

*THE DANISH ARCTIC EXPEDITION.*¹

Few Arctic expeditions, if any, have been more carefully planned and prepared than the forthcoming Danish 'or 'Danmark' expedition, as it is officially called. The necessary funds, about 250,000kr., have been raised partly by a government grant and partly by private subscriptions. Mr. L. Mylius-Erichsen, the leader of the expedition, distinguished himself by his determined pluck and energy as leader of the Danish Greenland expedition, which made its way across Melville Bay to the Cape York Eskimo settlement on the west coast of Greenland; and he has been universally complimented by Sir Clements Markham, Professor Fridtjof Nansen, and other eminent authorities for the plan he is now about to realize.

Leaving Copenhagen on July 1, the *Danmark* will proceed to the east coast of Greenland and try to make its way through the ice as far north as possible, further north than where Sabine and Clavering landed in 1823. The first problem which will present itself to Mylius-Erichsen will be to ascertain whether Eskimo are to be found further north; if not, what has become of them, and by what route have the Eskimo made their way to East Greenland. From the place of landing the expedition will proceed by sledges along the east coast, winter *en route*, and push ahead to the northernmost point of Greenland, the most northerly land in the world. This, in Mylius-Erichsen's opinion, is the most favorable place from which to make an attempt at the Pole; the latitude is a high one, about 84 degrees, and, what is of the greatest importance, these parts are singularly rich in game, musk ox, ice-bear, etc., a fact which will enable a sledge expedition for the Pole to set out with strong, fresh dogs, fed on natural food. The expedition will return to the ship in time to winter there the second year.

The most interesting and adventurous undertaking of the whole expedition yet remains—namely, what Mylius-Erichsen, who is not given to strong expressions, himself calls the

fairly daring plan of traversing, by means of ski, dog-sledges and automobile, the inland ice of Greenland on the broadest portion of this continent. Nansen's famous crossing of Greenland took place much further south, where Greenland is much narrower; and Peary, who followed the northern slopes, had the great advantage of being in touch with the coast.

Mylius-Erichsen's plan is this: About March, 1908, he sets out, accompanied by one of his staff and two Greenlanders, belonging to the crew, the other members of the expedition, with fully-loaded sledges, going with him the first third of the journey. When they return, Mylius-Erichsen and his three followers proceed into the entirely unknown 'ice-dome' of the interior of Greenland, which rises to as much as 10,000 feet above the level of the sea. It is completely devoid of vegetable and animal life, and here one of the northern hemisphere's cold-poles is supposed to be found. At the coldest season man can probably not live there. Therefore, Mylius-Erichsen has chosen the months of March, April and May for this expedition. By means of ski, dog-sledges, and motor-car, which Nansen thinks can be used there with advantage, Mylius-Erichsen hopes to compass this exceedingly venturesome journey in about two months and a half.

From the west coast the four men proceed by a special vessel to a place on the southern part of Greenland's east coast, where they join the *Danmark*, which has in the meantime gone further south, and returned to Denmark. The expedition numbers 22 Danes as well as two German scientists, all specially fitted for the work, officers, artists, scientists, etc., some of them members of former Greenland expeditions, and all will be treated alike, receiving the same pay, etc. Motor-boats and wireless telegraphy will be special features of the equipment.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. JOSEPH D. BRYANT, of New York City, has been elected president of the American Medical Association.

¹ The London *Times*.