

**BERLIN'S SUNSPOT SHRINKS IN JERSEY**

**"Largest One Ever Observed" Not Revealed by Princeton Telescope, But Two Small Ones Appear.**

(N. Y. Times.)  
The Princeton observatory telescope yesterday failed to reveal "the largest sun-spot ever observed," reported by Dr. Archenbold of Berlin.

was near the centre and the other low on the sun's disk. Each was about the same size—approximately 25,000 miles in diameter. The lower spot was moving nearer to the "right hand" rim of the sun than the other. It is a day or two it would disappear from earthly sight. Both spots were visible to the naked eye.

Dr. R. S. Dugan, professor of astronomy at Princeton, who was with Dr. Russell at the observatory, said: "The spot would not appear differently at Berlin from what it does here. The power of the telescope has nothing to do with it. The larger telescope would not tell anything more about sun-spots." The Berlin scientist suggested that the large spot was the cause of the summer-like weather prevailing in Europe. Dr. Dugan said there was innumerable theories as to the effect of sun-spots on terrestrial weather, but science has been unable to find definite proof that solar disturbances re-acted on the climate here.

"In time," he said, "we may know their effect here to enable us to forecast weather

for a long period ahead, but up to the present it has not been shown that the spots affect our climate at all. Even when a great deal more is known, it will be difficult to predict weather from their appearance, because of the great number of lights that enter into calculations on weather.

"We don't know what causes sun spots. We know that the spots are of a lower temperature than the rest of the sun, but it does not sufficiently decrease the temperature to lower the heat of the sun's rays reaching earth. The sun spot is apparently a magnetic disturbance, something like a terrestrial tornado. Sun spots are said to affect the earth magnetically, but that subject again is a very doubtful one."

Forecaster James M. Starr of the weather bureau also said the study of sun spots had not advanced sufficiently to enter into the government's calculations on weather.

"A great volume of data has been collected on the subject," he said, "but its value is doubtful. Many scientists are at work on the theory that our weather is controlled largely by spots on the sun. Some quacks issue weather predictions based on the spots, but their success has not been sensational.

**Spots Affect Aurora Borealis.**  
"I believe it is well established that the sun spots cause some of the magnetic troubles, such as electrical storms, which sometimes interfere with the telegraph and telephone."

The study of sunspots and their effect on the earth is more than a hundred years old. One effect generally accepted by science is that the spots have something to do with the Aurora Borealis. The spots break out in the sun in a fairly regular manner, completing a cycle every eleven years. Observations over a hundred years show that the Northern Lights also follow a fairly regular schedule which changes every eleven years. The years of the greatest number of sun-spots are the years of the greatest number of Aurora displays. During the comparatively spotless years of the sun, the electrical shows in the Arctic are correspondingly infrequent.

There are also records showing that great magnetic storms have apparently marked the formation of the sun-spots. Electrical communication between the sun and the earth is fairly rapid. The distance between them approximately eight minutes' travel for an electrical wave, which moves with the speed of light, or 180,000 miles a second.

An explanation that may reconcile the statement of the Berlin scientist with the observations at Princeton is contained in the dispatch, which says the sun-spot is now at its minimum.

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**THE ORIGIN OF THE TERM BLUENOSE**

(Occasional in Halifax Recorder.)  
We have been asked several times as to the origin of the name Bluenose, as applied to natives of Nova Scotia. The late Judge Savary said, as to the origin of this word and its early application to the people of the province: "My authority for the statement here made (in the New Brunswick Magazine, Vol. 1, page 88), is to be found in the Nova Scotia letters of the Rev. Jacob Bailey, the noted loyalist rector of Annapolis. The struggle for the political supremacy between the loyalist and the pre-loyalist inhabitants of western Nova Scotia in the provincial elections, 1785, and the special election held in this county (Annapolis) in the following year, in consequence of the unseating of the successful loyalist candidates, was marked by surpassing acerbity and virulence. Perhaps in this respect it has never been exceeded in this province, the later contests being shortened, and the excitement mitigated by the simultaneous polling, unknown in the eighteenth century. Mr. Bailey's feelings were warmly enlisted in the cause of his fellow loyalist, and he makes

frequent mention of the struggle and its incidents. To his friend, Peter Fry, Esq., at Halifax, on November 18, 1785, he writes of the pre-loyalist party. "The Bluenoses, to use a vulgar appellation, who had address sufficient to divide the loyalists, exerted themselves to the utmost of their power and cunning." On July 6th, 1786, writing to Rev. Dr. Peters, in London, he mentions several deplorable conditions of life in Nova Scotia, among them "violent contentions between the loyalists and the 4d inhabitants, called Bluenoses." Unlike the term "copperhead," applied in the north to northern sympathizers with the southern cause during the American civil war, the nickname seems to be a harmless one, not carrying any moral reproach or sinister suggestion; and one is almost disposed to suspect that the pre-loyalist settlers had been already called Bluenose by the people of the more southern colonies, perhaps in sarcastic allusion to the supposed effect of our colder winters on the human complexion, and that the loyalists brought the word with them and used it as a convenient and disrespectful designation for the old settlers. But this is a mere conjecture, and against it is the fact that Mr. Bailey deemed it necessary to explain it to these

two New England loyalists. Whatever its origin, as the name of a species of potato, I conclude it was first applied to people in the County of Annapolis not earlier than the arrival of the loyalists. On Sept. 28th, 1787, Mr. Bailey advised Rev. S. Parker, at Boston, of the shipment to him of six barrels of potatoes, of which number five consist of "rose and bluenoses."

**FIRST TRUTHFUL LIQUOR SELLER IN THIS COURT GETS REWARD OF MERIT**  
Hartford, Conn., April 7.—Antonio Fiori of Norwich told Judge Howe in United States District Court that when he found he was not making money in his saloon he put in a supply of whiskey. Fiori was charged with possession of liquor, but admitted in court that he had sold it. Judge Howe asked Asst. Dist. Atty. Daley his opinion of the case. "He's the first man tried in this court who has told the truth," said Daley. Judge Howe imposed a fine of one dollar. Among the others fined were Thomas Damico of Bridgeport, \$400, and Stephen Zakrasky of Stamford, \$400.

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**WOULD IMPROVE CURRICULUM FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL**

Fitting High School Pupils for Future Work in Community Recommended by Educationists.

(Ottawa Journal)  
With a view to bringing about improvements in the High Schools of the province, the Minister of Education recently sent out a questionnaire to obtain detailed information regarding the working of the system. The answers were tabulated and a committee was appointed to consider all matters directly affecting the organization and efficiency of the schools and to submit practical recommendations. A interim report has been received from this committee and will be presented this week to a teachers' and principals' meeting in Toronto by Dr. A. H. McDougall, principal of Ottawa Collegiate Institute. The principal with several local teachers left for Toronto last night.

Briefly the report deals with the following problems:

- (1) Better provision is required for the special and varying needs of High School pupils to fit them for future life in the community rather than the special preparation for university of the professional.
- (2) Some test should be designated such as a High School graduation to take the place of the present Senior Matriculation which has come to be regarded very generally as a test of educational fitness for all kinds of positions. The result is that many pupils are pursuing what is for them an unsuitable course of study.
- (3) More freedom should be given local authorities in determining the subjects to be taken by pupils.
- (4) The congested time-table so dissipates the energies of both pupil and teacher, especially in the Lower School that really satisfactory educational results are often impossible.
- (5) The course for the Junior Matriculation is rather too heavy for three years and not extensive enough for a four year period.
- (6) Conditions governing entrance to the High Schools often make it impossible for pupils to secure admission at the best age.
- (7) Better provision is needed for pupils desiring a more general education.

**Modifications in System.**  
The report deals with these problems as follows:  
"Courses of study have been drafted for the first and second years of the Lower School, for the Middle School, and for the Upper School. Only a few subjects are obligatory, chiefly in the Lower School. The optional subjects admit of variation according to local needs, whether these arise from geographical, commercial, or industrial reasons or from the particular ideals or qualifications of the Principal and his staff. The range of optional subjects also provides quite as thoroughly for the general student as for candidates for matriculation or intending teachers. The Committee has, moreover, recommended a minimum and a maximum number of subjects which the pupil should be allowed to take in each year of attendance, it being always understood that the Principal has the liberty to make different arrangements for exceptional cases. Finally, certain modifications in the system of examination are recommended which will give the Principal freedom to organize his school so as to produce the best educational results.

"These various changes would, it is believed, make it possible for High School Principals to frame a time-table with not more than eight teaching periods a day of about 40 minutes each, and, as a rule, to provide for each subject a teaching period daily.

"The report then proceeds to draw up a list of subjects which should be taught, designating the obligatory and the optional. It is interesting to note that German is included in the optional subjects as also is Greek. Special emphasis is laid on the importance of English composition, literature and rhetoric. Closer union between the studies of geography and history are urged. It is also suggested that some agricultural subject be included in the subjects taught in the middle school. As regards examinations it is urged that pupils be allowed to write on one or more subjects at a time. The entire report urges that the principal be given more freedom in being allowed to make up the courses of studies which he believes would best suit his own pupils.

**FLAGSHIP OF BRITAIN SAVES A DYING CHILD**  
London, April 7.—The great battleship Queen Elizabeth, Admiral Beatty's flagship of the Grand Fleet, saved the life of a tiny babe of the same name in the Bay of Biscay this week by answering a call from the steamship Venetia, which was bound homeward. The child's life was ebbing rapidly when the warship was signalled for help. The Queen Elizabeth stopped and launched a boat which, despite the heavy sea, reached the steamship, and a doctor from the warship boarded her. He was able to save the life of the infant.

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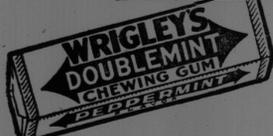
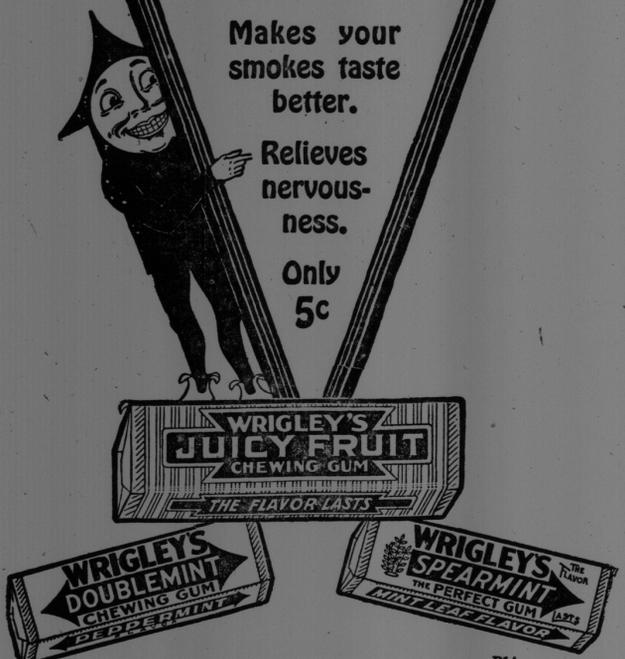
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