

# North Pole is Harder to Reach Than South

## Commander MacMillan, at Provincetown, After Returning from Lecture Tour of Mid-West, Corrects General Impression About Two Ends of Earth

By J. C. JOHNSON

PROVINCETOWN, Dec. 14. —

Lieut. Commander Donald B. MacMillan in an interview at his home here today sought to correct a "general impression existing in the minds of the public and press of the United States that the South Pole was more difficult and hazardous to reach than the North Pole."

Just returned after filling a series of lecture engagements in Chicago and environs, the Provincetown explorer of the northland spoke particularly of the well-established belief now prevailing among Americans that the discovery of the South Pole was the hardest and therefore the most heroic of the two jobs.

The North Pole he described as being "far out in the center of a moving mass of drift ice." Exploration work can be done there only during a period of three months, the coldest time of the year. On the other hand, the South Pole trek can be negotiated in the summer—"and with plenty of time."

### 300 Years to Reach North Pole

"It took man 300 years to reach the North Pole," said Capt. MacMillan. "But the South Pole was reached on the third attempt."

He added that Amundsen after achieving his discovery of the South Pole said to him: "I never dreamed it could be done so easily."

Capt. MacMillan said he had been emphasizing this as the big point of his lecture, "With Peary on the Polar Sea," in which he recites his experiences while one of Peary's aides on the historic trek to the North Pole.

A book bearing the same title, written by Captain MacMillan, is coming out next spring. It will reveal many hitherto unpublished facts and the Provincetown explorer's own views on many mooted points. The forthcoming book is certain to stir up much discussion among explorers and scientists of the world along with the possibility its contents may create a fresh controversy involving Peary's exploration work.

Captain MacMillan will deliver the same lecture in Hyannis on the night of January 14, for the benefit of a children's fund.

"It is just dawning upon the American people why it took Peary 19 years to reach the North Pole," declared this town's noted adventurer, who has devoted the past 24 years to exploration and scientific work in the north. "They are beginning to see the striking contrast of latter-day methods of exploring in the comparative comfort of a closed plane flying 100 miles an hour and the pioneer methods of traveling with dogs and sledges at four miles an hour, which is the average speed of a good dog team."

"Contrary to the average man's belief, and the press as well, the attainment of the North Pole was much more difficult than reaching the South Pole.

danger of being carried away on drift ice to starvation and death.

"At the South Pole work can be done in the summer, and with plenty of time. The third time that man ever tried he went right up to the South Pole.

But it took man 300 years to reach the North Pole and one man alone 19 years—Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary—with the very best equipment man could devise.

"Peary told Amundsen that any man could reach the South Pole with a good team of dogs. And Amundsen in 1912 proved this was so. As to the hardships encountered on the North Pole trip there is no comparison. And there was no radio in Peary's party to give daily accounts of what was going on."

Captain MacMillan, added that "he had not forgotten that Scott and all of his men had perished" on the South Pole trek. "They walked all the way to the South Pole," the captain said. "They perished while walking back. But that was directly due to the fact Scott used sledging methods of 50 and 100 years ago."

Captain MacMillan will have his Christmas dinner in Provincetown with a group of lifelong hometown friends and several out-of-town guests. He will go on a few trips to fill lecture dates, but the greater part of the winter he will spend in Provincetown. On June 20, which is the date on which he always makes his departure for the north, Capt. MacMillan will set out on his fifteenth expedition. On this trip he will go to Labrador, using as his base the MacMillan experimental station at Nain and remain up there engaged upon scientific work for a full year. He will again take along the powerful Lockheed-Veega seaplane, "Viking," which was introduced in his exploration work last summer and put to paluable use in mapping of several hundred miles of the wild northern Labrador coast.

Next Wednesday night Captain MacMillan is scheduled to lecture in Boston at Jordan hall. The following night he will lecture in Gloucester. He will be the guest speaker at the alumni dinner of Bowdoin college on Dec. 30, at Portland.

### North Pole on Ocean

"This is because of the fact the North Pole is a mathematical point far out in the center of a moving mass of drift ice on an ocean two miles deep—while the South Pole is a point on land. Only for a certain time of the year and the coldest period of the year, between February 15 and May 20, can such a trip be attempted.

"If the party does not succeed in reaching land before latter May there is always the ever-present