

MCKINLEY ASCENT IS NOW QUESTIONED

**Charles Sheldon Says Public
Should Await Further Details of
Expedition from Fairbanks.**

SOME POINTS INCREDIBLE

**New Yorker Familiar with Region
Points Out That Only One of Party
Has Reported Its Success.**

Charles Sheldon, a big game sportsman and explorer of 140 West Fifty-seventh Street, who for years has known Tom Lloyd, Charles McGonnigle, and W. R. Taylor, three of the four men who, according to Lloyd, reached the top of Mount McKinley on April 8, declared last night that the public could well afford to await a fuller report of the details of the ascent before complete acceptance of the claim.

Mr. Sheldon has hunted big game and explored all through the Alaskan country about the base of Mount McKinley. He said he was thus fully acquainted with many of the difficulties which any party would have to surmount to reach the top of this tallest peak on the continent.

"I think," said he, "it is due to Tom Lloyd and the three others with him to withhold judgment as to the partial statements transmitted from Fairbanks to the effect that they reached the summit of Mount McKinley. The press reports contain so many assertions that are not in accordance with the facts that little reliance can be placed on them. It is not reasonable to believe that the party had an aneroid barometer which would record an altitude of 20,500 feet with any degree of accuracy. It is ridiculous to suggest that a trail was established to the top of the mountain. It is ridiculous to say that snowshoes were used most of the way up the mountain.

"It is reported that the flag they left at the summit could be seen from the north side of the mountain, which would be an impossibility, since the top of Mount McKinley is a double summit, consisting of two ridges extending east and west. The south ridge, which is the culminating peak, cannot be seen from the north.

"The leader of the expedition, Tom Lloyd, and also Charlie McGonnigle and Billy Taylor, are personal friends of mine, but I do not know Patterson. Lloyd is perhaps 60 or more years old. McGonnigle and Taylor are very hardy young men, among the best dog "mushers" in the country, and thoroughly familiar with winter travel, particularly in that district. None of the three, however, knows anything about technical mountain climbing. They have never seen an Alpine rope or an ice axe, and are not familiar with technical mountaineering equipment.

"I have worked and traveled with these three men in winter. I feel quite certain that, although they had been within a distance of six or eight miles of the base of Mount McKinley, none of them had been on the slope before the alleged ascent. I believe that the method they adopted to investigate a route of ascent in the spring with dogs is the correct way to find a route to the summit, and particularly along the eastern ridges, where, the press reports imply, the ascent was made.

"The difficulties are tremendous, not so much the intense cold as the fact that even willows for fuel wood do not grow within five or six miles of the base of the mountain, and timber is at least six miles distant, and probably ever further, from an approach by the east ridges. This would necessitate an extra amount of material for fuel.

"The difficulties of an ascent are so great that though McGonnigle and Taylor are courageous and capable of enduring the cold and physical work, a great deal of public skepticism, particularly among those who are familiar with the hardships of mountain climbing, is sure to exist.

"Therefore, it is clearly the duty of the press, both to the public and to these men, not to encourage full credibility in the reports of the alleged ascent until the facts and details are authoritatively published, which will enable us to form an intelligent judgment. Only Tom Lloyd, apparently, brought out the report, the other members of the party having remained in the Kantishna district, 150 miles away; so we haven't their corroborative evidence."

Regarding the message to THE TIMES yesterday from W. F. Thompson, editor of The News Mine, that the flag on Mount McKinley could be seen from Fairbanks, 150 miles away, on clear days, Mr. Sheldon said he could not pass judgment. The atmospheric conditions in Alaska at this period of the year, he said, were particularly favorable to long-distance views, and notwithstanding the great distance of Mount McKinley from Fairbanks, it could be seen from the hills surrounding the town, as if rising out of some adjacent plain.

The people there have good glasses, also, he said, and very probably a telescope. Further than this he could not say.

Mr. Sheldon went to this region in 1906 for sport and exploration, spending some time at the base of Mount McKinley and on the slope. He went again in the summer of 1907, and spent a year there.

BLACKJACKS AN AGED WOMAN.

**She Resented Newark ex-Policeman's
Attentions to Her Daughter.**

Beaten with a blackjack yesterday in her home, Mrs. Catherine Collins of 150 Passaic Avenue, Newark, N. J., was so badly injured that she may die. Held in the Third Precinct Station is John O'Donnell, an ex-policeman, as the woman's assailant. He was identified by a neighbor as the man who has been paying attention to the victim's pretty daughter and who represented himself as John Clark, a salesman.

About 9 o'clock yesterday morning O'Donnell entered the aged woman's apartments, on the second floor. He demanded to know of Mrs. Collins, who was alone, where her daughter, Agnes, was. She replied that she had gone out shopping. O'Donnell, it is said, told the woman she lied. He then drew a blackjack and struck her on the head. She dropped to the floor with a shriek. She attempted to arise, and O'Donnell is said to have struck her again.

As he was going out through the hallway he was met by Mrs. Bertha Baemeister and her son, Albert, who had heard Mrs. Collins's cries. O'Donnell pushed them aside. Albert followed him and called for help. Several persons joined in the chase. After running several blocks, O'Donnell boarded a trolley car. His pursuers asked the conductor to stop. He refused at first, but when he learned what had happened he assisted in holding O'Donnell until Policemen McCarrick and Fitzsimmons arrested him. They recognized him as a former member of the precinct.

O'Donnell, in the rôle of "Clark," had called at the Collins home many times. About a week ago Mrs. Collins learned that he was a married man and had a wife and five children. When Mrs. Collins accused him of his duplicity, it is said O'Donnell became enraged and declared that he would get revenge.

O'Donnell resigned from the Newark police force after he had been before the Police Commissioner several times within a year.

Hospital Board to Dine Dr. Jacobi.

The Board of Directors of the Hospital for Deformities and Joint Diseases, 1,919 Madison Avenue, will give a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria next Wednesday night in honor of Dr. Abraham Jacobi, senior consultant of the hospital. Edward Lauterbach will be the toastmaster, and among the speakers will be E. M. Gattle, Dr. Joseph D. Bryant, the Rev. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. E. M. Baruch, and Dr. Reginald Sayre.