

Northwest Review

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1905.

Calendar for Next Week.

AUGUST

- 27—Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost. Feast of the Most Pure Heart of Mary. Commemoration of St. Joseph Calasanz, founder of free public schools in Rome in 1597.
 - 28—Monday—St. Augustine, Bishop (of Hippo), Doctor.
 - 29—Tuesday—The Beheading of St. John the Baptist.
 - 30—Wednesday—St. Rose of Liria, Virgin.
 - 31—Thursday—St. Lazarus, Bishop, Martyr.
- ### SEPTEMBER
- 1—Friday—St. Raymond Nonnatus, Confessor (transferred from Aug. 31).
 - 2—Saturday—St. Stephen, King of Hungary.

ECLIPSE OF THE SUN

Great Preparations for its Observations on Aug. 30.

(Montreal Daily Witness, July 27)

There will be a total eclipse of the sun at about eleven o'clock on Aug. 30. It will be only partially visible in Montreal, but great preparations are being made by astronomers in all parts of the world to make technical observations of the phenomenon. The Dominion Government is sending a party in charge of Dr. W. F. King, chief astronomer of the Dominion to Labrador for the purpose of taking observations from a point that is calculated to be the most advantageous in this part of the world. Included in this party will be one representative from Montreal, the Rev. Father Kavanagh, of Loyola College. The spot selected from which to make the observation is at the mouth of the Northwest River, where it empties into

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Lake Melville. The accompanying map shows a post of the Hudson's Bay Company at this place, and here will be recorded, if weather conditions should be favorable, the details of the event which promise much for the science of astronomy. It is understood that a second Canadian party composed of students of nature, interested in the spectacle, but not taking part in the official observations, will also go to Labrador.

The first party consisting of the scientists who are to make the actual observations and the masons and carpenters who will build the piers and platforms on which the instruments will be placed, will sail from Quebec, according to present arrangements on Aug. 3 on the steamer 'King Edward.' They will take all the instruments and materials that they will require with them, for their destination is practically in the wilderness, and few of the requisites for such a mission will be found on the ground. It is expected this party will be away from home at least five weeks. They will land at a harbor on Hamilton Inlet and travel inland until they reach their objective point about six hundred miles from the nearest telegraph station. The district in which the party will travel is interesting as the place where Mr. Hubbard started out on his exploring expedition last year, to return no more, having died of starvation.

The second party is due to leave Quebec on Aug. 21 and arrive at Northwest River just in time to see the eclipse. The astronomers of the expedition will have plenty of work to do in the time at their disposal, even by leaving home nearly a month before the eclipse. They will have to see that the masonry and carpenters' work are carefully done and the instruments properly set up and adjusted. They must have everything in its place without the variation of a hair's breadth. They will find their latitude and longitude. They will organize and apportion the work among themselves so that each person will do a certain part at a given time and within a given time, and when the event is over, precise and valuable records will be in their possession. There must be no hitches or blunders.

The totality of the eclipse will last only about three minutes. Not an instrument must be out of

place nor out of order. The photographic apparatus must be ready; note books and pencils must be readily available and stenographers at hand to take down the description of the vision which some eyes must continuously gaze upon. All this will require much drill and perfect prearrangement.

Suppose it is foggy, or cloudy, or rainy, everything will fail—all the preparation and work will be in vain. The instruments will be covered and the heavens will reveal none of the mysteries which it is so earnestly hoped may be solved. The party will be compelled to return home unrewarded for weeks of toil and years of hope and study.

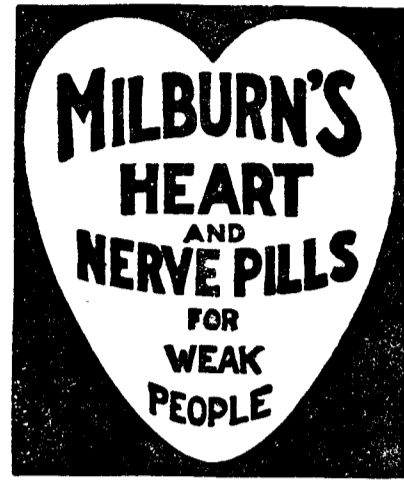
This possibility makes everyone who is interested in the expedition—the first Canada has ever sent out for the purpose—hope for favorable weather on the east coast of Labrador on Aug. 30.

The district to be visited is in what is known as the Newfoundland Labrador. It is very subject to fog and there are many chances against the success of the venture, but there is hope, and science demands the attempt.

There will be observation stations in Africa, quite a number in Spain and many others in various parts of the world. They will be well equipped and while there may be some failures or mishaps it is hoped the successful observations will yield some new knowledge to science. The line of totality will commence in the wilds of northern Canada, in Hudson's Bay territory, somewhat farther back than the government party will go, and end in Arabia.

The Lick observatory and a number of astronomical societies in the United States are sending observation parties to different points where the eclipse may be seen in its completeness. The maximum duration of a total eclipse under the most favorable circumstances, is seven minutes and fifty-eight seconds. Far from the equator it is less.

The spectacle of a total eclipse is said to be overawing to mankind, and to strike terror even into dumb animals. If one were standing on an eminence and looking down over a sloping plain, one would see the shadow approaching with great rapidity. Suddenly one would find himself enveloped in darkness that would seem very dense. He



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would be inspired with a sense of awe, and some people in passing through the experience have been completely unnerved. The effect of sudden night blotting out brightest day cannot easily be imagined without the experience. As a matter of fact, however, the darkness is not complete. One can see to read the time by the watch. Away in the distance may be seen mountains rising in the daylight, for the shadow has a diameter of about one hundred and twenty miles, and the man in the centre will receive some light from the brightness of the day sixty miles on either side of him. The sensation in passing through a total eclipse appears to cause all the noises of nature to be silenced. The birds and insects stop their song. Animals stand and shake with fright; the music of the summer day stops; even the breeze is lulled by the change in the temperature, caused by the shadow as it flits across the globe. Montreal will be represented on the government expedition by a practical astronomer in the person of the Rev. Father I. J. Kavanagh, S.J., M.A., B.Sc., professor of science and mathematics in Loyola College. Asked what was the main object of the expedition, and what science would gain by the observation, the professor stated that he understood the party would pay special attention to spectroscopic and photographic work. The spectroscope was expected to give observers some new ideas or advanced knowledge concerning what is technically called the 'reversing layer.' Personally, Father Kavanagh intends to map out the farthest faint extensions of the coronal rays. 'Up to within a few seconds of

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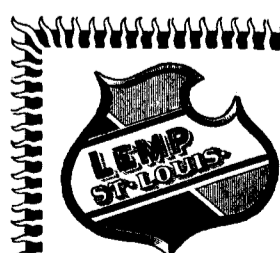
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