

TRAIL OF COMET TO VENUS

Fiammarion Says Planet on May 2 is Likely to Plunge Into it -- Brilliant Electrical Display Expected.

Paris, April 17.—Mons. Fiammarion writing in the Paris edition of the New York Herald says:— Halley's comet creates a noble excitement in all scientific minds, and different expeditions are being organized in order to observe it in the best possible conditions, especially about the time when it will attain its greatest proximity to the earth.

I have just received on this subject a very interesting letter from Professor Birkeland, of the University of Christiania, informing me of his plan to go with his assistant, Mons. O. Krogness, to Kaafjord, in the Province of Finnmark, in about 70 degrees latitude, in the most northern part of Norway, to make magnetic and meteorological observations there from May 7 to June 1, during the period when the comet will be nearest to the earth, notably on May 18 and 19, during its passage before the solar disk at the moment when its caudic appendage, thrown back by the repulsive force of the day star, will reach out in our direction, and meet the earth if the length of this appendage is not less than twenty-three million kilometres.

If, according to the present cometary theory, this tail is composed of cosmic particles electricity illuminated by the sun, it may be presumed that, by the action of the terrestrial magnetism, its radiant matter will be powerfully attracted and concentrated about the polar regions of our globe in the zones where the aurora borealis spreads its most beautiful luminous draperies and projects its phosphorescent jets. These cometary radiations will then give birth to electric and magnetic phenomena which it will be particularly interesting for us to study.

Moreover, if such is the physical constitution of this comet's tail it is probable that its form will show considerable modifications and we will doubtless, add to the already witnessed luminous effects analogous to those that are obtained on a small scale in our laboratories with the cathode rays directed on the cathode. He recalls on this point how these rays gather in rings which unfold in fluorescent spirals about the magnetic poles of the globe experimented with, which correspond to the magnetic poles of the earth, but in an opposite manner, and to the regions in which the polar aurora are produced.

Magnetic Effects. Sometimes these magnetic circles appear in the shape of a wide, continuous, uninterrupted band; sometimes, too, the rays appear in three lines clearly limited, whose positions are well defined and which are the result of experiments have given an equatorial ring, truly magnificent, but fleeting. It appears suddenly and vanishes almost at once, for the rays which circulate about the equator are difficult to concentrate, and the fluorescence is not easily obtained in very rarefied gases. In some cases, however, a characteristic point of light, as a sort of bridge between the source of the emanation of the rays and the points at which they are noticed on the globe, showing the manner in which they are transmitted. It may then be not impossible that the cometary radiations produce on a large scale on the earth from May 18 to 19 phenomena resembling those we have just described.

As a prelude to that which may happen on the earth from May 18 to 19, going to take place in the heavens on the morning of May 2, for Venus, which now appears as a bright star, will probably herself be plunged into the comet's tail. That will be an observation of the greatest interest. Perhaps we may even see the light starting from the polar regions of Venus, in form like a gigantic magnetic bridge thrown over the space. Between the comet and the planet, and realising on a colossal scale the curious laboratory experiment of which we spoke a little while ago. This phenomenon observed on Venus in this instance will be doubly interesting for us, because that world is almost identical with ours as to size, mass and density, and we shall have there under our eyes an image of what may happen in our case some days later. It is very probable, in fact, that the cathode rays and these imps of ions and electrons, which are the real actors in the theories of contemporary physics, are keeping back for us some surprises in this famous meeting.

Stupendous Work At Panama Completed As At First Planned



This photograph was taken in the great concrete mixing works on the hilltops overlooking the Gatun dam—it shows one of the batteries of mixers.

Washington, April 17.—Although it was generally known that splendid progress had been made by the army engineers digging the Panama Canal, a statement in The Canal Record, just at hand, that all the excavation that was contemplated in the original plan has been completed, comes as a surprise.

Under the original plan 102,795,000 cubic yards of material were to be removed, and that has been done. But subsequently, in order to accommodate the larger vessels of the Dreadnought type and the giant liners now under construction, the president ordered the widening and deepening of the canal. That involved the removal of 70,871,504 additional yards of material and that is all of the task of excavation that now confronts the engineers.

The record of accomplishment has been marvellous, and without precedent in engineering undertakings. The real work of digging did not begin until 1907, in which year nearly 16,000,000 cubic yards of earth were moved, and since that time the daily average has been steadily growing, until now in three and a quarter years, all the excavation called for in the original plan has been accomplished.

Last month 3,067,479 yards of material were taken out, and this in the face of the heaviest rains known on the Isthmus in any March.

In Working Order. An effective system of using liquid fuel is now in working order on board many British men of war, and the advantages which this fuel possesses have been made manifest both by trial and practice. The troubles still to be overcome are mainly concerned with the means of transport and storage of the fuel. For naval purposes the supply must be cheap, constant and unlimited. It is essential also that the fuel should be under imperial control. It must be cheap as regards its relative cost with that of coal, the means of transport and storage must be simple and efficient, and there must be no danger of supplies running short in time of war.

There is good reason for believing that the solution of these and other problems is near at hand. By way of introduction a summary of the various stages of trial and progress in the British navy, as told in official documents, should be instructive and suggestive. It was in the Memorandum Explanatory of the Navy Estimates for the year 1901-02 that the First Lord indicated that various schemes for burning liquid fuel had been considered in conjunction with certain manufacturers, and that trials were to be held. In the Memorandum for the following year the First Lord merely reported that experiments were being carried out on shore at the Royal Naval Dockyard, Portsmouth, in the destroyer H.M.S. Tormentor, and that the system of combustion of liquid fuel was being tried. A year later the First Lord reported that the trials "had been steadily prosecuted, with constantly encouraging results."

Mars and Hannibal. It was decided to fit the Mars and the Hannibal, battle ships, and the armored cruiser Bedford, with installations in respect of some of their boilers for a more extended trial, both with oil fuel alone and with oil fuel in combination with coal. At the same time provision was made for the fitting of storage liquid fuel, for the supply of ships and destroyers with furnaces fitted for using this description of fuel. Lord Selborne said on this occasion: "The problem which the navy has to solve in the use of liquid fuel is a much more difficult one than that which the merchant marine has to solve, because oil fuel can be carried on the navy as compared with Welsh steam coal unless the combustion can be brought to such perfection that it renders the fuel practically smokeless."

In 1904 it was announced that in the Mars and Hannibal many of the difficulties had been overcome, and the result of practical experience at sea, and in these two ships the oil burning system was to be extended so that all their boilers should be capable of burning either oil or coal or oil and coal. Another destroyer had her boilers fitted to burn liquid fuel, and it was found that the manipulation of the new fuel required much skill in order to insure the best results. Several boilers were fitted up at Portsmouth both for the study of the problems connected with the oil burning system and to give instruction to the engineers and stokers. Next year the First Lord reported that the Mars, Hannibal and Bedford had been in commission continuously with freedom from defect in their oil burning installations. Another battle ship was therefore to be fitted in the same way. It was also decided to carry out comparative trials with two destroyers one fitted to burn liquid fuel only and the other oil alone or in conjunction with coal. The trials made during 1905 were so successful that oil fuel appliances were fitted in four more battleships, and orders were given that all the latter vessels building or completing were to be fitted in the same way.

At the manoeuvres in 1906 the King Edward class battleships, when nearly controlled by a superior force of the enemy, merely turned on their oil taps and slipped away from their pursuers. The superior advantage of the new installation was immediately manifest, and since then every new ship in the British navy has been fitted for burning liquid fuel. Many of the older vessels have also been so equipped.

DEPOSITORS TO LOSE IN THIS SMASH. Boston, Mass., April 16.—The \$600,000 more depositors of the defunct National City Bank of Cambridge cannot hope to receive any more than 75 cents on the dollar, and the stockholders not only lost everything but already have been taxed 100 per cent, in addition to the face value of their shares. This information was obtained today from a report by Receiver John L. Bates, who says that the total shortage will reach \$209,000.

Practically Every Ship in British Navy Now Equipped for Use of Product—An Enormous Advantage.

New York, April 17.—The naval correspondent of the New York Herald writing from London says:— Among recent developments of marine engineering there is none attracting more serious attention today than the use of liquid fuel, and particularly its use in the furnaces of the boilers of men of war. By the British Admiralty the matter has been studied closely for several years, and it is no longer regarded as an experimental stage, while the naval authorities of other powers, if somewhat later in the field, now show a decided inclination to make up for lost time. It cannot be long before liquid fuel is in general use in every navy, probably for emergency purposes in the larger vessels, but exclusively in the torpedo boat destroyers. It should be interesting then to sketch briefly the steps which have been taken already in this direction and the problems which yet await solution.

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PROPERTY SEIZED, BUT MISSIONARIES ARE SAFE. Telegraphic Communication is Resumed With Troubled Hankow District -- Authorities Have Quelled Riots.

Pekin, April 17.—Telegraphic communication with Chang-Sha has been restored. The report that two Americans had fallen to make their escape from Chang-Sha has not been confirmed. The authorities have quelled the riots and practically normal conditions now prevailed.

Harrisburg, Pa., April 16.—Bishop Rudolph Dubs, of the United Evangelical church today received a telegram from his son, Rev. C. Newton Dubs, a missionary at Chang-Sha, China, to the effect that everyone connected with the church's mission at that place escaped injury in the riot. The message said that the missionaries lost all their property and the authorities did not afford any protection. They were taken off by a steamer.

New Haven, Conn., April 16.—The Yale Foreign Mission Society today received a cablegram from the mission in China which was to the effect that all the members of the mission were safe. The society also received this afternoon a message from Huntington Wilson, assistant secretary of state, confirming of previous despatches from Hankow as to the rice riots.

NEWFOUNDLAND'S PREMIER LEAVING FOR THE HAGUE. NOTHING PERSONAL SAYS PRESIDENT TAFT. Washington, D. C., April 16.—A graceful and courteous reply from President Taft, saying that he entertains no personal feeling in connection with the hissing episode at the suffrage convention on Thursday night, and regrets the incident because it might be used in an unfair way to embarrass the leaders of the woman suffrage movement, is the latest event in the chronology of the one sensational feature of the annual convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The President's response to the association's official expression deploring the manifestation of dissent from the views he voiced on woman suffrage, was read to the convention today and enthusiastically received by the delegates.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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FOR SALE—New Home, Domestic and other Sewing Machines from \$6. Buy in my shop and save 30. Genuine needles and all kinds of Sewing Machine Sewing Machines and Phonographs repaired. WILLIAM CRAWFORD, 106 Princess St. Opposite White Store.

FOR SALE—Domestic and New Home Sewing Machines, latest improved. Buy in my shop and save 30. Genuine needles and all kinds of Sewing Machine Sewing Machines and Phonographs repaired. WILLIAM CRAWFORD, 106 Princess Street, opposite White Store.

FOR SALE—A few household articles, 97 Orange St. Can be seen any afternoon. 962-ff.

FOR SALE—Edison Records for March. Edison Phonographs, latest improved. Phonograph Sewing Machines repaired at W.M. CRAWFORD'S, 106 Princess Street, opposite White Store.

FOR SALE—Freshhold property, house on Haven, Leicester Heights. For information apply to George Maxwell or Barnhill, Sanford & Co., 129-130 W.

TO LET—For the summer four rooms at Sandy Point Road. Apply C/o Standard.

Desirable suite of offices to let in the Commercial Building, from May 15 to 15th of June. Apply at premises. 98-1f.

WANTED—Chief Engineer for steamship. Best references required. Apply W.M. THOMSON & CO., 111 Co. Standard. 912-1f.

Wanted—A competent cook. References required. Apply to Miss Thorne, 15 Mecklenburg street. 912-1f.

Pantmakers Wanted, Steady work. H. L. Colner, 10 Paradise Row. 871-1f.

Lumber Wanted. 100 M. of clear Spruce Boards. 100 M. of clear, fair Birch Boards. 871-1f.

A. E. HAMILTON, St. John, N. B. Phone—211.

COAL AND WOOD. WE SELL—SCOTCH HARD AND BROAD COVE SOFT COALS, HARD AND SOFT WOOD. GOOD GOODS. Promptly Delivered. Street number 238-240 Paradise Row Telephone number, Main 1227.

G. S. COSMAN & CO., Painters and Decorators. F. W. EDLESTON, House and Sign Work a Specialty, 55 Sydney St., Phone 1611.

PIANO, HAPPY THOUGHTRANGE, LARGE MANTEL MIRROR, PARLOR FOLDING BED, OFFICE FURNITURE, ETC., ETC. BY AUCTION.

I am instructed by Robert Clark, Esq., to sell at his hotel (known as Clark's Hotel) No. 25 King Square, North Side, on Wednesday, the 20th of April, commencing at 10 o'clock THE ENTIRE CONTENTS OF TWENTY-ONE ROOMS, consisting in part as follows:—One Happy Thought Range, Mantel Mirror, Oak Dining Table, do. Sideboard, do. Chair, Linolesum, Oil Cloth, Bedroom Suits, Parlor Suits, Spring Bed, Mattresses, Bedding, Wardrobe, Dressing Cases, Bureau, Sofas, Couches, Parlor and other Chairs, Hat Tree, Parlor, Sitting Room, Bedrooms, Hall and Stair Ware, Kitchen Utensils and a large quantity of other Household Goods too numerous to mention.

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PIANO, FIFTY ACRES WITH HOUSE AND COTTAGE, BARN AND OUT-BUILDINGS, FIVE and a half miles from the City and known as the Francis Jordan Property near the Lake Leonard Road. BY AUCTION.

I am instructed by Mrs. Sarah Gibson to sell at Chubb's Corner, on Saturday next April the 20th, at 12 o'clock.

THAT VALUABLE FARM, Containing Fifty Acres, more or less, with six rooms, Cottage, Carriage House, Shed, Poultry and Cattle House. Also large House containing nine rooms and store. Fine well and running brook on property. This is one of the best opportunities to purchase a farm handy to market. For further particulars apply to

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UPRIGHT PIANO, WALNUT AND OAK Book Case, Extension Table, Self-Feeder, Parlor Furniture, Hat Tree, Cozy Corner, Oil Sideboard, Extension Table, Self-Feeder, Chair, Chair, and Glassware, Spring Mattresses, Oil Cloth, Brussels Hall, Stair, Bedroom, Parlor and Living Room Carpets, Kitchen Utensils and a large quantity of other Household Goods too numerous to mention.

F. L. POTTS, Auctioneer.

PIANO, FIFTY ACRES WITH HOUSE AND COTTAGE, BARN AND OUT-BUILDINGS, FIVE and a half miles from the City and known as the Francis Jordan Property near the Lake Leonard Road. BY AUCTION.

I am instructed by Mrs. Sarah