POOR DOCUMENT

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1921

SEARCHLIGHT'S GLOW IS SEEN FOR 100 MILES

Invisible Beam Strikes "Invisible Clouds" and is Reflected Far Out to Sea-1,100,000 Candle Power.

Spots of light, appearing against the southern 'sky on perfectly clear, starry nights and even moonlit nights during the last month, have interested many observers who have reported that they saw curious comets, meteors, auroras, and even signs and portents in the sky.

Sometimes they have been a soft glow, sometimes a glare. At times they have changed shape while remaining stationary and at others have wandered about the heavens, constantly assuming new forms—disks, ovals, lines, rags, shreds and irregular patches of light. Sometimes they have appeared twice at the same time in different shapes and in different parts of the sky. Some observers have discredited their reputation for veracity by telling what they saw. Others have doubted their own eyes.

The explanation obtained by the New York Times yesterday was that experiments were being made on State Island with the most powerful searchlight in the world. Its 1,100,000 candlepower light produced weird new effects overhead on clear nights, because the beam was invisible in the transparent lower air and the source of light on earth could not be traced. But even on clear nights, as shown for the first time by this instrument, there are "invisible clouds," or unseen layers of moisture, at great heights and these reflect the rays of the great searchlights, producing the effect of an illumination from some celestial source. (New York Times.) ing the effect of an illumi

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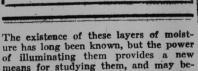
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uds of irregular shape, in which the moisture is still so dare that the stars shine through. This produces a faintly shine through. This produces a fainty glowing, ragged patch. Sometimes the underside of a cloud stops and reflects the whole beam. When this is seen overhead, a circular area is illuminated. From a great distance, so that the light is near the horizon, the observer can only see the edge of the light, which becomes visible to him as a bright line, sometimes straight and parallel to the horizon, sometimes sinuous or slanting, cording to the shape or position

"There have been some curious effects," said M. L. Patterson, searchlight engineer of the Sperry Gyroscope Company. "Sometimes there has been a double light. The lower light results when the beam first strikes a cloud or that the formatter positives. Sometimes strata of greater moisture. Sometimes there is a hole in this. Part of the light

strata of greater moisture. Sometimes there is a hole in this. Part of the light goes through and hits another cloud or moist layer at a greater height. Sometimes the lower cloud has no hole in it, but is so thin that it reflects a small part of the light and lets the rest through. The remnant of the beam keeps on going and causes another light at a greater height.

"Another strange effect takes place in a low fog, and it is here the search-light has its greatest efficiency for light-house purposes. Often a fog when it is very dense at sea level extends only about thirty feet upward. A man on the deck of a ship or on the street may see very little, while a man on the crow's nest, or on top of a building may be in comparatively clear air and able to see considerable distances. This searchlight goes easily through the low fog bank, or through a comparatively thick one, and makes its usual light in the sky which may be seen by anyone who stands higher than the fog-bank.

"Many ships coming into New York harbor are now on the watch for it and report what they see. The greatest distance from New York that it has been observed so far is 100 miles, where it was seen from a ship. In a thick fog it will observed so far is 100 miles, where it was seen from a ship. In a thick fog it will be quenched lige any other light, but in any other kind of weather it will notify ships at considerable distances that they are approaching the coast.

"One difficulty which would arise regarding its use in lighthouses would be the trouble a seaman might have in interpreting the light signals appearing so

erpreting the light signals appearing so rregularly in the sky. After being tudied a while longer, however, un-loubtedly a simple formula will be ob-

The light has been some celectial grown. Section 19 miles against the section of the section of

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ed the experiments with considerable interest, because of the value of the search-light in connection both with flying and with anti-aircraft work. One of the chief purposes of the experiment at Tompkinsville has been to increase the practicability of night flights by airplane, the searchlights acting as guides and showing the way to landing stations. The light patches seen at great heights are often sketchy and irregular, because the highest clouds are the cirrus which develop at heights sometimes as great as ten miles and move with an average velocity of seventy miles an hour. They are small, isolated feathery masses, formed by the mixture of air strata of different temperature which condenses the moisture of the warmer layer. When the surrounding atmosphere is dry, the cirrus clouds are often quickly absorbed, so that, on the whole, they make extremely variable targets for the search-light.

VENETIAN GARDENS.

The new novelty "The Kan-youKatch-Em" dance, which will be held at
the Venetian Gardens on Thursday
evening, promises to furnish a lot of
pleasure to those who patronize this popular place of dancing. Don't miss the
fun. Be there and see what is to be

MACHINE GUNNERS, ATTENTION A shooting competition will begin at 8 o'clock Thursday evening, Dec. 8, in the Indoor Rifle Range at the Armouries. Prizes will be given. All officers, N. C. O's and men are asked to attend.

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FLOATING VILLAGE.

In the interior of French Indo-China there is a village whose location is a source of worry to captains of passing steamers. They are never certain where they will find it.

Its name is Snok-Trou, and its location is somewhere on the Mekong River. The village consists of forty or fifty little huts built on rafts and lashed together with rattan ropes. Here dwell about two hundred people, whose chief occupation is fishing.

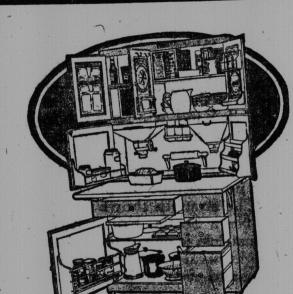
The rear of the village is lashed to half-submerged trees, but the whole town changes its position from time to time, according to the vagaries of the river or the whims of its inhabitants. Steamboats passing up the river will find it at one spot, and on the return journey discover that it has moved elsewhere.

THE IRISH WORKHOUSE THE IRISH WORKHOUSE

Montreal Gazette:—The "passing" of the workhouses in Ireland, is an item of interest from the dear little island. These extravagantly managed institutions have been replaced, we learn, by "county homes," to which no stigma of "pauperism" will be attached. This reform is being carried out under the auspices of Dail Eireann. The interests of the former officials are also being safeguarded under the scheme. The County of Roscommon, is the "pioneer" of the new enterprise. The workhouse or poorhouse in Ireland was the last word in social degradation. Their "passing" will be welcomed.

ing" will be welcomed. LECTURED ON KLONDYKE.

Rev. H. A. Cody gave an interesting the sudisorium of the Mindyke last evening the sudisorium of the Mindyke last evening. the auditorium of the Main street Bap tish church before a very large audience There were more than 600 people present



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and the evening was greatly enjoyed.

Mr. Cody told of his five and a half years as a missionary preacher in the Klondyke, and threw upon the screen a large number of beautiful slides illustrating the scenes of his missionary labors and his travels, and also pictures of the men who were associated with him. The audience was a most appreciative one throughout. Rev. Dr. Hutchinson, in introducing Mr. Cody, spoke of him as one of the distinguished Canadian authors from whose pen had come many





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