

THE SOUTH POLE ON ICE

DR. FREDERICK A. COOK MEANS TO REACH IT

Undertaken by the Untoward Experiences of Other Explorers He Will Start for the Island in the Southern Ocean Next September in Small Vessel.

Once more are mariners going to risk their lives in the attempt to penetrate the mysteries of the antarctic continent. The failures of former explorers have not discouraged Dr. Frederick Cook, who proposes to undertake a voyage to the small sailing vessels, leaving New York in September next. There is a great area of water to be explored, and Dr. Cook no doubt hopes to get at least a glimpse of the island which in a vague way is known to be somewhere around the south pole.

His proposition revives memories of efforts made in this line many years ago, but not renewed within the memory of the present generation. The south pole regions have been much less a subject of exploration than those of the north, because there was little to be gained by it. It is interesting to note that the attempt to invade the South Sea and the mysterious island at its centre is now to be undertaken from the same point of land from which the expedition moved southward, and that it is also undertaken by a man with the same name as that of the one who first demonstrated that the South Ocean was completely round the pole. The first expedition to the south pole regions was fitted out by the Governor of New York, who sent his nephew, Alvaro Medana, on a voyage of discovery from Cape Horn.

The first man to discover that the Southern Ocean was in fact the great body of water of the world, extending entirely around the south pole and having the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans as its arms, was Captain Cook, who sailed from the Cape of Good Hope in 1772. The most successful explorer of this difficult region was Captain Ross, who sailed from the southernmost point of Australia in 1840. So it will be seen that this mysterious and dangerous waste of water has been invaded from the three points of land most nearly approaching it—the southern tip of Africa, Australia, and South America. The southern point of South America extends nearest to the mysterious island, or continent, which is supposed to occupy the centre of this Southern Ocean. From Cape Horn, South America, to Graham's Land, which is supposed to be on the mainland of the antarctic continent, the distance is but little over 600 miles, due south. From the Cape of Good Hope, southern Africa, due south to Enderby's Land, supposed to be on the antarctic continent, the distance is about 1,800 miles. From Australia (or Tasmania) due south to Adeline Land, also supposed to be a part of this ice-bound continent, is about 1,300 miles.

The limits of the antarctic continent, as this term is called, are supposed to be nearly coincident with the antarctic circle. At Graham's Land, just south of South America, it extends about two and a half degrees outside of the antarctic circle.

After the first expedition in 1672, another was sent from Peru in 1696. The first discovery of the antarctic continent, however, was by Captain Dirk Gerritz, who sailed from Rotterdam in a merchant vessel in 1599, and passing through the straits of Magellan was carried by storms to about the point now known as Graham's Land, which is the nearest point to any of the other continents. This discovery, however, was by accident, and it was not until 1772 that an expedition was set out under that intrepid English explorer, Captain Cook, passing from the Cape of Good Hope southward, crossing the antarctic circle, and meeting with a fleet of icebergs, which sent him quickly in the direction of New Zealand.

After resting there for a few days, he sailed southward meeting another line of icebergs which he described as looking like a range of high mountains. They closely guarded the shore that he was not land. In 1830 the Russians sent an expedition under Bellingshausen, which discovered nothing but a lot of icebergs and a couple of small islands. In 1880 an expedition sent vessels into the southern ocean to hunt for whales and these sighting land south of Africa headed the expedition. In 1880 the Russians sent an expedition under Bellingshausen, which discovered nothing but a lot of icebergs and a couple of small islands. In 1880 an expedition sent vessels into the southern ocean to hunt for whales and these sighting land south of Africa headed the expedition.

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