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IS DANGEROUS?

Professor Says Gases May Destroy Life.

SCIENTISTS SAY NOT SO

Steady Cyanogen in Comet's Tail Far Rarefied to Produce Any Effect on Earth.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 10.—Abomination of the name will not take place even if the tail of Halley's comet does hit earth. Furthermore, there's not a drop of cyanogen in the sidereal way-ward appendage to topple a beetle.

It is the cheerful announcement today by Professor Edwin B. Frost, director of Yerkes observatory at Lick, Wis. The Wisconsin astronomer laughed heartily upon the dire prediction of Professor Frost, of the chemistry department of the University of California. Professor Frost insists that the cyanogen in the tail of Halley's comet is all likely to be exterminated by many bugs.

"Why," chuckled Professor Frost, "there isn't the slightest cyanogen in the tail of the comet's tail. In the first place, the comet's tail is not long enough to reach earth. In the second place, the cyanogen in the tail is so slight as to be nothing."

"We are not going to be snuffed out by the cyanogen in the tail of Halley's comet," said Professor Frost, "when Halley's comet sweeps its tail over the earth. There is cyanogen in the tail, and that cyanogen, when mixed with our terrestrial atmosphere in sufficient quantity, is as fatal as lightning, but there is not enough cyanogen in the tail to make a beetle blink." Professor Frost is not the only astronomer to ridicule the fears of the California educator who expressed great concern over the University of Michigan in Professor Frost's hilarity over the fear and trembling of the Gold State chemistry instructor.

Professor Hussey said: "All comets are of the same chemical nature. The earth has passed through comets before and no bad effects have been felt. The comet is 100,000 miles away and the gas in its tail will not be sufficient to produce any noticeable effect. There can be no possible danger, even to a fly."

Both learned men gave their cheering predictions upon reading the dispatch from Berkeley embodying Professor Booth's theory that a brush of the comet's tail would mean destruction of human beings, even as insects in the path of a squirt-gun. Professor Booth's confidence is as follows:

"The astronomers are right in their estimates of the amount of cyanogen in the tail of Halley's comet. If that body's vapors do envelop the earth, we may have a chance to see the sensations of the bugs and insects which are killed by the use of cyanogen as an exterminator. The cyanogen will be snuffed out if a sufficient quantity of the cyanogen gas combines with the hydrogen of this planet's atmosphere."

Saloonman is Punished.

Des Moines, Feb. 10.—The Iowa Supreme court today decided that an injunction against the illegal sale of liquor is not against the property, is not a nuisance, and that a saloonkeeper who continues to sell liquor after being enjoined to stop is guilty of contempt of court and are barred for five years from engaging in the liquor business.

Columbia Holds Record.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Reports from the teams of nine colleges which participated in last week's shoot of the collegiate indoor rifle league show the following scores: Columbia, 1779; University of Idaho, 1779; University of Iowa, 1775; George Washington University, 1762; Cornell University, 1749; Washington State College, 1737; United States College of Veterinary Surgeons, 1652; University of Nevada, 1642; Louisiana University, 1592. A Columbia marksman made the highest score.

Sugar Trust Pays Debt.

New York, Feb. 10.—Six hundred and fifty million dollars will be paid by the American Sugar Refining company to the government as restitution for back taxes for underweighing sugar. The settlement was fixed today at a conference between representatives of the company and counsel for the government. It is reported that the settlement includes a clause exempting the company from civil prosecutions on other charges now pending.

King Goes Under Knife.

Stockholm, Feb. 10.—King Gustav operated on tonight for appendicitis. The operation was a success. The king has been suffering from internal disorder. It is said that the physicians proposed his case as requiring immediate operation.

MERCURY AT ZERO.

Forty-Mile Breeze Drives People from Streets

New York, Feb. 8.—Intense cold, driven to the bone of man and beast by a cutting wind, gripped the East tonight. In New York City the mercury stood at one degree above zero at midnight, equaling the low record for the season.

A 40-mile gale swept New York and vicinity throughout the day and night, driving pedestrians indoors and causing great suffering to those who were exposed. Streets were practically deserted tonight.

An unidentified man was found frozen to death in Boston; a fisherman met a similar fate in Buffalo, while off Atlantic City a tramp steamer was forced to anchor because of the gale. Up-state in New York, a driving snow made conditions worse. At Utica the mercury was 14 below. The extreme cold drove hundreds of homeless men and women to the municipal lodging houses and docks for shelter.

At Buffalo three degrees below zero was registered at 8 o'clock last night, the lowest temperature in several years. There was a slight fall of snow. Herman Snyder, a fisherman, was found dead in his sled with his dogs two miles out on Lake Erie.

At Boston the mercury tumbled at the rate of two degrees an hour until, at midnight, the thermometers registered zero. The wind blew 26 miles an hour. One man was found frozen.

Philadelphia reported the thermometer seven degrees below zero tonight, the coldest of the winter. In West ern Pennsylvania the temperature was two to 10 below zero.

BLAST BLOWS SEVEN TO ATOMS

Prominent Arizona Mining Men Die on Private Motor Car.

Phoenix, Ariz., Feb. 8.—Headless of the warning of a foreman in charge of the big excavating operation along the line of the private motor road from Kelvin to the Ray copper mines, the motorman of a gasoline car containing six passengers, ran close to the excavation just as a spluttering fuse burned to a heavy charge of dynamite this afternoon, and the car and its seven occupants were blown to atoms.

The foreman had discovered a missed shot in the excavation at noon and before the motor car came in sight he had relighted the fuse.

As the car approached he signaled the motorman and warned him of the impending explosion. Motorman Lyall, evidently believing he could take his car past the charge to safety, before the explosion, paid no heed to the warning and started again at full speed.

Just as the car was passing the charge, the explosion came, and the car with its load of human freight was blown high in the air amid a great cloud of debris. The lives of all those inside the car were snuffed out in an instant. The dead men were all prominent in Arizona mining affairs.

INSURGENTS' WAY CLEAR

Revolutionists Free to Enter Managua, Says Message.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The way to Managua is now open to the revolutionists in Nicaragua, according to a cable received here today by Senor Castrillo, representative of the Estrada government.

Senor Castrillo has also been informed that C. Granados, a leading merchant of Granada, has issued a proclamation calling upon all citizens to rally to the support of General Estrada.

Dr. Salomon Selva, prosecuting attorney for the government in the trials of the two Americans, Groce and Cannon, according to the same information, also has issued a proclamation in which he not only defends himself for his action in the case, but glories in the outcome of the trial.

Harem To See Airships.

Cairo, Egypt, Feb. 8.—Egypt's aviation week opened at Helipolis today under favorable wind conditions. The khedive was present and apparently took great interest in the flights. A feature of the meeting will be the presence of the ladies of the harem, for whom a stand has been reserved. Among the principal events will be a speed contest to the pyramids and return. In today's competitions the aeroplane of Gobron, the French aviator, caught fire, but Gobron was saved.

Eagle Tears Alligator.

San Francisco, Feb. 8.—A desperate battle was fought in the Golden Gate Park aviary early this morning between a large golden eagle and a four-foot alligator. The young alligator had crawled out of the small lake to bask in the sun, when the eagle swooped down upon it, and after vainly trying to tear the scaly hide with its beak, rose with the reptile to the top of a 12-foot pole and let the alligator drop to the ground. Then like lightning the bird again attacked the alligator with beak and claws.

Paintings Sold, \$5,000 a Minute.

New York, Feb. 8.—Twenty paintings were sold, at the rate of \$5,000 worth a minute, at the first important sale of the year here last night. The paintings were from the collection of the late H. S. Henry, of Philadelphia. The sale occupied 61 minutes and realized \$255,750. Millet's "Going to Work" was the star offering, fetching \$53,100. Three fine Corots brought \$28,000, \$23,000 and \$22,000 respectively.

Of all the animals which are born and spend their lives in subterranean caverns, there are no birds, and but one mammal, the rat.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS IN BRIEF

Washington, Feb. 11.—Secretary of State Knox was subjected to caustic criticism in the house today by Representative Francis Burton Harrison, of New York, in consideration of the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill.

Many bold strokes in diplomacy, said Harrison, were justified only by their success, as in the instance of President Cleveland's Venezuelan message. But that had not been the case with some of the bold strokes of diplomacy made by Mr. Knox, he said. The Nicaraguan imbroglio, the Manchurian railway matter, and the secretary's declaration that he would make it his duty to see that democratic forms of government were maintained in Central America, were examples of failure in the diplomacy of Mr. Knox, he said.

"This position is so untenable," he added, referring to the maintenance of democratic governments in Central America, "that some day we will be obliged to retire from it with mortification."

The senate today passed the Bennett "white slave bill," which had previously passed the house. The measure was so amended as to eliminate the interstate regulations originally contained in the bill, the object of the senate being to divorce the immigration feature of the question from all others.

Slow handling of livestock by the railroad causes the loss of 100,000 head annually, according to witnesses before the house committee on interstate commerce today. A bill is before the committee fixing a minimum rate of 16 miles an hour at which railroads may transport livestock shipments.

William B. Turner, of Oregon, printing clerk of the senate, was summarily discharged today for alleged co-operation with E. G. Rappone and others interested in the prosecution of the so-called Spaulding claims to reimburse postmasters for amounts claimed due from the government. Turner was a protege of the late Senator Mitchell, and held his position in the senate clerical force despite the efforts made to displace him after Mitchell's retirement from the senate.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Whether a court at law has power to summon before it a committee of congress was the chief subject of discussion before the senate and house today.

The senate gave positive instructions to Senators Reed Smoot, Jonathan Bourne and Duncan Fletcher not to respond tomorrow to the order issued by Justice Wright of the supreme court of the District of Columbia, directing them to appear before him. The house took the opposite action.

The house military committee today reported the military academy bill, which carries an appropriation of \$1,876,832. About \$25,000 was cut from the estimate, the principal item rejected by the committee being one of \$10,000 for a new chapel organ.

Defending the cotton exchanges as gatherers of true information that is disseminated by thousands of brokers to everyone interested, Solomon Napoleon Cone, of Greensboro, N. C., attacked proposed anti-option bill in the hearing before the house committee on agriculture today.

Mr. Cone described himself as a spot cotton dealer, a stockholder in various mills, a member "of all the cotton exchanges of the world," and the handler of more than \$4,000,000 worth of spot cotton annually.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Because Senator Bailey is not ready to make the speech in opposition to the postal savings bill, of which he has given notice, the measure probably will go over until next week. All amendments acceptable to the committee have been adopted. It is thought the bill will pass the senate next week.

American participation in the international exhibitions at Rome and Turin in 1911, which will be held in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the kingdom of Italy, was assured today when Senator Cullom reported a bill for that purpose from the committee on foreign relations. It was passed.

The bill providing for the establishment of the Glacier national park in Northern Montana was passed today by the senate. If created, the park will be just south of the line between the United States and Canada and will adjoin a similar reservation of the Canadian government on the northern side of the boundary.

A bill was introduced in the house today providing that a replica of the statue of the revolutionary hero, General von Steuben, be erected in Washington, be presented to the emperor of Germany. The gift is to be in return for the statue of Frederick the Great which the kaiser presented to the people of the United States.

The long drawn out dispute in the house committee on naval affairs over the subject of indorsing the plan of Secretary Meyer for the reorganization of the navy is virtually settled, it was stated today, and the committee will take action next week which will be, in effect, tentative approval of the secretary's idea.

Large Area to Be Opened.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Upon the recommendation of the secretary of agriculture, the secretary of the interior has released from temporary withdrawal for forestry purposes 38,759 acres near the Rainier national forest, and has provided that vacant unappropriated public lands in this area will be subject to settlement on and after April 12, and to entry filing on selections on and after May 12. The lands are in Yakima county.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Demanding an investigation of the immigration commission provided for in the resolution he had introduced, Representative Macon of Arkansas, renewed his attack upon the commission in the house today.

Republican leaders in conference today, perfected a resolution on the inquiry into the cost of living which was later presented to the senate by Mr. McCumber, of North Dakota.

An hour after Mr. McCumber had presented the resolution from the finance committee and it had been referred to the committee on contingent expenses, Mr. Kean, chairman of the latter committee, reported the measure back with a recommendation that it be adopted.

In connection with a resolution offered by Senator Dooliver providing for the printing of a detailed statement of expenditures of the Agricultural department, there was an incidental discussion of the forestry bureau in the senate today. The resolution was adopted.

The reserve feature of the postal savings bank bill received special attention when that measure was taken up in the senate today. Deprecating any tendency toward a reserve fund, Mr. Bristow said that the amendment suggested by Senator Page providing for such a fund would result in the accumulation of from \$40,000,000 to \$70,000,000. This he did not consider wholesome. A resolution introduced in the senate today by Senator Borah directs the committee on the judiciary to inform the senate whether the income tax amendment submitted at the last session of congress would have the effect of authorizing congress to lay a tax upon incomes derived from state bonds and other municipal securities, or of giving congress the right to tax salaries of state officers or the instrumentalities and property of the state.

Washington, Feb. 7.—Protesting against lending government tents for the use of the Confederate veterans at their annual encampment at Mobile, Ala., next April, Senator Heyburn, of Idaho, in the senate today made the sharpest comment upon the issues of the Civil war that has been heard in congress in 20 years.

He inveighed against men in "rebel" uniforms being permitted to occupy government property or the "rebel" flag being allowed to fly above it. Finally he drifted into the question of honoring men by placing their statues in the hall of fame, and by unmistakable inference condemned the action of Virginia in sending the statue of General Robert E. Lee to Washington.

The senate passed a bill authorizing the sale of the Siletz Indian lands, reserved by the treaty of 1892, approved by congress in 1894.

Senator Overman today introduced a bill providing for a 60-day postponement of the date when corporations are required to make returns and assessments under the corporation tax law. The bill now calls for these returns to be made March 1, and the delay is sought to give the Supreme court time to pass upon the constitutionality of the law.

The Federal incorporation bill, introduced in congress today, is not to be pressed for passage at this session. If the bill should pass, President Taft has stated his willingness to stand as its sponsor, and to take the responsibility for having recommended it.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The controversy over the use of benzoate of soda as a food preservative was resumed today before the house committee on expenditures in the department of agriculture.

Representative Moss, of Indiana, attacked the referee board, which had upheld the use of benzoate of soda against the decision of Dr. H. W. Wiley, chief of the bureau of chemistry at the agricultural department.

"If Dr. Wiley is not competent to pass upon these matters he should be discharged," said Mr. Moss.

"There are two sides to that," replied Mr. McCabe, who added that he knew of no manufacturer who had abandoned the use of benzoate of soda. Several manufacturers who did so temporarily after Dr. Wiley's decision reached after the board's favorable ruling, he said.

The rivers and harbors bill is attracting the acute attention of practically all of congress just now, as it is understood that it will be reported out either Tuesday or Wednesday. Every representative wants to know just how large a share of the "pork barrel" is to go to his district. There was an all day session of the house committee today to hear statements in behalf of a lot of interests from different parts of the country.

The question whether the governor of one state shall be required to extradite a person, under charge of crime, on the information process, as well as the indictment process, was under discussion in the senate more than two hours today. No action was taken on the bill under consideration, which would compel recognition of the information process.

Farmers Wilson Says It's Trusts.

Washington, Feb. 9.—"The trusts and the miserable little combinations in every town and city in the United States are what keep the price of food so high." This was the reply given by Secretary Wilson in reply to a question. "The farmer doesn't get any more for a 2-year-old steer than he did twelve years ago. I expect to be able to show that the products of American farms are being sold cheaper abroad than at home."

ADJOURN IN DEADLOCK.

Miners and Operators Unable to Reach Agreement.

Toledo, O., Feb. 7.—Unable to effect an organization because of the deadlock on the admission of miners' delegates from Illinois, the joint wage conference of the bituminous coal operators and miners of Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania adjourned tonight sine die.

No provision was made for another meeting. The adjournment, it is declared, does not mean necessarily a suspension of work at the expiration of the present contract, April 1.

This would affect all bituminous districts controlled by the United Mine-workers, as they decreed at their Indianapolis convention that no district should sign a wage scale until the scales for all districts were negotiated. Both sides have declared, however, that they will not recede on the Illinois proposition.

Some plan may be worked out to get the miners and operators together again before April 1. It may be a call for another convention or the selection of a representative scale committee.

A meeting of the executive boards of the miners was called for tomorrow. The night session lasted only a short time.

As no one had anything to say, the futility of continuing the session was expressed by President Lewis. His suggestion for dividing the responsibility for adjournment was followed. A delegate from the miners moved to adjourn and one from the operators seconded it.

A call by states resulted in the only unanimous vote recorded in the meeting.

REICHSTAG HAS TREATY.

Friendly Spirit to Govern Tariff Administration.

Berlin, Feb. 7.—Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg today sent to the reichstag the following communication regarding the German-American tariff agreement:

"The American government has declared that the livestock question is withdrawn wholly from the negotiations, on the condition that the unlimited enjoyment of Germany's conventional tariff be conceded to the United States.

"It further agrees that the advantages of the American minimum tariff shall be extended unrestrictedly to Germany after March 31.

"That the customs administrative features of the existing tariff arrangement shall remain in force.

"That this extension of the minimum tariff to Germany secures to her treatment in accordance with the most favored nation clause.

"That the American customs administrative regulation shall be applied to German goods in a friendly and conciliatory spirit.

"That the present agreement respecting the labeling of wines shall remain in force; and

"That the customs administrative provisions respecting the marking of goods shall be applied in a friendly and conciliatory spirit."

Flood Cleanses Paris.

Paris, Feb. 7.—The fall of the river Seine was more rapid today. The appearance of the city is approaching the normal, but the subway system is still inoperative. Water remains in the tubes, which, after they have been emptied, must be cleaned and disinfected. The progress toward the restoration of the lighting, telephone and telegraph lines is slow. The work of disinfection and other precautions against an epidemic of typhoid has been so thorough that some of the newspapers predict that Paris will not only escape contagion but will emerge from the flood cleaner than before.

The superintendent of sewers reports that from the examinations which he has been able to make, few of the sewer mains burst, the ruptures occurring in the branch pipes leading into buildings.

Despite the attempts of some of the opposition papers to make it appear that dissensions prevail among the various relief organizations, investigation indicates that all are co-operating with zeal. Foreign contributions to the relief fund today reached a total of about \$700,000.

Hens Working Overtime.

Chicago, Feb. 7.—One million eight hundred thousand strictly fresh, new-laid eggs are arriving in Chicago every day from Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Texas, Tennessee and Nebraska. They arrive in cases of 30 dozen each, 50,000 cases being received daily. So there is no immediate danger of an egg famine here. The weather is responsible. It has been so mild and favorable for the production of eggs in the South and Southwest for the last three weeks that hens are fairly working overtime.

Watch Case Trust Sued.

Cincinnati, Feb. 7.—A suit for \$375,000 damages has been filed in the District court here by the Duober Watch Case company against the Keystone Watch Case company, of Philadelphia, and other concerns alleged to be members of an illegal combination within the meaning of the Sherman law. It is alleged that the defendants combined to restrain trade by issuing a circular forbidding dealers handling their goods to sell cases made by others.

To guard against disease germs in the dust, masks have been adopted by the New York street cleaning department for its sweepers.

FARMER DON'T GET IT

Leaders of Equity Society Attribute High Prices to Dealers

FIGURES TELL STRAIGHT STORY

Padding is Put into Values After Products Leave Farm—Dairy-men Expose Milk Dealers

Chicago, Feb. 8.—"The farmers are not responsible for the high prices of food," was the statement today of C. O. Drayton, of Indianapolis, president of the National Union, American Society of Equity.

"The farmer receives little more than he did before the prices of food-stuffs soared to the skies. From hogs to apples this is true. In every particular is the farmer taking all the risk of producing and getting only a moderate price for his output.

"The dealers are the ones who are responsible for the high cost of living and we propose to show that it cannot be laid at the door of the farmer," said Mr. Drayton before the convention of the Milk Producers' association. The delegates are meeting with the determination to form a national organization for the protection of the farmer in his dairy and other products.

"I am here to give facts," said Mr. Drayton. "Let the responsibility rest where it belongs, but it doesn't belong on the farmer's shoulders."

One of the facts cited was the price of \$1 and less paid to the farmer for 1908 wheat and its rise to \$1.50 when it reached the hands of the speculators. "Why, one of my correspondents," continued Mr. Drayton, "sold 2,000 bushels of the 1908 crop for 73 cents, and that same wheat afterward soared to the \$1.50 mark."

Senator W. F. Rondebrison, representing the Tri-State Dairy association of Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio, told the delegates how the organization which he represents managed to bring dealers into line.

"We found," said Mr. Rondebrison, "that the producers of this territory were getting but 8 or 10 cents a gallon for milk that the dealers were selling for 8 cents a quart, and it looked as if it were time to go to work, and so we did. We formed our association and these dealers paid no attention to our demands, so we didn't send any milk to market.

"We kept this up all during the month of August, until the buyers saw that we meant business and they offered us from 14 to 16 cents a gallon, so we began marketing our milk again.

"I find that the average producer all over the country now gets 14 cents in the winter and 11 cents in the summer, so you can see for yourselves who gets the profit at 8 cents a quart to the consumer."

Food Fight Test Now On.

New York, Feb. 8.—With extreme cold weather tending to drive quotations up and the first wave of enthusiasm in the crusade against the high food prices receding, the campaign in metropolitan territory settled down today to something like an endurance contest.

The week opened, however, with prospects of trouble for the combines alleged to be illegally keeping up rates for necessities of life through misuse of cold storage and other means.

New York and New Jersey renewed activities in the campaign. Attorney General O'Malley, of New York state, is credited with the intention to invoke an old injunction against the packing companies granted in the Supreme court in 1902 and forbidding them from fixing meat prices and preventing competition by agreement as to rates and supply.

Regulative ordinances introduced in the New York board of aldermen and aimed practically at cold storage evils are to be pressed for passage.

Calhoun Case Must Go On.

San Francisco, Feb. 8.—Judge Lawlor, of the Superior court, today denied a motion to dismiss the case of Patrick Calhoun, president of the United Railroads, accused of offering a bribe to a supervisor to vote for a trolley franchise, and ordered that the trial, which was interrupted by the recent election, be resumed next Monday. The district attorney, who moved for dismissal, declared that on account of missing witnesses and the insufficiency of evidence already introduced, he was convinced that a conviction could not be secured.

Soap Blocks Up Sewers.

Orange, N. J., Feb. 8.—The bursting of a tank of hot soap in the process of manufacture has given the sewer department here the biggest job of sewer cleaning it has ever had. Several tons of the sticky mass got into the pipes and congealed there, stopping the mains completely. For a mile along the sewer men are working at each manhole day and night, trying to pierce the mass. The soap is as hard as if it had dried for weeks.

Taft's Brother Recovers.

Los Angeles, Feb. 8.—Henry W. Taft, brother of the president, has recovered sufficiently from an attack of erysipelas to leave the hospital where he was taken a week ago, for apartments at a downtown hotel. Dr. W. A. Edwards, his physician, says Mr. Taft probably will be able to resume his journey eastward before the end of the present week.