

*Polar Regions in the Twentieth Century*

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unbroken and rough ice, with no land in sight, when he claimed that he reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909. Peary's return to Cape Columbia, 485 miles in a straight line, was made in sixteen days, a record of rapid travel never equaled by any other explorers, and which surpassed his own experiences in many years of field work.

That Peary entered regions adjacent to the Pole is unquestioned by any arctic expert, and his claim of reaching the Pole has been accepted by some geographic societies. Others, among whom are his predecessors over the Great Frozen Sea, view with serious doubt his accuracy. The reasons advanced by them for their adverse judgment are as follows: character of ice, shown by Peary's photographs; condition of dogs, worn down by hard travel; unsurpassed rapidity of travel over rough sea ice for a distance that must have far exceeded — with a minimum of detours — 530 miles; that with tired dogs he far exceeded the return journey of his supporting parties with fresher teams; and his inaccuracies as to accomplishments earlier made (Chapter VIII). Fairness to uninformed readers requires that this statement be made.

Doctor Cook claimed to have reached the North Pole in 1906, a claim generally and properly discredited. However, it is beyond question that his field experiences in 1905-1906 were most remarkable, — rarely if ever equaled and never