

ALBERT E. JOAB

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

EQUITABLE BUILDING

ROOMS 206, 207, 210

CORNER ELEVENTH AND PACIFIC AVE.

TELEPHONE: OFFICE, MAIN 4000
RESIDENCE, MAIN 2064

Personal and Confidential.

M. H. Cook
516 Commercial Bldg.
My Dear, Old Friend:

TACOMA, WASHINGTON, Oct. 7th, 1908. 190

Your two letters, of the 3rd and 4th instants, in re the Cook-Pearry controversy, are at hand and read, with much interest. I thank you very much, for the kindly interest you have taken, in the matter, and, if any thing comes out of it, you will not be forgotten or overlooked, in the shuffle.

The man's name has been given here always, variously as Barrill or Burrill, who was at Hamilton, Montana, but who was recently in Seattle, according to rumor.

The consensus of the people here and in Seattle, so far as I have been able to learn, and I have talked with many, on the subject, is that Dr. Cook must make good on his alleged discovery of the top, or his ascent to the summit, of Mt. McKinley, or he will be thoroughly discredited, in his statements regarding his polar explorations. It is a most important matter to clear up, and to clear up immediately. Every day that he allows that odious report of having lied about the ascending to the top of Mt. McKinley to go uncontradicted, by strong evidence, he is doing himself a very great injustice. The people, as a rule, say: "False in one thing, false in every thing." Browne claims that Dr. Cook not only did not ascend to the summit, but that it is utterly impossible for any one to ascend to the top of the mountain, on account of its very rugged, precipitous and almost perpendicular sides, for a long way from the top. Of course, if Dr. Cook did really ascend to the top, as I think he did, he can show the way to other mountain climbers, or show that terrible slides or avalanches, have since occurred, to change the contour of the mountain, and have rendered it inaccessible. It is a very different matter from making a trip to the pole, and he can, and should, at the earliest possible moment, fully clear that matter up.

Of course, you, no doubt, remember that Browne's father has a very bad record, made in New York City, which, if shown up, might have a tendency to prove that they are very unreliable people; and that the son is a chip off the old block, a most consummate liar. If young Browne does not

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act right and tets fair, we can put Dr. Cook onto the father's crooked record, in New York, and thoroughly discredit the whole family.

Dr. Cook ought to see Prof. Parker, of Columbia University, who started with him on his trip to the summit of Mt. McKinley, and explain matters satisfactorily to Prof. Parker, as his statements, or his published, alleged statements, are very damaging to Dr. Cook. Browne is a mere fist, taking up the yelp, from Parker, in order to get into the lime light himself, even if he has to do it, at the great and brutal sacrifice of his former distinguished house-guest, whom he exploited here, as the famous arctic explorer and Mt. McKinley mountain climber.

You did not say any thing, in any of your letters, about the report on, and letter of, Geo. H. Rummens, which I sent you, some time ago, regarding the just bill he owes you. I have been waiting to hear from you, on the subject, before making a further demonstration against the whelp.

Most cordially yours,

Albert W. Cook

P. S. Just before signing my name to this letter, my paper arrived, which I mail to you, with this, showing that Dr. Cook is now too late to get Barrill, who is now in the City, and has given his affidavit to Ashton.

It is too bad that Dr. Cook did not look after this matter, in time, as the associated press reports here stated positively that Barrill, who was then in Hamilton, Montana, would make an affidavit that he went to the top of Mt. McKinley with Cook; and that he was the only man who did so; that he would make an affidavit, to that effect, just as soon as Dr. Cook returned to this country. Afterwards he began to wobble, and now has been picked up, by the Perry people, as you will see. He is, no doubt, a very bad man, who is in it, just for black-mail, as his later statements and actions prove. Had the matter been attended to promptly, by Dr. Cook, I think I could have held the whelp in line; but now it would seem to be too late.

Dr. Cook should now show the whelp's conflicting statements, and his first offer to make the affidavit for him, which he made, some time ago.

A. W. Cook