

NORTH POLE FOUND?

JUST WAIT AND SEE

PROF. SHIRK, OF OTTAWA UNIVERSITY, DISCUSSES PEARY-COOK CONTROVERSY.

Interesting Statement Concerning the Method of Locating the Pole—
Prof. Dyche's Opinion.

In the last two weeks the world has been stirred by the rival claims of Peary and Cook to the discovery of the North Pole. Nearly everyone has an opinion and is very willing to give it.

Prof. J. A. G. Shirk who is the local authority on such subjects is out with statements in regard to the matter, advising the public to "keep cool and await developments." He says in part:

"Some people think that the pole can be located within a few inches of exactness, but the most delicate instruments would not assure the explorer that he was within a mile of the pole. The sextant is used in determining latitude and is used by comparing the height of the sun or of a fixed star, with the time of year and day.

"Astronomy is now so far advanced that any astronomer would know what the exact reading of this instrument would be at the North Pole, though the actual reading would be changed somewhat by the refraction of rays in cold air. It would be very easy for an unscrupulous man to "fake" his data. If the data of the two explorers differ, the best way to settle it would be to refer the matter to a committee of explorers and abide by their decision. On the face one man is just as much to be believed as the other. Dr. Cook's announcement that there is only water at the pole is no doubt true for it is known that the northern coast of Greenland is about one hundred miles from the pole.

"Peary was ungentlemanly, to say the least to telegraph that Cook had not reached the pole. Perhaps the controversy will never be settled until other explorers reach the pole and verify the data of either. The evidence which Cook left might have drifted far away with the strong Arctic currents; or, if the pole was on

land storms might have obliterated the marks.

“The claims of the Eskimos should not be credited for they are ignorant and uncivilized and would not understand scientific observations.

“People should not form hasty conclusions about the matter. Let them wait until the data of the two men has been examined and passed on by a body of men who understand such matters. As yet, Peary's data has not arrived, but Cook's observations have been examined by the Denmark geographical societies and have apparently satisfied them. As far as we are concerned we have no right to say either discovered the pole until authoritative opinions are furnished by the scientific journals.”

Prof. L. L. Dyche, of Kansas university, is reported as giving an opinion that since Cook's evidence is the strongest, he probably has most claim to the honor. However, he advises the public to wait for further proof. Prof. Dyche was a member of a former expedition to the arctic regions, of which both Cook and Peary were members.