

POLISH POLAR RESEARCH	19	3-4	253	1998
-----------------------	----	-----	-----	------

CHRONICLE

The *Polar Times*, vol. 2, No. 9 of 1977 has reprinted an interesting article that appeared in 1905 in *The Cedar Grove Gazette* in Brussels. This article concerned an idea suggested by Henryk Arctowski to use a motor car in Antarctic exploration. The idea was finally realized by future explorers; it seems to be worthy to remind it in the year of celebration of the centenary of Antarctic expedition in which Arctowski participated.

Stanisław RAKUSA-SUSZCZEWSKI
Warszawa

The South Pole by Motor Car

*Novel Scheme for Overcoming Difficulties of Antarctic Exploration
Belgian Explorer Thinks It Feasible*

The Cedar Grove Gazette, 21 Dec 1905, p. 6. Brussels (cb unknown) — Mr. Henryk Arctowski, the Antarctic explorer, proposes to reach the hitherto unexplored regions of the South Pole by motor car. According to the reports of explorers, who have returned from the inhospitable shores of the South Polar sea, a vast field of smooth ice extends from the natural landing places of the South Polar sea, which is supposed to extend to the pole and cover the entire polar region. It is said to be like a vast frozen pond. Other explorers have been on that field, but they could not travel fast enough to complete their explorations. Captain Scott traveled over the ice for five months, but his dogs could only make 10 miles a day, and in the end he was driven back by the fear of starvation.

Mr. Arctowski has an apparently simple plan to overcome the difficulties. He has calculated that if he traveled ten times as fast as Captain Scott did, he would be able to reach the pole long before there was any danger of starvation. He proposes to do this by using motor cars, and the idea is approved as possible by Captain Scott. Mr. Shackleton and other explorers also consider the plan as feasible.

The motor car designed for polar exploration will, of course, be a very different affair from ordinary machines. The wheels, for instance, will be a foot wide, tired with leather and studded with long, protruding nails to give them a hold in the frozen snow. Under the car will run a blade shaped like a runner of a Canadian sledge, and the weight of the car will rest on that blade and not on the wheels. The idea is approved by the Belgian Motor club and experts are now designing the car and deliberating on the character and arrangement of the fuel.

Mr. Arctowski is confident that the project will result as a notable success. Whether the precise center of the polar region is discovered or not, much is expected from the expedition in the way of increasing our knowledge of the world's geography and physical characteristics.