PEARY IS AT FORT CONGER.

Dr. Kann, Now in Dundee, Brings News of Arctic Expeditions—Friction Between Peary and Sverdrup.

EDINBURGH, Nov. 9.—It now appears that Dr. Leopold Kann is the only member of his party of arctic scientific explorers who arrived at Dundee yesterday on the whaler Eclipse from Davis's Strait. Dr. Robert Stein of the United States Geological Survey, decided at the eleventh hour not to come to Scotland, but to await the first opportunity of being landed on the American side. Samuel Warmbath of Boston preferred to remain at Cape Sabine for a time.

In an interview to-day Dr. Kann gave some interesting details regarding the Peary and Sverdrup expeditions.

"Lieut. Peary's party," he said, "passed the Winter at Etah, on Smith's Sound, near the spot where Dr. Hayes had his Winter quarters in 1860, and not far from the scene of the Greely disaster. In February and March of this year Fort Magnesia, our Winter house at Bedford, on Pym Island, was thrice visited by the members of his expedition. On the first occasion Dr. Hansen's party came, on the second a party under Dr. Dederick, and later Lieut. Peary himself in command of a sledging party.

"He reported that about ten months previously he had met Sverdrup in the Kane Basin, north of Smith's Sound. From conversations I elicited that some feeling had been engendered between Lieut. Peary and Sverdrup, the former rather resenting what he considered the latter's intrusion into ground which, for exploring purposes, the American was inclined to regard as his own.

"Sverdrup's party had thoroughly explored the Ellesmere hinterland, mapping out a region that was hitherto a blank on the charts. Many of Sverdrup's flags were seen by us.

"In the course of our hunting expeditions in this great tract of country quantities of musk-oxen were found on what seemed to be old and established feeding grounds.

"When the Peary and Sverdrup parties separated Sverdrup's understood intention was to explore the vast area of land and water in and around Jones's Sound, beyond Cape Eden. I believe Sverdrup, on the Fram, is now wintering in Jones's Sound, and my opinion, which is backed by that of the Dundee whalers, is that it will be impossible for the Fram to come home this year. The Autumn has been very tempestuous, and the ice was such as to render navigation next to impossible.

"The natives at Petravic reported that they had returned from Fort Conger, whither they had gone to victual the station.

"Lieut. Peary had 200 dogs and 27 sledges, but having underrated the difficulties of the journey, and not having a sufficiency of food, most of the dogs died. He only kept a few natives at Fort Conger during the Summer season, and the rest of the Eskimo, with Lieut. Peary, returned to the settlement in a few days, so that the journey was extremely arduous, and the party suffered great hardships.

"I am certain that Lieut. Peary is now wintering at Fort Conger. When I left Cape York on the Eclipse on June 9 the Windward was expected to touch there about the middle of July, where orders from Lieut. Peary, which I had brought, were left with the Eskimos.

"Dr. Stein and myself discovered a melancholy record of the Sverdrup expedition near Fort Magnesia in the grave of Dr. Svensden, with the inscription, "Died June 9, 1899," which was nearly two months before the arrival of our party."

Dr. Kann will remain in Dundee for several days, going then to London and later to Vienna.

The New York Times
Published: November 10, 1900
Copyright © The New York Times