced to become a candidate for the presidency a visitor at the White House asked him what progressive Republicans were to do on election day the following November provided the party insisted on nominating a reactionary. The president said that he hoped it would not be necessary for anybody "to go fishing"; that if the party should nominate as he hoped it would, William H. Taft, it would have a progressive candidate and if he was elected the country would have a progressive president. Then he added that his associations with Mr. Taft and his close friendship with him made him know just how he felt about real progressive legislation and just what he would do to further its cause if ever he became president.

There are a few Washington believers of a story somewhat widely told that Mr. Roosevelt broke with Mr. Taft before inauguration day, 1909. It is pretty well known that the predecessor watched with some misgivings the successor's cabinet making endeavors, but it is to be doubted if Mr. Roosevelt said, as he is reported to have said, "A cabinet like mine does not seem to be good enough for him and it may be that in a few weeks

policies like mine will not be good enough for him."

### Want a Third Fort.

The refusal of the house of representatives to incorporate in the fortification bill the appropriation of \$150,000 for a site for a coast defense on Cape Henry was a sharp disappointment to most of the good Virginians in the house, to a good many army officers and unquestionably to the entire population of the tide-water section of the Old Dominion.

Fort Monroe today has the safety of several American cities in its keeping. It is the outpost defense of Washington and Baltimore, and with Fort Wool it stands as a sentinel keeping watch over Norfolk and Richmond. The army men and the Virginians think that a third sentinel should be posted, but congressmen have taken issue with them. Across the mingling waters of Chesapeake bay and the ocean lies Cape Charles, whose rough coast is visible on clear days to the gunners on Monroe's parapets, but if what has been said by supposed experts is true, no projectile which the big guns of the fort can hurl ever is likely to prove effective against battleships steaming into the channel close under the Charles promontory to make the run up the waters leading to the capital.

The forts at Cape Henry southward across the entrance to the inland waters, army men seem to think, would nearly perfect the system of defense, but the proposal for a Cape Henry fortification is only one of several plans which have been made from time to time to complete the defenses of the harbor, bay and river.

### Hints at Selfish Interest.

There was a plan first to build a fort on Cape Charles itself, but later this was changed in favor of a plan to plant big guns on a half submerged island midway of the entrance to the Chesapeake. This plan was considered by congress several years ago, and there were hints that some selfish interests were connected with it, but no one ever made a direct charge, and there never was any proof advanced of what were but whispered insinuations.

It seems to be the full belief of many army officers that one day an additional fortification in the vicinity of the Virginia capes will be authorized by congress. As things are now it is said that a foreign fleet with a pilot deserving the name on board the leading ship, could slip into the Chesapeake under cover of a haze while the shore artillerymen, no matter how watchful, would know nothing of the movement until there was no target to fire at, but the broad wakes of the invading vessels.

Fort Monroe is said to be a bulwark of defense in itself, but it seems even to the layman that the picture drawn by some of the congressmen of a capital laid waste by the guns of a foreign fleet, or by troops which had secured a landing back of the present fortifications, is drawn with a free hand guided by a freer imagination. If vessels should succeed in getting by Fort Monroe they would have a hard time getting up the Potomac river, far below Washington the Potomac's channel is safe-guarded.

### Make an Easy Target.

Pictures also have been drawn of the demolition of Richmond and Norfolk by hostile guns. It would seem that the Virginia capital and its seaport might be able to rest in confidence that no foe can come up the water to their troubling. The main ship channel at the mouth of the James is within easy great gun range of the parapets of Fort Monroe, and the gunner who could not hit so fair and confronting a mark as a battleship or a cruiser at double the distance would be discredited after one pushing of the electric button, and his place would be taken instantly by a man able to drive every projectile home—for the army is not worthless, there are many such men in the artillery ranks.

If the marksmen at Fort Monroe should happen to fall in their gunning there is perhaps little chance that their brother artillerymen at Fort Wood would fall in theirs, for the enemy that would attempt to force a passage of the James would almost brush the muzzles of the smaller fort's guns. Artillerymen have occasional chances to test their skill. A government tug tows red triangular pyramids made of cloth stretched on a framework of wood across the line of fire, while the men at the big rifles peg away at the targets drawn through the fire zone at a ten knot gait. In order to make a hit it is not necessary "to hit," for if it is found that the shot has made itself "effective" in space fore and aft of the target, no greater than that which would have been covered by the battleship, a hit is credited. It seems to be a fair system of marking, and is the only one used by the land and sea artillerymen of the world when firing at moving marks.

### Hits at Commerce Court.

Representative Thetus Willette Sims of Tennessee is the representative in congress who introduced the bill to abolish the commerce court. It probably will be remembered by most newspaper readers that the commerce court disagreed with a good many of the findings of the interstate commerce commission, and that the Supreme court stood by the commission, in some instances at any rate, and as a result there has been a good deal of agitation in favor of abolishing the so-called railroad court. This tribunal was created in part by the direct recommendation of President Taft, and there seems to be little likelihood at this session at any rate that any strong attempt will be made to get a bill through congress which shall wipe the court out of existence.