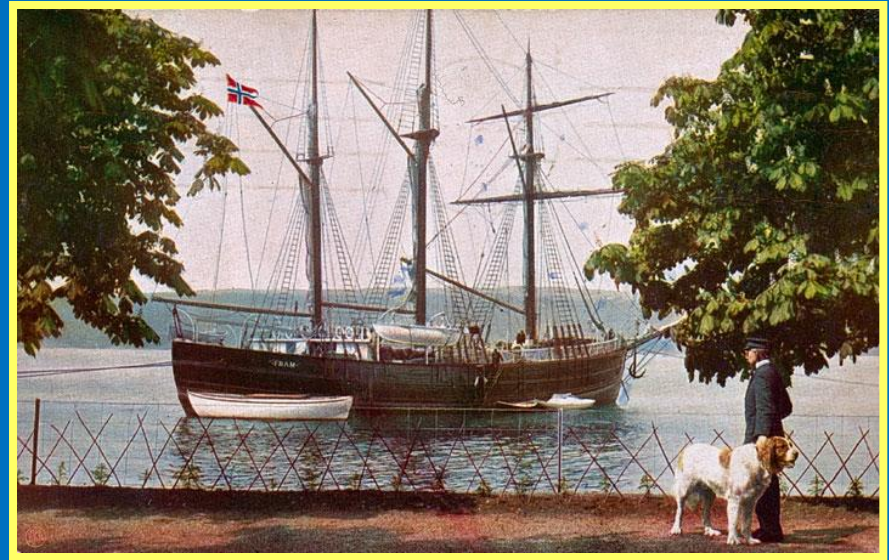


A 'Minor Diversion' South

- * Amundsen's intention to go to North Pole.
- * Asked Nansen's blessing to use *Fram*.
Refit with a diesel engine.
- * Difficulty in raising funds for expedition/ little support from Norwegian gov't.
- * Reports came in Sept. 1909 that Frederick Cook and Robert Peary had reached North Pole.
- * Amundsen kept secret his intent to sail for South Pole from Nansen, Norwegian gov't. (only his brother, Leon, knew; crew was polled in Madeira off Morocco. 4 mo. sail to Bay of Whales.
- * On way south (8 wks after Scott), he sent telegram to Scott:
'BEG TO INFORM YOU FRAM PROCEEDING ANTARCTICA – AMUNDSEN'
- * Thus, perhaps the greatest race of all time was on although Scott denied it was a race.



Amundsen with his dog gazing at *Fram*



Amundsen, 'The Chief', in center