

PORTLAND CALMS AS EARTH CUTS TAIL

Sky Gazers Fail to Get Glimpse of Comet.

PATIENT EFFORT UNREQUITED

Illuminated Streak in Heavens Claims Attention.

MANY SEEK HIGH HILLS

Observer With Home-Made Telescope Asserts He Traced Passage of Visitor Across Sun's Face.

Halley's comet has come and gone without mishap to Mother Earth and without appreciable manifestations. Nothing was harmed, scientists are proved correct in their assumptions that nothing would happen and now the comet is whizzing its way through space with its course marked away from the earth.

The earth passed quietly through the comet last night and to the ordinary person not equipped with astronomical instruments there was nothing to demonstrate that the long-expected had really occurred. No poisonous gases were inhaled by the inhabitants of the earth, no ill effects were felt and even the glow which was expected in the evening sky was missing as far as Portland was concerned.

Scientific Interest Felt.

Portland took the advent of the comet quietly and there was not present even a feeling of fear such as was reported from many other points. Interest was a high point of curiosity rather than excitement. Everyone wanted to see such signs of the passing of the comet's tail as might appear, but all were disappointed.

The day came and went as usual. In the morning the sun rose in a clear sky, but the few early morning watchers who thought the scientists might have been wrong in the assumption that there would be no visible signs of the comet's rise found their vision in vain. All day on the streets could be seen people stopping to stare in speculative manner at the sky, but when their heads were lowered the reply to the question, "See anything?" was a negative.

When night approached, interest was greater than earlier in the day and the streets were lined with watchers looking toward the sun as it dropped below the horizon. Owing to light haze occasioned by the breeze from slushings in the vicinity of Portland it was possible to gaze directly at the sun. The entire disk could be watched steadily without injuring the eyes and of all the observers not one could be found who said he saw any trace of the comet passing across the face of the sun.

Watchers Look in Vain.

At night many journeyed to Council Crest in a further hope that the comet would be visible from there. Here Professor J. W. Daniels, the head of the department of astronomy and mathematics at Hill Military Academy, was stationed to make observations. Professor Daniels failed to find any trace of the comet, although he stayed until after sunset. He delivered a lecture there on the subject of comets to the assembled multitude of curious sky gazers. Professor Daniels' services have been in demand as a lecturer since the comet became a subject of interest. He has several lectures scheduled before different church and social organizations for the ensuing two weeks.

About 10 P. M. however, something appeared which many believed the tail of the comet. A great band of light was first discovered by Mrs. Charles E. Chenning, whose home is on the top of Portland Heights. This band at first showed dimly and appeared like a long cloud, the fact that it was straight giving rise to the belief that it was the comet. The band then separated into three or four distinct parallel bands of light, running across the dome of the sky from southwest to northeast. These then became dimmer and soon were lost to view.

Light Streak Tapers West.

The character of the streaks was much the same as that of the halo surrounding the moon, which was decidedly pronounced. The shape of the largest light streak, tapering somewhat to the west, added strength to the belief of many that this was the tail of the comet. In accordance with the reports sent in from observatories of the appearance of the comet's tail, this band of light was much narrower than the expected width of that body.

Professor St. Martin, from a position on Mount Tabor, and fortified with an astronomical telescope of his own manufacture, asserted that he observed the passage of the comet across the disk of the sun at 6:40 P. M.

"I had a specially prepared telescope of rather crude design and my own manufacture," said Professor St. Martin. "It was made of several lenses arranged in a darkened tube, much after the fashion of Galileo's first telescope. The comet passed across the face of the sun much like a haze. In only a

2 TOTS SUFFOCATE IN CHEST, AT PLAY

HIDING FROM CHUMS, THEY ARE SHUT TIGHT IN BOX.

Boise, Idaho, Scoured for Missing Boy and Girl, and Sister Makes Gruesome Find by Accident.

BOISE, Idaho, May 18.—(Special.)—Climbing into a carpenter's chest yesterday afternoon to hide from their playmates, Agnes and Willie Scheer, aged 8 and 9 years, were shut in and suffocated when the cover closed down upon them. The bodies of the youngsters, pitifully huddled together, the little boy in his sister's arms, were found this morning after an all-night search by parents and neighbors.

The city was scoured for the missing children. The frantic parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Scheer, of this city, feared that they had fallen in the river, but the waters failed to yield the bodies.

The mystery of their disappearance was cleared quite accidentally. The tool chest is located in a woodshed 60 feet from the Scheer home and is used to store odds and ends. A sister of the dead children, waiting some rage, went to the chest, pulled up the cover and made the gruesome discovery.

BRAVE FIREMAN REWARDED

Chief's Job for One Who Risked Life to Save Hotel Patrons.

PHOENIX, Ariz., May 18.—No authentic information upon which to ground a belief that there was any loss of life in the Hotel Adams fire early yesterday morning reached the city officials after 24 hours search, and it is their conviction that all patrons of the hotel escaped. Search of the ruins has failed to reveal anything bearing the appearance of human bones and no one has come forward to report a friend or relative missing.

Search for Peter Sullivan, who made the attempt to unblock the fire escape after the fire started, found them all deserted, indicating that the alarm had been generally heeded and the hotel quickly deserted.

Sullivan was rewarded by the City Council for having risked his life in the search for unconscious sleepers. The position of Fire Chief was created and Sullivan was given the post.

PORTLAND CLEARINGS BIG

Bank Business Shows Good Lead Over Seattle.

Portland bank clearings, the barometer of a city's prosperity, are soaring. For several days Seattle has been left away in the rear, the difference being from \$3,000 to \$60,000 a day in favor of Portland.

Monday was the day things began to show up with a vivid brightness for the home town. On that day the Portland clearings were \$1,884,059, while Seattle's total was \$1,801,704. Tuesday's course was the same. Portland registered \$2,048,094; the town on Puget Sound notched but \$1,886,847.

The increase was still maintained yesterday, the Wednesday totals showing Portland \$666,290 in the lead, the exact figures being Portland \$3,394,812; Seattle, \$1,729,522.

OREGON MIDSHIPMAN BEST

Herbert O. Roesch Honored in Gunners' Exploit.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., May 18.—(Special.)—The sword offered by the members of the class of 1871 for excellence in practice and practical ordnance and gunnery has been won this year by Midshipman Follett Bradley, at large, a member of the first class.

The honor of having his name engraved upon the cup offered by National Society, Sons of the Revolution, for excellence in practice in ordnance and gunnery, will go to Midshipman Herbert O. Roesch, of Oregon.

Roesch won the individual championship at the National matches last year, and is considered one of the most proficient users of modern firearms in the world.

ANOTHER OUTBREAK DUE

Anti-Foreign Movement at Nankin Said to Be Critical.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—United States Minister Culhoun at Peking reports a serious situation at Nankin. In a telegram to the State Department he says the consulate at Nankin advises the legation that there are disquieting anti-foreign and anti-dynastic rumors, not unlike those which preceded the Boxer outbreak. The consular body at Nankin has presented a memorandum to the Viceroy, emphasizing the importance of immediate measures to stop the anti-foreign movement.

The minister has telegraphed Rear Admiral Hubbard, now in Chinese waters, to hold a warship in readiness to proceed to Nankin in case of necessity.

SALOONMAN UPHOLDS LAW

Name Withdrawn From Bond of Violator of Sunday Ordinance.

VANCOUVER, Wash., May 18.—(Special.)—Carl Luitlitz, himself a saloonkeeper and the owner of the Log Cabin saloon here, has withdrawn his name from the bond of Charles Beers, who was sentenced to 90 days in jail for violating the ordinance against selling whisky on Sunday. Beers' former name was revoked by the Council Monday night.

Luitlitz does not believe he ought to be on the bond of a saloonman who has been convicted of an unlawful act. H. C. Stumberg signed the bond in Luitlitz's place

LOCAL OBSERVER FIRST SEES SPOTS

Portland Man's Discovery Is Verified.

OPERA GLASS HIS TELESCOPE

Friends Share View Before Astronomers Begin Looking.

COMET NOT RESPONSIBLE

Observations Made All Over Country Confirm First Report of Optician—Major Spot May Be 100,000 Miles Long.

It was the lot of D. Chambers, a Portland optician, to be the first to discover spots on the disk of the sun yesterday, hours before the great observatories which all had their telescopes trained heavenward found them. Mr. Chambers found the spots by using a piece of smoked glass and an opera glass.

He described them as one large spot and two smaller ones in conjunction, and on advising others of what he had seen was able to tell them how to obtain the same view. Everyone who looked found the same sun spots and many erroneously believed them to be the comet.

Mr. Chambers' discovery was telegraphed to observatories through the country. He found the spots in the morning but when the astronomers were told of the find they scoffed at it for several hours and then suddenly announced finding the spots, exactly as reported by Mr. Chambers several hours earlier.

All hold that these spots are in no way connected with the comet. They are the first sun spots which have appeared for some time and, as with comets, their origin is a mystery. Astronomers point out that the comet, being 75,000,000 miles from the sun, could not possibly have formed these spots. They maintain that there is no possible connection between the sun spot and the comet and that the spots will remain after the comet has gone away.

According to various scientists, the spots which Mr. Chambers found are between 40,000 and 100,000 miles across, all being bridged together. They also reported that there were three, one larger than the two others. As a result of the spots a severe electrical disturbance is expected, but not until Friday.

COMETS IMMATURE PLANETS

Professor See Advances Theory After Years of Research.

MARE ISLAND, Cal., May 18.—Professor T. J. See, astronomer in charge of the United States Naval Observatory at Mare Island, announced today as the outcome of years of research in cosmical evolution, a theory on the origin of comets, which, he said, were some of the primitive masses once forming the solar nebula and could be popularly described as immature, undeveloped planets.

In the course of research made at Mare Island during the past two years on the origin of the solar system, said Professor See, "I have proved that comets

SPOKANE CONSIDER SEPARATE SCHOOLS

SEGREGATION OF SEXES PLAN BEFORE SCHOOL BOARD.

High School Principal Says Girls Prove Distraction to Boys in Classrooms.

SPOKANE, Wash., May 18.—(Special.)—The boys and girls of South Central High School may be separated in their classrooms and their recreation next year, according to plans now being discussed by the faculty and the Board of Education. The change, if tried and if found successful, may later be adopted in the North Side High School and later in the grammar schools.

The segregation of the students according to sexes is in accordance with the methods now being used with great success in many of the high schools of many Eastern and Middle West cities, but will be a novelty in the Northwest. Principal Hatt said: "The change will mean giving instruction to the boys and to the girls in separate classrooms and by different methods, and probably will mean also arranging their recreation periods at different times. This will keep them apart to a great degree.

"The change is being considered for several reasons. I believe that both the boys and the girls will do more satisfactory work if they are not placed in the same classrooms. Boys are often at a disadvantage when asked to recite before pupils of the opposite sex. This is particularly true in boys of the lower High School classes. The girls, moreover, often prove a distraction to the boys."

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather.

YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 63 degrees; minimum, 50 degrees.

TODAY'S—Fair and warmer; northwest winds.

Comet and Sun.

Sun spots caused intensely heated metallic vapors, says Carnegie observer.

Portland takes keen interest in comet, but fails to see it. Page 1.

Portland man first to observe sun spots. Page 1.

National.

Bullington's files show no letters from Gugenehina or P. Morse and Co. Page 2.

North Pacific Coast Lumber cases due for retrial before Interstate Commerce Commission. Page 2.

Republican regulars form alliance with Democrats in Senate to pass railroad bill. Page 2.

War Department will revise bridge order for shipping interests and citizens can agree. Page 1.

Politics.

Falling night caused J. McCornick of Tacoma to withdraw from race for Senate. Page 7.

Domestic.

Dr. J. Whitcomb Brougier says East shows new attitude towards Pacific Coast. Page 7.

Los Angeles woman sues rich Mrs. Gladys Woodward for \$30,000 for alienation of husband's affection. Page 2.

Sport.

Pacific Coast League results: Portland 3, Oakland 2; Los Angeles 3, Vernon 1; San Francisco 5, Sacramento 4. Page 8.

Ex-Stars will shine in baseball game between Klmonas and Overalls. Page 8.

Johnson boxes nine rounds with three different men. Page 8.

Stenographer's strike may cost Oregon track meet with O. R. C. Page 9.

Commercial and Marine.

Hop market quiet pending crop developments. Page 21.

Wheat declines sharply at Chicago under heavy selling. Page 21.

Stock dealings at New York smallest in over a year. Page 21.

Pacific Northwest.

Commencement exercises at Willamette University begin this week. Page 7.

Seven hundred Oldfellows and Rebekahs march in parade in Eugene. Page 7.

Harriman line stops tunnel work and will use Hill tracks into Tacoma. Page 8.

Spokane may abolish co-ed. education in high schools. Page 1.

Portland under a cloud. Page 1.

Bids to be asked at once for construction of railroad from Carlton to Fairview. Page 20.

Harriman lines announce new crack train between Portland and Spokane. Page 14.

Boston girl says week is too short notice on which to wed; suitor sues to recover ring. Page 12.

Army regulations exclude Major Martin. U. S. A. as possible successor of Colonel McDonald in National Guard. Page 20.

CLOSING OF DRAWS IS UP TO PORTLAND

War Department Only Awaits Agreement.

ENGINEERS INFORM MR. ELLIS

Shipping Interests and Citizens Must Get Together.

OFFICIAL ACTION NEEDED

Rates for Delivery of Cargoes Above Draw Bridges at Boston Are Advanced Because of Delay Due to Closing Draws.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, May 18.—"Whenever shipping interests and citizens of Portland get together and agree upon some plan for closing draws in Willamette River bridges during rush hours, the Secretary of War will modify the bridge regulations to conform to that agreement," said an officer of the Army Engineer Corps to Representative Ellis this afternoon.

He added that until some such mutual arrangement is made, the War Department will not amend its Portland draw bridge regulations.

Representative Ellis conferred with several officers of the Engineer Corps and discussed fully the situation at Portland which renders the closed periods essential for the convenience of a large percentage of the population. He urged in every way that the present regulations be modified, but the department informed him it had received vigorous protests from shipping interests and navigation companies at Portland against any such modification, and in the face of these objections did not feel at liberty to establish arbitrarily a closed period.

Rates Raised as Result.

Representative Ellis was told that modification of the regulations which Boston secured by Senator Lodge, providing a three-hour closed period in that city morning and evening, was the result of an agreement between the citizens and the shipping interests. In compensation for the delays due to the closing of the draws during the rush hours, thus impeding river navigation, navigation interests in Boston are now charging higher rates for delivery above the bridges than to points below, and in the judgment of the engineers this same change in rates would be enforced at Portland if the drawbridge regulations should be modified.

If, after a conference, an agreement can be brought about whereby shipping interests at Portland will agree to any closed period on conditions acceptable to the citizens of Portland, as expressed through the Mayor or City Council or through the recognized commercial organizations, the Engineer Corps will recommend the establishment of such closed periods if they judge reasonable.

Situation Is Unchanged.

If, as suggested to Representative Ellis, solution of this problem really rests with the people of Portland, the department is unwilling to take sides and will not interpose.

EAST APPRECIATIVE, ASSERTS BROUGHER

NEW ATTITUDE SAID TO BE HELD TOWARDS COAST.

West Now Recognized as Land That Does Things, Says Clergyman on Return From Chicago.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., May 18.—(Special.)—Greater recognition and appreciation of the Pacific Coast is evident on the part of the population of the other side of the great divide, in the judgment of Dr. J. Whitcomb Brougher, formerly of Portland, who returned today from Chicago, where he attended the Northern Baptist Convention and the Laymen's Missionary Association.

"The change in attitude is very noticeable to me," said Dr. Brougher today. "There is a feeling that the Pacific Coast is doing things faster than they are being done in other sections; that when we start things we finish them.

"There is a disposition to recognize that we are accomplishing great work, but we are being interested manifested whenever the Coast is mentioned. This attitude is general toward the West as a whole also."

Dr. Brougher took an active part in the discussions at the Northern Baptist convention in the University of Chicago.

"One evidence of the feeling I mention," he continued, "was the enlargement of the executive committee from 15 to 30 members, and the representation of about 15 of these went to the West, although it took a fight to win it."

JUDGE FORGETS HIS GOWN

Defendant in Suit Says Judgment Is Illegal Because of It.

VANCOUVER, Wash., May 18.—(Special.)—Because Judge W. W. McCredie did not wear a judicial gown, as prescribed by law, when he heard a suit against Henry Van Atta, a defendant in the judgment, the judgment is invalid and refuses to pay his share of the costs. The Superior Court has levied on some of Van Atta's property to secure payment. A sale will be held at the Courthouse June 25.

Last year City Attorney Kiewit brought suit against Henry Van Atta and a number of others, to prevent them from fencing a strip of land on Reserve street, Judge McCredie granting a permanent injunction against the defendants and assessing the costs, about \$54, against them.

RAINIER TO GET FACTORIES

Several Companies Make Offers for Water-Front Properties.

RAINIER, Or., May 18.—(Special.)—Within the last 48 hours L. E. Thomas, who has control of a large portion of the water frontage in the Rainier harbor, has been approached by three large manufacturing concerns for sites. It is evident that negotiations are under way for important deals. That Seattle people are interested is evident from the fact that prominent business men of that city are now in Rainier.

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APPENDIX IS LONGEST EVER

Portion Is Found Wrapped Around Dead Man's Liver.

BUTTE, Mont., May 18.—(Special.)—An autopsy over the body of W. G. Moffery, who drowned last Monday, revealed a vermiform appendix nine and a half inches long, the end being wrapped around a portion of the liver. No similar case is known in medical annals. Death was due to apoplexy.

SHOOTING TOO GOOD FATE

So Says Speaker Cannon of Some Members of Republican Party.

NEW YORK, May 18.—Shooting was too gentlemanly a fate for certain Republicans, thundered Speaker Cannon, of the House of Representatives, tonight, as he addressed the annual banquet of the National Association of Manufacturers at the Waldorf Astoria.

SAFETY IN MINES SOUGHT

Californian to Find Reason for Relative Security Abroad.

LOS ANGELES, May 18.—Dr. John R. Hayes, of Los Angeles, left for Europe today to search for the reason why the United States has four mine accidents for every one in England and five for every one in France.

He goes under special appointment from Governor Gillett and will spend six months at his task.

KIEFER GETS NOMINATION

General Wins in Seventh Congressional District of Ohio.

COLUMBUS, O., May 18.—Almost complete figures from the seventh Congressional district show that General J. Warren Kiefer was nominated by about 600 votes. Albert Douglas claims he won by about 2600.

Congressman W. Aubrey Thomas now says he has been renominated by 2400 votes in the 19th district.

Oil Prospects Bright.

WOODBURN, Or., May 18.—(Special.)—Parties are here prospecting for oil and after a mineral right lease of 20,000 acres of land. They are confident they can get oil, claiming surface indications prove its existence.

CROOK COUNTY TO PLANT ORCHARDS

Dairying Will Soon Be Extensive.

WATER IS SECURED CHEAPLY

With Sale of Large Holdings Development Begins.

TOWN PROPERTY BOOMS

Callvert Warns Against Retarding Growth by Holding Lands at Fictitious Values—Farms Sell at \$15 to \$75 an Acre.

BY R. G. CALLVERT.

PRINEVILLE, Ore., May 18.—(Staff Correspondence.)—Next to railroad transportation the placing on the market of the lands of the Willamette Valley & Cascade Wagon Road grant will probably do more for the immediate development of Central Oregon than any other factor.

The policy of the French owners of the lands in withholding them from the market from sale in small tracts is seen in no more forcible effect than in the vicinity of Prineville. Of 70,000 acres of rich agricultural lands in the Crooked River valley and tributary to Prineville, approximately one-half is embraced in the wagon-road selections.

One thing that strongly draws the attention of the traveler into Prineville is the sight of alternate sections of sage brush land set in among well cultivated fields of hay and grain. With the acquisition by friends of James J. Hill of the wagon-road grant and the prospect for railroad extensions eastward through the state, strong hopes are held throughout the interior that these lands are to be put to some use.

Fruit Culture Comes to Fore.

If these hopes are realized, railroad feeders into the Crooked River Valley should make that section of Oregon one of the show places of the West.

The best future for the Prineville Country is apparently in the extension of the dairying industry, but if late frosts disappear with more extensive cultivation, as is predicted by many, the Crooked River Valley should become another Rogue River.

So far fruit has been grown almost wholly for home consumption and practically no effort is being made at scientific horticulture. The smudge pots used even in Oregon's best apple-growing districts to prevent frost damage are unknown in the vicinity of Prineville. With its half uncultivated fields and its rounding hills extending back to higher elevations Crooked River Valley in general appearance is not unlike Rogue River Valley of several years ago.

Water for Irrigation Plentiful.

Water is plentiful for irrigation. All of the 70,000 acres that lie either in the bottom lands or on the table lands between Prineville and the Deschutes are irrigated, the former from the Crooked and Ochoco Rivers and the latter from the Deschutes Irrigation & Power Company's system. While the success of horticulture is a creamery has already demonstrated the latent possibilities of the country as a dairying district.

This creamery, a co-operative enterprise, was started as an experiment about one year ago. In the first year the farmers were paid for milk on a butterfat test 1 cent below the Portland butter market prices and the creamery was unable to supply the demand for its products. It is the only enterprise of the kind in the Deschutes Valley at present and its products, which include ice cream as well as butter, found a market in all the other towns of the district. This year its production will be tripled and what is still more to the point, its success has caused numerous farmers to bring fine milk cows into the district.

Irrigation Not Costly.

The bottom lands of Crooked River are naturally adapted to the raising of alfalfa. There are tracts in the vicinity of Prineville that have been growing alfalfa for 20 years and getting better year by year. Six Prineville residents are engaged in building a ditch that will water 100 acres at an estimated cost of \$10 per acre. Great quantities of water are now going to waste in the valley.

Prineville is about 18 miles off the main line of the two railroads building into the Deschutes Valley. Where the Oregon Trunk Line and the Deschutes Railroad will cross the river on a jointly-owned bridge no intimation is given of proposed extensions eastward along the shores of the stream. At the railroad crossing the valley has pinched to a narrow gauge with perpendicular rock walls. From the crossing a railroad route is feasible eastward up the river and with two miles of heavy rock work the branch road would enter the level meadows where the river valley has widened.

Grade to Prineville Easy.

Sixteen miles along this valley by light grade would take the road to Prineville. It also would be feasible, it is believed, to extend such a road on up Crooked River to Fife, where the divide between Crooked and Harney Valleys is found, and thence on down eastward to the Malheur River. Both the Oregon Trunk and Deschutes Railroad surveys, however,

