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But another and vaster discovery with regard to the universe has been made; a discovery within our own day, and which has its relation to our own country, yes, to our own government service. To my mind it is one of the greatest in the history of the world's great discoveries, and has been so recognized by the Royal Astronomical Society, which has awarded to the discoverer its coveted gold medal. I wonder if all present have grasped the importance of announcements with reference to this matter which have appeared in the press of the country within the past few days, and which, indeed, are appearing even now from day to day.

In the city of Victoria there is, as many know, under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior of our government, one of the finest astrophysical observatories in the world. It is in the charge of Dr. J.S. Plaskett, one of the world's most eminent astronomers. Many here know Dr. Plaskett personally. He was a Woodstock boy, and for a time was associated with the University of Toronto. As a result of years of patient research, aided by the splendid equipment with which the government of this country has provided him, Dr. Plaskett has been able to prove to the satisfaction of the best scientific minds, that this earth and the solar system of which it is a part, and all the heavenly bodies visible to

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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