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we cannot express any conclusive opinion with regard to to-day's occurrence.

EXPECTS PASSAGE TO-DAY

Princeton Man Also Says Tail May Not Touch Earth.

Princeton, N. J., May 19.—Professor Henry Norris Russell, of the astronomical department of Princeton University, has declared to-day that, had the calculations on the width of the comet's tail early to-day as compared with previous mornings, the earth was not near enough to pass through the tail of the comet this morning, but very likely it will do so early to-morrow.

"At 8 a. m. to-day the sky was brilliantly clear, without trace of moonlight or dawn," said Professor Russell. "The comet's tail was conspicuous in the east as a band of light about eight degrees wide and quite straight. Its central line passed about midway between the stars Alpha and Gamma Pegasi, and its end was lost in the Milky Way in Aquila. No trace of the tail could be detected beyond the Milky Way, and no illumination could be seen in the eastern sky in spite of careful search under very favorable conditions. The zodiacal light was visible in the southeast, separated from the comet's tail by a dark interval about ten degrees in breadth.

"The tail was apparently between two and three times as wide as on the morning of Tuesday, May 17. Its real width has not changed, it must have been fully one-third as far from us on the 19th as it was two days before, which would make the time of the earth's passage through it come on the morning of the 20th."

Professor Russell said to-night in reference to the statement of Dr. Campbell of the comet, "From the appearance at Princeton this morning it looked then as if it were likely that we would pass through the southern edge of the tail. Professor Campbell, however, observing three hours later, would be in a position to make a more accurate estimate, and it may be that we will pass just outside of it." He declared that it would be impossible to note anything further about the comet until about 3 o'clock to-morrow morning, owing to the brightness of the moon to-night.

Professor Russell declared that the spots on the sun seen by Western astronomers were a typical group and not extraordinary. He added that the spots have nothing to do with the comet. The largest of the spots, Professor Russell said, was 20,000 miles in diameter, and the entire group covered a field of about 150,000 miles.

Professor Russell gave up his observations at 9 o'clock to-night, owing to the brightness of the moon. He declares that the passage of the comet through the comet's tail will probably cause a much greater curve in the latter than already exists. The fact that the curve in the tail was not noticed sooner is laid to the fact that it was possible to see the tail only from the side.

COMET CAUSES SUICIDE ATTEMPT.

Stephen A. Connor, forty years old, of No. 401 East 90th street, tried to kill himself yesterday in the car barns at 50th street and Sixth avenue, where he has been employed as a helper. Seventeen stitches were needed to sew up a gash he made in his throat. He was locked up in the West 47th street station.

"I tried to die because the world is com-

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WIRELESS HAD NO TROUBLE

Alleged Passage Through the Comet's Tail Left No Traces.

The passage of the earth through the tail of Halley's comet, which some scientists thought would affect the sending of wireless messages, had not the slightest effect, as far as reports made yesterday indicated.

John Bottomley, manager of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, said that "speaking wirelessly, we don't know that the comet has a tail. It has not affected our system at all." The manager of the De Forest Radio Telegraph Company said that a test between New York, Chicago and Washington on Wednesday showed no extraordinary atmospheric conditions that interfered with wireless messages. Dr. De Forest ordered all operators of the company to watch for "celestial music," but none was reported.

The operators of the Western Union Telegraph Company, the Postal Telegraph Cable Company and the New York Telephone Company were told to observe anything out of the ordinary, as the influence of the comet was an unknown quantity and sun spots were expected. Appearance of sun spots and auroras and interference with telegraph service are sometimes coincident but such was not the case Wednesday night or yesterday morning.

SUSPECTS LAGGING TAIL

Lick Professor Thinks Collision May Be Avoided.

San Jose, Cal., May 19.—According to Dr. Campbell, of Lick Observatory, there is a possibility that the earth may not pass through the comet's tail. In a statement issued to-day he said: "The tail was visible as soon as the moon set. It is probable that we shall miss passing through the tail to-night because it is lagging by several million miles. The comet's orbit is inclined to an angle with the earth's orbit, and it is probable we shall not pass through the tail at all. The diameter of the tail at the point in which we are interested—1,400,000 miles from the head—was about 8 degrees. If the tail at daylight had been almost in contact with the earth we should have expected the angular diameter to be much greater than it was. The tail was therefore probably several million miles away, in which case the earth and the tail did not meet this morning.

"If this meeting is delayed until to-night there can be little doubt the earth will not pass through the tail at all, but will pass to the south of it. The reason for this is simple. The tail lags behind in the plane of the comet's orbit; the comet's orbital plane makes an angle of 18 degrees with the earth's orbital plane; the retardation of the tail therefore, draws it away from the plane in which the earth is moving, and the earth will pass to the south of it. The observed position of the tail this morning was appreciably further north than that of yesterday morning.

"This lagging of the tail produces an interesting situation. If we could have observed the comet this morning we should have seen the head of the comet well below the sun and the tail extending far above the sun. We have been so nearly in the plane of the comet's orbit during the last fortnight that it has been impossible to observe directly the lagging of the tail, for the curvature has been so great that the comet's head is situated out in space far to the north or the south of the earth and the comet, he would undoubtedly have been able to see the tail strongly curved backward with reference to the direction of motion of the comet.

"Our conclusions yesterday that the tail was lagging were based on the fact that the angular diameter of the tail did not increase so rapidly as it should have done had the tail been pointing exactly away from the sun."

ERROR IN CALCULATION BLAMED FOR DELAYED ZYZGY

Washington, May 19.—The failure of the earth to pass through the tail of the comet as was expected last night is merely an error in theoretical calculation, say the astronomers at the United States Naval Observatory. There is no doubt, however, they say, that the earth passed into a less dense portion of the tail at 2 o'clock this morning. The error in calculation was undoubtedly due, they think, to the variance of the degree of the curve of the tail from what they had estimated it.

"None of the scientists here is ready to agree that the earth will not pass through the tail at all, as has been advanced by Professor Campbell, of Lick Observatory. They are inclined to the opinion that the earth is passing through the tail, and base that view on their observations, which disclosed what they believed to be a less dense part of the tail early to-day.

A large group of spots has formed on the sun's visible disk since yesterday afternoon, as shown by the following photograph taken by George H. Peter, of the observatory. They are in south latitude and in a position corresponding to the additional displacement of two days from the sun's eastern limb. These, together with the large group observed at the observatory in the last week, which are also in the southern hemisphere, it is stated, form an unusual condition for this period in the sun spot cycle.

"THE COMET GIRL" ARRIVES. Chicago, May 19.—"Halley Abrams" is the name of a little girl who arrived yesterday at the home of J. Y. Abrams, chief police detective at a downtown hotel. The physician who attended asked permission to name her. Permission being given, he said: "All right. You will henceforth be known as 'The Comet Girl,' and I choose for you the name of Halley."

CATCH SHORT WEIGHT MEN

Inspector Makes More Fraud Discoveries in Brooklyn.

Complaints were made yesterday in Brooklyn against six storekeepers for that borough on the strength of a report made by Inspector Ellwood Hanson, of the Bureau of Weights and Measures, who reported that they had given short weight to their customers. Proceedings against them will be instituted by the bureau, which has made similar complaints, based on one of its salesmen's reports against the Sheffield Farms Sausage-Decker Milk Company.

Mr. Hanson found the worst conditions in sections where the poor lived. In a Columbia street grocery store, one of many branches of a concern which handles large quantities of groceries, Mr. Hanson purchased a pound of rice, which proved to be one-quarter of an ounce short, and a pound of sugar, which was short half an ounce. The scoop on the scales in this store was coated with sugar, which when scraped off weighed one-quarter of an ounce. Four one-pound bags of powdered sugar were all short of one-quarter to half an ounce. Packages of oatmeal proved to be short in weight.

In a Third avenue store of the same concern Mr. Hanson purchased a five-pound smoked shoulder. It was four and one-quarter ounces short. A strip of bacon, wrapped up for delivery, was found to contain five ounces less than the three pounds charged for. In another branch store Mr. Hanson purchased one pound seven ounces of bacon at 22 cents a pound. In the weight was included one and one-half ounces of paper.

LUMINOUS IN NOON

Watching Crowds Saw Wonderful Sunset, Followed by Storm.

BRILLIANT BANDS OF LIGHT

Thousands Convinced That They Identified the Comet's Tail.

(By Cable to The Tribune.) London, May 19.—The eve of the royal pageant was marked by a wonderful sunset to-night, followed quickly by a thunderstorm. There were thousands of watchers in quest of the broad, luminous band which could be identified with the comet's tail. They were rewarded by a vivid and glorious spectacle. Long streams of light ran upward and outward from the setting sun.

In accordance with the forecasts, the head of the comet was invisible, but the bands were remarkably brilliant. Probably the spectacle could not have attracted attention if the newspapers had not advertised it in advance.

As it was, thousands were convinced that they had seen the comet's tail, especially as there was a sudden electrical disturbance and downpour of rain, as there had been in the early morning, when the earth was supposed to be passing through the gaseous tract. The phenomenon was of short duration, as the western sky rapidly clouded over, but while it lasted it was a most brilliant display.

COMET AS SEEN ABROAD

West Indian Observers Say It Seemed Larger than Last Week.

St. Thomas, D. W. I., May 19.—Halley's comet was visible in its usual eastern position this morning. Its enormous dimensions appeared fourfold greater than a week ago, the tail stretching over two degrees of the horizon, although the head had not yet risen above the horizon. There were no unusual phenomena observed last night.

Honolulu, May 19.—Professor F. E. Ellerman, of the Carnegie Observatory, at Mount Wilson, Cal., and his party of American astronomers, who crossed three thousand miles of the Pacific to see Halley's comet against the sun, reported last night that their efforts had been in vain, so far as seeing the actual transit was concerned. From their temporary observatory at Diamond Head, near this city, they saw the sun spots, but not the comet. Reports to the same effect were made by Professor J. S. Donaghoe, of the Hawaii College Observatory, on Kaimuki Hill.

All observations were negative in Hawaii, the spot most favored by astronomers for seeing the comet this morning. The weather was perfectly clear. Both astronomers agree that the comet contains nothing solid large enough to be visible through a 64-inch telescope against the background of the sun.

Great fear was manifested among the Orientals on the island as the time for seeing the comet drew near. The Japanese on two large plantations on the island of Hawaii abandoned their work because of the strange visitor.

Manila, May 19.—Father Algue, an astronomer, believes that the long cherished scientific theory of a solid composition forming the nucleus of comets is now disproved. Exhaustive observations made from 3:30 to 11:30 a. m. to-day at the Jesuit observatory at Manila, Dagupan and Antipolo failed to reveal a trace of solid matter. The weather conditions were perfect, and the observers were assisted by three national sun spots, which facilitated the detection of solids.

Aden, Arabia, May 19.—The tail of Halley's comet appeared as the rays of a gigantic searchlight at this city this morning. The head was invisible.

Johannesburg, May 19.—According to the observations made at the Transvaal Observatory, of which R. T. A. Innes is the director, the earth had not traversed the tail of Halley's comet at dawn to-day. The tail was still north of the ecliptic, and the observatory it was thought probable that the earth would pass considerably to the south of it.

GOT METEORIC DUST, MAYBE

German Balloonists Bottled Air at Height of 11,385 Feet.

Berlin, May 19.—The balloon Abercorn was the only one among a large number making ascensions in Germany which succeeded in getting observations of the comet. The aeronauts report that they reached an altitude of 11,385 feet. They noted extraordinarily brilliant horizontal lights like meteors.

They secured four bottles of air at that height, which will undergo expert examination for meteoric dust and other ingredients. They were compelled to descend owing to an electrical storm. The Empress, the Crown Prince and Crown Princess and other royal persons visited the Potsdam observatory to-night and watched the sky for a long time, but they failed to see the comet.

CUBAN DISASTER, ACCIDENT

Fatal Explosion Due to Carpenter's Carelessness, It Is Said.

Havana, Cuba, May 19.—The fatal explosion of thousands of pounds of dynamite, at the barracks at Pinar del Rio yesterday, is officially declared to have been due to the carelessness of a carpenter engaged in repairing defective cases of dynamite which were being loaded on a wagon for transport to the railway station.

The carpenter was in the act of nailing the lid on a broken case when the dynamite exploded, detonating the rest of the dynamite on the wagon and instantly killing all in the courtyard and blowing down the wall of an adjacent store room in which the remainder of the dynamite was deposited. This precipitated a second explosion, completing the destruction of the buildings.

Already twenty-eight bodies have been recovered from the ruins of the barracks. The latest official returns received here indicate that the total fatalities may not exceed thirty-five. The injured number 145, of whom two have died in the hospital. The injuries of the great majority of the others are not considered serious.

WHY COMET WAS SHY

Too Transparent to Be Seen, Says Professor Jacoby.

ALREADY PASSED BY US

Thinks Negative Views in Far East Throw Light on What Comet Really Is.

Harold A. Jacoby, Rutherford professor of astronomy at Columbia University, when asked yesterday about the reported failure of astronomers stationed at Manila and Honolulu to see the actual transit of Halley's comet, said:

"The fact that they did not see the head of the comet in transit does not prove that it did not occur. I think it merely means that even if the head of the comet is so transparent that it could not be seen when projected against the bright disk of the sun."

"This would fit in with our theory about the constitution of comets. This negative result is therefore of importance, and not to be regarded as a failure. We have never had such a chance before to verify in this way the lack of density in the comets. I think that is quite a desirable result."

Referring to reports from the West Indies and elsewhere that the comet's tail was seen in the eastern sky on Thursday morning, Professor Jacoby said: "If the tail of the comet was so transparent that it was seen on Thursday morning early in a position similar to its former one, this observation simply means that the tail, or part of it, was really still in its old position."

"That may sound almost too foolishly simple a proposition to state. In other words, at that hour we had not yet passed through or by the tail. I think that the next time we see the comet we shall find that the tail, if still visible, has gone around us, as predicted. That is to say, when the comet becomes visible in the western sky after sunset we shall see the tail pointing away from the sun, as usual."

Asked on what night he should probably get the best view of the comet, Mr. Jacoby said that, assuming a cloudless sky, the excellence of our view of the puzzling traveler would depend on three factors—first, the intrinsic brightness of the comet; second, the absence of twilight in the sky, and, third, the absence of moonlight.

The brightness of the comet is diminishing, he said, so that this factor is becoming the least favorable. The moon is coming from the earth night after night. But, he added, the other two factors will become more favorable because the comet will set later each evening, giving an opportunity to await the disappearance of twilight and because the moonlight will also diminish after the full moon on May 23.

"It follows that as these factors are acting in opposite directions we cannot foretell," said Mr. Jacoby, "the exact date when the sum of their effects will be most favorable. It would not surprise me if we have a better view on Saturday week than we shall have this Saturday."

"There is going to be a total eclipse of the moon on the 23d," continued Mr. Jacoby. "Those who have noticed how badly the moonlight interferes with observations of the comet may have been looking forward to this eclipse as an opportunity to view the comet without moonlight. In fact, statements to this effect have appeared in some of the newspapers. Unfortunately, at New York the eclipse will not begin until just about the time when the comet will set, so we shall probably get little help from the eclipse."

UP TO WHITRIDGE'S MEN

Many of Their Statements Disproved by P. S. C.

While the Public Service Commission has sent no formal reply to the letter of Frederick W. Whitridge, receiver for the Third Avenue Railroad system, an investigation made by the officers of the commission yesterday disproved some of the charges made by Mr. Whitridge against Public Service inspectors.

While the report forwarded by Mr. Whitridge gave no names, the details given by the sleuths allowed the identification of the men referred to and other portions of the report fixed the dates of the sleuthing. It developed that two of the inspectors referred to were off duty on the days when they were followed by Mr. Whitridge's Third Avenue detectives, so that their movements were of no interest to the commission.

George F. Hammond, formerly of District Attorney Jerome's investigating staff, turned up bright and early at the office of the commission yesterday and explained that he was the man who called at a saloon and left a letter with the bartender, which Mr. Whitridge's detectives were watching.

Hammond was not working as an inspector of service, however, but was securing consents for property on Whitlock avenue for the Broadway-Lexington avenue subway route in The Bronx. The saloonkeeper had been away on the occasion of two previous calls, and Hammond therefore took along with him a blank consent paper which he left for the saloonkeeper to sign.

MISSING MAN IN JAIL

Cleveland Manufacturer Said to Have Many Wives.

Cleveland, May 19.—Walter C. Lytle, a manufacturer, who has been missing from here for a year, has been found in a Mississippi penitentiary, where he is serving a ten-year sentence for bigamy. Simultaneously comes the discovery that Lytle's bigamous wives number at least four and probably many more. He is said to possess considerable means.

MARSHALL GETS A PLUM

Report That He Will Succeed Eidman as Internal Revenue Collector.

It was said on good authority last night that Frederick T. Marshall had decided to appoint Dr. Frederick T. Marshall, the new Republican leader of the 10th Assembly District, as deputy collector of internal revenue for the 3d District. He will succeed in that office the late Ferdinand Eidman, who held the leadership of the 10th district. The office pays \$4,000 a year.

Lloyd C. Griscom, president of the Republican County Committee, recommended the appointment of Dr. Marshall after going over the situation carefully and considering the many applicants for the place. The 3d is an East Side district, the headquarters being in Third avenue, and it was deemed advisable to select a man from the East Side to fill it. The other applicants were from other sections of the city.

Dr. Marshall is a dentist at No. 123 Second avenue, and has been active in Republican politics for twenty years. He had been the virtual leader of the 10th district for several years prior to the death of Mr. Eidman.

GRAFT PROBE IN DANGER

Continued from first page.

assertion as untrue. He reviewed the history of the investigation resolution from the time of the Aldis trial and the fire insurance investigation begun by Superintendent Hotchkiss.

"Corrupt and improper practices were seen to exist," said Senator Hinman, "from the disclosures of that investigation. I said to three leaders of the Senate at that time it was up to us to meet this just demand from the people for an investigation and to go to the bottom of all the charges. But things went on and on in spite of this demand, and we sat here quietly as men with no backbone until the Governor had to communicate to the Legislature what the demand of the people of the state really was."

Senator Hinman then read some of the stinging phrases of the Governor's special message recommending a graft probe.

"Acting on this recommendation of the Governor, who voices the will of the people," said Senator Hinman, "the Senate prepared a resolution which met the situation. I complimented them, and I desire to compliment now, the men who drew that resolution and to express my full appreciation of their work. It provided for just the kind of a thorough and sweeping investigation the Governor had in mind. That resolution was transmitted to the Assembly, and some of us who remembered a speech made on the floor of the Assembly by its leader on another resolution wondered what would happen to it."

Senator Hinman quoted extracts from the speech of Speaker Wadsworth opposing the Chandler resolution. He said that a great hue and cry had been made there about political expediency.

"And so some of us wondered just what would happen in the other house," he continued. "Well, the resolution came back amended. I wish my words when I say that a fraud was attempted to be foisted on the people of the state. I weighed that resolution as it came back and analyzed it. I wonder if the amended spirit of reform had reached the Assembly or if the resolution was loaded with jokers. I made my view known then to men in this body. I told them that if that resolution in that form was brought before the Senate I should have to express my opinion of it publicly. At that time it contained nothing about industrial insurance, but it was reported in this house with the clause about industrial insurance added to it. Then I requested that it should lie over until we could get a chance to study it thoroughly, although I realized that the exigencies of the situation demanded prompt action on our part."

"I want to say that we can't sit here like weaklings or act like crooks without the people knowing about what we do, and forming their opinion on it, and if the newspapers report what we do rather than what we think we do they ought not to be called muck-rakers."

"I am the general counsel for the Security Mutual of Binghamton. It is not and never was an industrial insurance company. So far as the old line companies are concerned the longer and deeper investigation of industrial insurance we have the better they will like it. So you see this accusation falls to the ground on that score. I have frequently told members of the Senate that industrial insurance companies should be investigated and legislated against. Their back door methods ought to be stopped. Sometimes they are next door to stealing."

So far as the charges that Governor Hughes and Mr. Hotchkiss were protecting the Metropolitan are concerned, Senator Hinman pointed out that Mr. Hotchkiss had had his experts making an investigation of the Metropolitan for several months. Governor Hughes, in writing the report of the Armstrong committee, devoted much space to a criticism of industrial insurance methods and the Metropolitan company in particular. As a result of this and the committee's work officials of the Metropolitan were indicted, Mr. Hinman said.

"And yet this article is sent out with a nasty slur against the Governor," said the Senator, "and the Governor and the Superintendent of Insurance and myself were charged with juggling with this resolution because we do not dare to touch this company."

LACKAWANNA WAGE INCREASE

Scranton, Penn., May 19.—The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad has advanced the wages of its firemen an average of 10 to 12 per cent. The increase dates from May 1.

BOATS FOR WEST 129TH STREET

Beginning to-day, the steamers of the Peoples Line for Albany will stop regularly at West 129th street at 5:30 p. m.

POLICE GUARD OFFICIAL

He Was in Car That Ran Down a Boy, but They Hide His Name.

Edward Hooks, eight years old, of No. 494 Bergen avenue, was run down by a touring car at 118th street and Willis avenue, The Bronx, last night. He was cut about the head and body. The car was said by the police to have had one of four passengers a city official, whose name they would not give out.

This man, the police said, gave the boy a nickel before he went home. Eddie, with his sister Margaret and a boy living in the neighborhood, was playing on the sidewalk. Eddie ran to the street just as the auto passed. It struck him and threw him about ten feet. The accident was seen by several hundred persons who were on their way to a nearby theatre.

In the car were three men and a woman. One of the men and the woman got out and walked away. The other men and the chauffeur of the car stood by. The police said that they had been instructed not to give out the name of the city official who was in the car.

SOCIALISM AND SUFFRAGE

Speaker Attacks Mrs. Belmont and Anne Morgan.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.] Chicago, May 19.—The angry denunciation of "soap boxers trying to run an important convention" coming from one of the leading members, amid cheers of approval from many other leaders brought an abrupt end to to-day's session of the National Socialist Congress and contributed to making the day the stormiest of a stormy week.

A feature of a debate on the suffrage question was a series of warnings against following Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont and Miss Anne Morgan in seeking equal suffrage. Both were denounced as "notoriety seekers" and "representatives of capital seeking control of women's votes as capital now attempts to hold men's votes."

"We don't want to enlist the sympathy of Mrs. Belmont nor have Anne Morgan tell us how to carry on the campaign," shouted Joseph D. Cannon, of Oklahoma. "The poor striking strikers helped our cause five hundred times as much as these notoriety seekers. No bon ton suffrage for socialism."

"They're backed by capitalists," added Mrs. Mary Marguerite Frey, of Ohio, "and that's enough to keep them out. If we let them dominate now they will dominate when we get the vote." The committee report inserting a suffrage plank was rushed to a vote and was declared passed by the chairman. Shouts for a recount and ballot vote from a large minority were drowned in a tumult from the victors.

DR. HYDE FILES APPEAL

Woman in Black from New York Brings Him Roses.

Kansas City, Mo., May 19.—Attorneys for Dr. E. C. Hyde filed a motion for a retrial for their client to-day. Arguments on the motion will be heard by Judge Lathaw on June 4. The attorneys set forth the following to prove there was error in the trial court:

That Judge Lathaw showed prejudice against the defendant and that he acted improperly toward Hyde's counsel. That evidence other than that touching directly upon the death of Colonel Thomas H. Sweet should not have been admitted into the record.

That the jurors were moved to commit the physician more by passion and prejudice than by reflection on testimony. "A woman in black," who says she is Mrs. D. H. Adkins, of New York, called at the jail to-day with a large box of roses and desired to be permitted to take the flowers to the physician. Dr. Hyde said he did not know her. She was not allowed to enter the jail. When she departed she took the roses with her.

The Charm of an English Dining Room

With agreeable effect the stately ritual of Eighteenth Century hospitality influenced the plishments of the Georgian Dining Room.

The bountiful Sideboard with its old-world grace of curving front and tapering supports,—the Cupboard, through whose trellised lattice gleams a hint of shining silver or of fine-colored porcelains,—the Table with its ample surface of rich-hued and polished mahogany,—each one has its necessary part to play.

Such an underlying sentiment, too, is preserved in our faithful Reproductions of the work of Sheraton, Heppelwhite, and the brothers Adam.

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