

COMET IS RELATED TO WEATHER?

WRITER IN TECHNICAL WORLD MAGAZINE DISCUSSES INTERESTING PROBLEM.

The Technical World magazine for July contains a most interesting article on the abnormal weather conditions all over the world the past year. Staggering questions, not unlike some of the powers with which children stump their elders, have been put to many scientific men in relation to the supposed effect of Halley's comet upon our pleasant planet. Over and over again have the wise ones been asked, was the comet responsible for the unprecedented atmosphere and seismic disturbances that brought so much woe to the human race during the first half of the present year? Is a man a superstitious fool to blame any of these cataclysmic upheavals, devastating inundations, terrible typhoons, frightful and unseasonable frosts and snows, or unprecedented heat, upon the comet? On this misty subject of cometary influence upon mundane affairs are the scientific any wiser than the unscientific?

Too Busy.
I own that I have done my fair share of this questioning, and that I have been as free as anyone possibly could have been in putting these powers to astronomical and meteorological experts in various parts of the country. The astronomers, judging by their replies, have been too busy squinting through their telescopes or computing the mass of the comet, or figuring out the chemical constituents of its tail, to have looked about them for evidence of the physical effect of the erratic visitor upon this planet. They have been millions of miles away in interstellar space, and have hardly considered it worth while to look down upon the good gray earth and see what has happened there. Some of the star gazers who have essayed to reply to my questions have either denied the logic of my premises or have evaded the points set forth. Even so liberal a speculator upon astronomical subjects as Dr. Edward S. Holden, formerly director of the great Lick observatory in California, replied: "I have nothing to say for publication on the possible effect of comets upon our earth as to weather, etc."

I have found the meteorological authorities as little given to speculation upon this highly important subject as the astronomers. Willis L. Moore, chief of the United States weather bureau wrote to me from Washington in May: "I beg to state that this bureau has no observations that would support a view that there is any such influence."

On Earth.
The question that most bothers all scientific investigators in this connection is, may not the comet have exerted a great magnetic influence upon the earth and may not that influence have been expressed in the abnormal meteorological conditions which certainly existed? Here is a field that few have explored, and none fully, and yet nearly all the scientists are willing to admit that in it lie immense possibilities. On searching the literature of the subject it will be found that few modern investigators have committed themselves to the theory of cometary influence of any sort upon the physical conditions of the earth or its atmosphere, and those who have done so are generally regarded as empiricists. But on the other hand I fail to find that any exhaustive or even fairly cautious attempts have been made by scientific men of high rank in support of the hypothesis or against it.

Now I am not fond of shooting the air, but I will claim the same privilege as that enjoyed by the scientist, speculating upon what I can lay hold of by way of physical fact. My facts are not gathered from the misty realms of interstellar space, but from what has actually happened upon this solid and perfectly obvious planet. What

study I have made of the records, though far from adequate, because the task is a tremendous one and should be undertaken by experts only, proves conclusively the fact that those years commonly known as "comet years" have invariably included seasons of phenomenal atmospheric disturbance and unseasonable weather. Abnormal heat and abnormal cold, abnormal drought and abnormal rain, have been visited sporadically on the earth's surface during such years. There have also been great earthquakes, great wars and great disasters during those years. After making due allowance for the credulity of the superstitious in attributing these things directly to comets may we who are not in the least superstitious be excused for attempting so to attribute them? With the testimony of the records at hand, it is not to be wondered at that people of all ages have looked upon the approach of comets with dire misgivings and even with great dread.

Demonstrations.
We do not have to go away back to uncertain historical records to prove that there have been phenomenal meteorological conditions in comet years. Take this present year, 1910. Has it not already included enough scorching heat, of blighting frost, seasonable and unseasonable, and of high winds, rains and electric storms such as rarely have been witnessed during the past three or four hundred years, beyond which time the records grow dim? Before we proceed any further let us look at these recent conditions.

In the month of February, while the comet was faint in the sky but driving toward this earth at the rate of 15,000 miles an hour, a great rainfall along the headwaters of the Seine raised that historic river to a mark unprecedented since the year 1658. The mighty waters burst through the dikes, flooded the Champs Elysees and transformed Paris into a greater Venice. The gaiety of the Parisians was dampened and chilled. Many of them fled from the city in fear. To get to their chamber the deputies had to go in boats. Never in the history of France was there a flood that did so much damage to property.

Hot In March.
The next phenomenal condition occurred in America, where at many stations all over the country the highest temperature for March ever recorded officially was reached. The thermometer standing at 79 degrees in New York on three different days, and at 85 in Washington. The unseasonable warmth caused much illness along the Atlantic coast. In his report upon these abnormal conditions, Prof. F. H. Bigelow of the United States weather bureau says:

"For continued high temperature and deficient precipitation March, 1910, established new records over many districts of the United States. Probably not within the recorded history of the country has there been a month of the same name with such a long, unbroken series of successive days with the temperature above the normal and at the same time such persistent absence of precipitation."

In the latter part of April such tricks were played with the thermometer that those who read it could hardly believe their eyes. With freezing temperature in Louisiana, the sun blazed fiercely in the north, the thermal gauge registering 86 degrees above zero at Medicine Hat in Saskatchewan. Equally weird weather was reported from Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. At the same time a frightfully devastating frost damaged crops throughout the middle west and south to the extent of \$500,000,000. In the extreme southwest all April records were broken for high temperature, from Los Angeles 109 degree being reported. While this was going on 10 inches of snow fell in Michigan and there were other heavy falls in Illinois, Iowa and other nearby states.

Most extraordinary conditions were reported from other parts of the globe during the spring season. There was a terrible typhoon in the East Indies and a cataclysmic upheaval in the waters of the Caribbean. The largest island of the Morant keys disappeared beneath the surface of the sea, and steamer captains reported shoals of dead fish in that neighborhood. Then followed the flaring forth of Mount Etna and the devastation of Sicily, the fairest island of the Mediterranean. Fifteen of Etna's great craters vented blazing liquid to a great height in one day. The eruption burst forth with deafening thunder, likened by one correspondent to the simultaneous discharge of thousands of cannon. Then followed the Costa Rica earthquake which destroyed the cities of San Jose and Cartago, and a number of large meteors fell in various places.

Back in the Newport Home

Newport, R. I., Aug. 16.—The famous financier, Stuyvesant Fish, and his wife, who is prominent in social circles, are among the summer resorters at Newport. Since the marriage of their son they have spent much of their time here.



MR. AND MRS. STUYVESANT FISH.

This is the record of the first five months of the comet year, 1910—the year that is witnessing the return of Halley's brilliant astral visitor, which happens along this way once in about 75 years.

Now let us proceed backward along the line of historic comet years. On March 17, 1906, Professor Ross discovered a comet. It was observed from the Lick observatory in California for a month. On April 15th came the San Francisco earthquake. In the same year there was also a great earthquake in Chile.

Comets, however, was accompanied by abnormal conditions and much bloodshed. Cowan's comet in 1874 was seen during the year of the Civil war and the most devastating frost ever recorded occurred then. In this year 160 meteors fell in one night in India.

Preceding this we have the comet of 1861, the brightest of the 19th century. Its coming was heralded as a token of the civil war, and in 1862 there was a "second civil war comet" of a very peculiar appearance, with jets of flame flaring from its head. All over the world abnormal weather conditions prevailed during those years. The summer of 1861 was hot and dry to a degree almost unprecedented on the continent of Europe and particularly in Italy, which suffered greatly from drought.

In conversation with Professor S. A. Mitchell of Columbia university, who has written several valuable papers on Halley's and other comets, I learned that that gentleman was committed to the theory that the tail of the comet is not so gaseous in its composition as electric, and this is the latest view of several other astronomers. From the enormous nucleus of the comet, over 200,000 miles in diameter, or more than 20 times that of our earth, are emitted billions upon billions of those mysterious particles known as electrons, and these spreading out over hundreds of millions of square miles of space, might easily exert some sort of influence upon the earth, particularly by way of atmospheric disturbance. Should cometary influence be proved to be purely magnetic, then the abnormal heat and cold, violent winds and even earthquakes might be accounted for. The difficulty in the adoption of this theory lies in the fact that dynamic meteorology is something of which we know as little as we do of the people of Mars.

What?
What causes the changes of the weather? Professors of meteorology will glibly inform you that they are the result of peculiar distribution of barometric pressure. But what causes the peculiar distribution and to what extent is it affected by magnetic conditions they are unable to answer. Secret day meteorologists are like certain species of jellyfish, groping about the abysses of the ocean floor to which they are confined. Little they know what is above that floor. It is time that they sought that surface. Flammarion's picture of the people of this planet being killed by the poisonous gases of a comet's appendage has been proven to be a purely fanciful one, as the great comet of 1832 passed within 4,000 miles of the earth which must have been completely enveloped by the mysterious gas, electric field or whatever else it may be, and yet no one felt any direct effect, though that there was atmospheric disturbance of a high degree is argued from the fact of the abnormal weather of that year to which I have referred already in this article.

LOSES FOOT IN THRESHER.
Palmyra, Mo., Aug. 16.—Stepping into the cylinder box, accidentally left uncovered on the threshing machine he operated, Albert Buchhold, 24, suffered the loss of his left foot. The member was completely severed and, running through the machine, was crushed to a pulp. Buchhold lost so much blood before a physician could reach him it is doubtful if he will survive.

NEW DEATH-DEALER MADE.
Camp Perry, Aug. 16.—A great deal of attention has been directed at Camp Perry to the Benet-Morser gun which is one of Uncle Sam's new death dealers. The gun is fired from a rest and held against the shoulder of a man sitting or lying prone on the ground. The gun fires the regulation rifle cartridges and clips each containing 20 cartridges. A rapid handler can discharge from 300 to 600 shots per minute if assisted by someone passing the cartridge clips. In reality the gun is a machine gun on a small scale and can be easily operated by two men, who are supposed to carry the gun and ammunition. It is manufactured in this country by the Colt Patent Fire Arms company for the United States government.

MONEY GONE.
Superior, Wis., August 16.—An opened registered letter envelope, containing two bank certificates for \$5,000 each was found in the residence district today and an investigation shows that the letter contained a third certificate for a similar amount and this is missing.

The letter was sent from the American Exchange bank in Duluth to the Superior State bank yesterday and was stolen during last night. The police are working on vague clues.

FARMERS AID MINERS.
Hegira, Ill., Aug. 16.—The farmers of Williamson and Johnson counties have come to the aid of striking miners in this vicinity. Sub-district President Jarrard of the miners has returned from a speaking tour through the farming regions of this portion of the state and received a promise of a car load of provisions that will be made up and shipped for distribution among the needy families.

MAYOR GAYNOR IMPROVING.
New York, Aug. 16, 9:20 p. m.—Mayor Gaynor has passed a very comfortable day. There has been a general improvement in his symptoms. (Signed) Arlitz, Dowd, Stewart, Parrish.

GIRL IS ATTACKED.
Independence, Mo., Aug. 16.—Clara Baldus, the 16-year-old daughter of Joseph Baldus, a farmer living nine miles east of this city, while alone at her home today was attacked by an unknown man, chloroformed and bound to a chair. The man fled, leaving her unconscious.

ENGINE JUMPS TRACK.
Nevada, Mo., Aug. 16.—An unknown negro was killed and 84 persons were injured, only one seriously, it is said, when the tender of Missouri-Pacific passenger train No. 339 jumped the track 11 miles north of here today. Fireman Murdock was badly scalded.

CHILDREN DROWN PLAYMATE.
Mason City, Mo., Aug. 16.—Children in play poured a quantity of water down the throat of Ralph, 4-year-old son of J. A. Juep of Calmar, and the child died an hour later. The water went into his lungs and he was drowned.

FOURTEEN-YEAR TERM.
Marion, Ill., Aug. 16.—Matty Smith, aged 35, was convicted today for killing her sweetheart, John Clayton, three months ago. She was given 14 years in the penitentiary.

ERB CASE BOBS UP ONCE MORE IN OHIO

Cincinnati, Aug. 16.—Suits for injunctions, accountings and damages, totaling millions of dollars and bringing into question deals involving four railroads, were filed here today by Rudolph and Leopold Kleybolte, brokers. The suits are directed chiefly against Newman Erb, a New York attorney, who, since 1908, has been a disbarred trustee for the old firm of Kleybolte & Co., a concern that declared itself insolvent in 1907 with assets of \$3,250,000 when the liquidation was undertaken. In addition to Mr. Erb, one of the three suits is directed at the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad, and E. M. Bradford, president of the Chicago, Cincinnati & Louisville railroad.

The Kleyboltes charge Erb with a violation of trust, allege collusion and fraud and that he speculated in sums held by him as trustee. Three principal accountings are demanded and a prayer for damages named \$1,100,000 as the amount they desire to recover from Erb. The damages are asked because it is alleged Erb, as trustee, permitted \$1,208,000 per value of Dayton, Toledo & Ironton railroad stock to be sold at auction for \$100,000.

The plaintiffs demand an accounting for over \$14,000,000 profit, alleged to have been made by Erb in acquiring control of the Wisconsin Central railroad and turning it over to the Canadian Pacific. They also ask for an accounting of the deal whereby the Chesapeake & Ohio bought the Chicago, Cincinnati & Louisville, and ask that the court restrain the payment of the purchase money until that accounting is made.

The third accounting demanded relates to a deal by which Erb is alleged to have acquired at a low figure a block of stock of the Ann Arbor Railroad company, Erb being chairman of the board of directors of that road.

WOMEN LAWYERS.
New York, Aug. 16.—Mrs. Sophia M. Meyer, a lawyer, appeared before Supreme Justice Goff to argue a motion today. When the court saw her at the counsel table she asked her why she was there, and Mrs. Meyer said she represented the plaintiff.

"Are you an attorney?" asked Justice Goff.

"Yes, she's an attorney," answered A. B. Schlemmer, the opposing counsel.

"Then remove your hat," said the court.

"I beg your pardon," said Mrs. Meyer, who did not catch the court's remarks.

"Are you any different from any other attorney?" said the court. "Why don't you remove your hat?"

Mrs. Meyer had her hat off in a jiffy and proceeded to state her case.

HIDING WITH NEGRO FIED.
Hinton, W. Va., Aug. 16.—Directly under the nose of a mob of 1,000 men bent upon having the life of a negro hanged to the gallows, a mob of Quincannon Sunday night, county officers tonight escaped from a car with their prisoner and are now in hiding in the woods or using darkness to escape. Members of the mob are scouring the woods for the party. The negro was arrested this afternoon. Immediately the mob began to gather. Governor Glasscock ordered the militia to town, but a single company was of no avail, and three more companies are due tomorrow.

FARMER CRUSHED.
Chester, Ill., Aug. 16.—John Mullett, aged 54, was killed, and his daughter Mary, aged 9, was seriously injured at Roots station, 12 miles north of Chester, this evening, when the wagon in which they were riding was struck by an Illinois Southern passenger train.

Mullett, who is a farmer, was hauling wheat to the elevator and was accompanied by his little girl and two small sons. The engine struck the wagon near the front wheels. Mullett was thrown under the train and was ground to pieces. The little girl remained in the wagon bed, which was thrown to one side of the track. The boys jumped from the rear of the wagon and escaped unhurt. One horse was killed, but the other escaped without a scratch. A physician who was on the train rendered immediate aid to the little girl.

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LOOK YOUR COIN OVER SAYS SECRET SERVICE

Reduce the "life" of counterfeit money one-half by educating the public to scrutinize more carefully the paper and coin it handles, is the slogan of the United States secret service, whose report for the fiscal year became public recently. Chief Wilkie announces a decreased activity among criminals who make the imitation of currency and coin their specialty, but he sounds a note of warning that counterfeiting resembles epidemic diseases—after the epidemic is checked it requires continued vigilance and activity to minimize the chances of further outbreaks.

There is still trouble in some districts over "raised" notes, where the denominations of one and two dollar bills have been altered to give the appearance of tens or twenties. Little of the counterfeiting product of the year was dangerously deceptive. Colorado was the center of operations for the makers of the most deceptive counterfeit-dollar of the year.

The greatest menace to the integrity of the currency ever received, important as a counterfeiting enterprise, but really much more concerned with public safety, is the way the report described the operations of Ignazio Lupo, Giuseppe Morello and others, following whose arrests and conviction Black Hand crimes among the New York Italians decreased more than 75 per cent.

There were 316 arrests by the secret service agents during the fiscal year. Of those arrested, 192 were born in the United States, 82 in Italy, 13 in Russia and the rest scattered. New York furnished most of the cases.

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Yellowstone Park Excursion

Via Oregon Short Line
AUGUST 24
Round Trip Rate From Butte \$44.85

This rate covers all rail fare, hotel and stage expenses for complete tour of the park, taking in all points of interest. Remember the date: Leave Butte 4 p. m., arriving at entrance of the park 6:45 next morning. This is the cheapest rate and the quickest route from Butte. Make Your Through Pullman Berth Reservation at Once. City Ticket Office, No. 2 North Main Street, Butte, Mont. F. D. WILSON, D. F. & P. A.

EXCURSION TO DENVER

VIA Oregon Short Line
From Butte and Anaconda August 27
\$37.50-Round Trip-\$37.50
Going limit five days; final return limit September 25. Usual diverse routes permissible. Reserve Berths Early. Oregon Short Line Ticket Office, 2 North Main St., Butte, F. D. WILSON, D. F. & P. A.

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Your choice of any of this season's WALK-OVER Oxfords, sold at \$4, \$5 and \$2.95 \$6 a pair--All sizes - \$2.95

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Beeson-Armstrong
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