

# WESTERN DEVELOPEMENT COMPANY

635 TERMINAL SALES BUILDING  
PORTLAND, OREGON

LEGAL DEPARTMENT  
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The name of Dr. Frederick A. Cook should stand high in the annals of great Americans. During the controversy concerning the discovery of the North Pole, Cook's opponents used practically every method to discredit his discovery. He was the first to publish an account of his trip to the pole. Some men thought to discredit his narrative by saying that it was an utter impossibility for a party of men to cover the distance over the ice in a day, that Cook's diary showed. They pointed out the absurdity of his statement and hung much of their argument on that point. A few weeks later, Dr. Cook's rival published his story, and it showed <sup>average daily speed</sup> the distance traveled over the ice in <sup>about</sup> ~~a day~~ to be ~~almost~~ twice that claimed by Dr. Cook. They immediately abandoned that point of attack and sought another. So vigorous was the attack that Dr. Cook must have had a sense of humor to withstand the calumny that was heaped upon him.

When he sold his story to the magazine, he, with the simple faith of a little child, did not require a clause in his contract, as is usually the case, to the effect that nothing in his story should be construed against him. This resulted greatly to his undoing. In his narrative, as given to the magazine, he stated in effect that weather

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conditions and light instruments, such as were necessary to carry, rendered it impossible for him to locate the pin-point and say, "Here is the pole". He did say that he was within pistol shot of the pole. He may have been beyond the pole, at any rate he was at the pole as far as all practical purposes are concerned. The magazine called this Dr. Cook's confession, and robbed him of the glory due him for the discovery.