

Jackson Mich 12/2 1913.

To Congressman

Washington, D. C.

*Dear Sir:*—The conquest of the North Pole has lifted the United States to a first position as a Nation of scientific pioneers. The controversy which followed is a blot on our Flag and it is a slur at our National Honor. From the Government purse and from private resources we have spent millions to reach the top of the Earth; it would appear therefore to be our duty as a nation to adjust the Polar contention in the eyes of the world.

If Dr. Cook has reached the Pole, a year earlier than Peary, as most Arctic Explorers believe, then the seeming endorsement and the pension of the Naval Officer is an injustice to Dr. Cook and an imposition on the Public; if both have reached the Pole then there should be a suitable recognition and reward extended to each. As one of thousands of American Citizens I beg of you to forward a movement which will bring about a National Investigation into this problem, with a suitable provision for a proper recognition.

Respectfully,

B. J. F. Ireland

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MICH.



*Hon. Samuel W. Beaker.*

Washington, D. C.