

## LIFE ON MARS ESTABLISHED

New Canals of Planet Due to  
Animal Will Declares Pro-  
fessor Lowell, Famous As-  
tronomer.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 7.—That there is life on Mars must be deduced, Professor Percival Lowell says, from the latest observations at Flagstaff, Ariz. "Animate will," is the term Dr. Lowell applies to the force which is bringing about most remarkable phenomena on the planet. He has found new canals and has observed them grow. His statement was made this afternoon at a special session of Section A. (mathematics and astronomy), American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"The canals in question," he says, "proved to be not simply canals new to us, but canals new to Mars. In the canal system they are new and as such are the most important contribution to our knowledge of the planet of recent years.

"In form they are like all the other canals, narrow, regular lines of even width throughout, running with geometrical precision from definite points to another point, where an outlet is located. The oasis resembles all other oases.

"They partake, therefore, of all the peculiar features of the canal system, features which I have actually seen, make it impossible of natural creation, that is, of being the result of any purely physical forces of which we have cognizance. On the other hand, the system exactly resembles what life there would evolve under the conditions we know to exist.

"Have Seen Them Formed.

"The present phenomena show that the canals are still in process of creation, that we have actually seen some formed under our very eyes. The importance of this to our understanding of the canal system of Mars can hardly be overestimated. The phenomena transcend any natural law, and are only explicable so far as can be seen by the presence of an animate will."

In leading up to this conclusion Professor Lowell said: "New canals on Mars, in the first sense, though always interesting and at times highly important, are no novelty at this observation, inasmuch as at least 400 have been discovered here in the last fifteen years. When Schiaparelli left his great work he had mapped 117 canals, with those detected at Flagstaff in addition, the number has risen to between five hundred and six hundred.

"To observe, however, a canal new in the sense that he had never existed anteriorly, and to prove the fact is an astronomical detection, the significance of which speaks for itself. This is what has happened at the last session at Flagstaff.

"On September 30, 1909, when the region of the syrtis major came into view again, after a period of high clouds, six weeks, two striking canals were evident in the syrtis in places where no canals had ever previously been seen. Not only was their appearance unprecedented, but the canals themselves were the most conspicuous ones on that part of the disc.

"The new canals ran from the bottom of the syrtis major and from a point on its eastern side south, converging to an oasis, itself new, on the coasts, about two-thirds of the distance to where the canal meets the equator. The canals themselves were not visible except possibly as a suspicion.

"Unexplained by Old Causes.

"That they were indeed new was then conclusively established by examination of the records of the previous years. The records of the observations go back to 1894. Nor had any observer previous to 1909 recorded them. Schiaparelli had never seen them nor had his predecessors or successors. This determined definitely that no human eye had ever looked upon them before.

"It is evident from the scanning of the records that seasonal changes will not explain the new canals, and two years ago and also eleven, thirteen and fifteen years ago, times that are properly comparable, no such canals existed.

"Nor can the observed phenomena," continued Dr. Lowell, "be due to any other cause which we have found operative on the planet, the special polar association of particular canals. Thus, there are no canals which are quickened solely from the melting of the north polar cap, such as the Thoth, and others like the Ulysses, which are beholden only to the polar ice.

"But the present canals are not of that category for they did not appear in past Martian years, which, had they been so conditioned, they would have done. The records are decisive on the point. They do not belong to the class of unimpressive seasonal canals, for the records at Flagstaff, covering the seven or eight years needed to establish the fact are able to give an absolute verdict."

**KING LEOPOLD AND THE DANCING QUEEN**

"I dress like everybody else," I avoid official demonstration as much as possible, and I try my best to look one of the crowd, and yet there is a legend about me," said King Leopold once to a diplomatist. "It has been bestowed on me without my asking. I suppose this is the last tribute which democracy today pays to monarchy."

The diplomatist was all respectful curiosity.

"Yes, I have my legend, and a pretty one it is, too."

The diplomatist still looked discreetly inquiring.

The king mentioned a dancer of the Paris Opera, who has taken for her stage name that of one of the best-known families of the Belgium aristocracy.

"I did not dare to mention that name, sire," said the diplomatist.

"Why not dare? I only once had the pleasure of seeing the lady in the foyer de la dague. She was presented to me as one of the most charming members of the corps de ballet."

## DAYLIGHT AND THE WIRELESS

Mr. Marconi Tells of the Difficulties Encountered in the Transatlantic Transmission of Messages.

On receiving the Nobel prize for physics, jointly with Professor Braun, at Stockholm, Mr. Marconi gave a sketch of the history of wireless telegraphy.

In the course of his address he remarked that a result of scientific interest which he first noticed during the tests on the steamship Philadelphia and which was a most important factor in long distance radiotelegraphy was the very marked and detrimental effect of daylight on the propagation of electric waves at great distances, the range by night being usually more than double the attainable during daylight. He did not think that this effect had yet been satisfactorily investigated or explained. At the time he carried out the tests he was of opinion that it might be due to the loss of energy at the transmitter caused by the disorientation of the highly charged transmitting elevated conductor under the influence of sunlight. He was now inclined to believe that the absorption of electric waves during the daylight was due to the ionization of the gaseous molecules of the air effected by ultra-violet light, and as the ultra-violet rays which emanated from the sun were largely absorbed in the upper atmosphere of earth, it was probable that the portion of the earth's atmosphere which was facing the sun would contain more ions or electrons than that portion which was in darkness, and therefore, as Sir J. J. Thomson has shown, this illuminated and ionized air would absorb some of the energy of the electric waves. Apparently the electrical oscillations had much to do with this interesting phenomenon, long waves and small amplitudes being subject to the effect of daylight to a much smaller degree than short waves and long amplitudes. According to Professor Fleming, the daylight effect should be more marked on long waves, but this had not been his experience. Indeed, in some very recent experiments in which waves about 8,000 metres long were used the energy received by day was usually greater than at night. The fact remains, however, that for comparatively short waves, such as were used for ship communication, clear sunlight and blue skies, though transparent to light, acted as a kind of fog to these waves. It had been observed that an ordinary ship station, utilizing about 1.2kw. of electrical energy, the normal range of which was not greater than 200 miles would occasionally transmit messages across a distance of over 1200 miles, often occurred a ship failed to communicate with a nearby station, but could correspond with perfect ease with a distant one. On many occasions last winter the Caronia, of the Canadian Line, ran a station wave of about 14kw. when in the Mediterranean, off the coast of Sicily, failed to obtain communication with Italian stations, but had no difficulty whatsoever in transmitting and receiving messages to and from the coasts of England and Holland, although these latter stations were considerably more than 1000 miles away, and a large part of the continent of Europe and the Alps lay between them and the ship. Although high power stations were now used for communicating across the Atlantic, and messages could be sent by day as well as by night, there still existed short periods of daily occurrence during which transmission from England to America, or vice versa was difficult. This in the morning and evening, when in consequence of the difference in longitude daylight or darkness extended only part of the way across the ocean, the received signals were weak and sometimes ceased altogether from daylight to darkness would occur almost simultaneously over the whole distance between the two points. Another curious result, about which hundreds of observations continued for years left no further doubt, was that regularly, for short periods at sunrise and sunset, and occasionally at other times, a shorter wave of electric waves in passing from one point to another, would be normally employed. Thus at Clifton in preference to the longer wave and at Glace Bay when sending on an similar line to radiate two waves, one 12,500 feet and the other 14,700 feet, although the longer wave was the one usually received at the other side of the ocean, regularly, about three hours before sunrise, at Glace Bay, the shorter wave alone was received with remarkable strength, for a period of about one hour. This effect occurred so regularly that the operators turned their receivers to the shorter wave at the times mentioned, as a matter of ordinary routine.

**MAINE ARCHITECT WINS RECOGNITION**

New York, Jan. 6.—Herbert Scott Olin of Waterville, is one of the ten successful architects who submitted competitive designs for a \$25,000 monument in New York to Robert Fulton. Each of the ten receives a prize of \$500 and, in further competition, additional prizes will be awarded to the first four among the ten.

I had no hesitation in congratulating him. That was enough for a slight moment. But I am not displeased with my legend. It is more flattering for me than for the lady. She has a sovereignty beside which mine is not worth much."

**THE STANDARD, SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1910.**

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