

### DOZEN INJURED AS RESULT OF KLAN MEETING

Westwood, Mass., Aug. 3.—(AP)—Injury to a dozen or more persons, the wrecking of a farm house in the Jalington district here, and the arrest of three men for carrying concealed weapons, was the aftermath of the Ku Klux Klan's first attempt to hold a meeting in this district since the state police stopped supplying guns for Klan gatherings.

The meeting in a field off the Boston-Providence highway here yesterday ending in a riot which the police of three towns were unable to quell. A mob of 500 anti-Klan sympathizers and three Klan members staged a fight with fists, rocks and bricks. Although firearms were in evidence, no shots were fired.

Most of the klansmen escaped in their cars but a few were bottled up in the house of Stephen Hillyer, where they huddled in the cellar while every window and much of the furniture disintegrated under a hail of rocks from the outside.

An appeal by Westwood town officials finally brought four state troopers from Framingham, who dispersed the crowd and escorted the besieged klansmen to safety. They arrested three men said to be klansmen, on charges of carrying concealed weapons.

### ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE WANTS CIVIL SERVICE

Washington, Aug. 3.—(AP)—While fully endorsing the prohibition enforcement reform now in process, the Anti-Saloon League, through its highest officials announced formally yesterday that at the next session of congress it will again urge passage of the civil service provisions of the Crampton bill, which failed at the last session.

"The Anti-Saloon League is not seeking to dictate appointments," the statement said, "but it is fighting against their attempted domination by the enemies of the law and its enforcement."

### BRITISH LIFT DISEASE BAN

London—Restrictions imposed by the ministry of agriculture in connection with foot-and-mouth disease in the counties of Warwick, Cheshire and Northampton have been withdrawn. There are now no restrictions in force in Great Britain for the first time since the wide spread outbreak of 1923.

Havana—Juan Agosto Izquierdo, a farmer living near Ciego de Avila, Camaguey province is the object of awe on the part of his neighbors. Men step back when he walks past them, and women make the sign of the cross.

A few days ago Juan set out to ride in the midst of a heavy rain and electrical storm to the farm. A bolt of lightning killed his horse and knocked him unconscious.

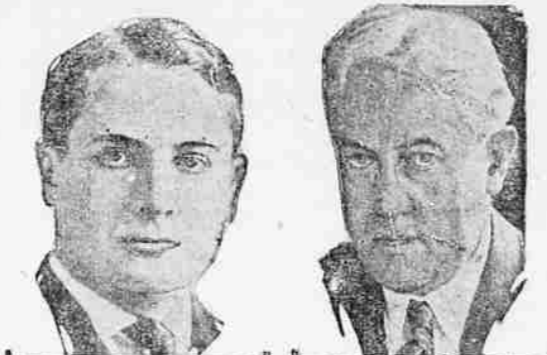
With the first rays of the morning sun farmers going to town found the apparently lifeless body. A rural carpenter was giving the finishing touches to a rude coffin when a doctor arrived. After a few minutes of medical attention Juan opened his eyes, stood up and began talking. The terrified farmers fled.

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OREGON ELECTRIC

### In the News Spotlight



Left: LEON TROTSKY & ADOLFO DE LA HUERTA. Below: O. P. VAN SWERINGEN & JOHN W. DAVIS.

Leon Trotsky, immediately after taking over his new post as head of the Soviet Concessions Committee, indicated he would encourage American investment and American industry in Russia. Adolfo de la Huerta, from exile, wrote letters to Mexican generals urging a revolt against President Calles. O. P. Van Sweringen, creator of the Nickel Plate merger plan, was bitterly assailed by counsel for dissenting groups at the Interstate Commerce Commission hearing. John W. Davis has been asked to help defend J. T. Scopes, indicted in Dayton, Tenn., for teaching evolution.

### OPEN FORUM

Contributions to this column must be plainly written on one side of paper only limited to 300 words in length and signed with the name of the writer. Articles not meeting these specifications will be rejected.

#### "A Light Year"

To the Editor: What is a light year average?

Of late so many of my friends have gone astray on the subject, and sorely bruised their heads against the profound and knotty problem of the mathematical light year that I have in the generosity of my heart decided to come to their relief, with enlightenment to their beclouded minds and comfort to their troubled souls.

Only a year or two ago one of the most brilliant and progressive editors in this state gravely informed his readers that "a light year is an infinitely longer period of time than an ordinary calendar year." Such a statement shocks one's ethical sense. Again, only two months ago, one of the most lusty popular of American novelists stumbled even more grievously when, in a widely circulated magazine article, he computed the age

of very remote stars by multiplying their light years by the number of seconds in a year and that product by 186,000 which is the distance in miles that light travels in one second, this last product being the age in years of those stars. It is one of the paradoxes of science that a phenomenon like light, that is supposed to illumine all other phenomena should be so profoundly obscure in its own nature.

Sir Isaac Newton that peerless natural philosopher whose mathematical genius was of the very

highest order blundered continuously and egregiously when he came to deal with the physical aspect of light. After Dr. Young had solved the problems of the nature and laws of light, Goethe another superman of science came along and attracted both Newton and Young in a manner to write himself down in the history of science as a fundamentalist donkey. When such transcendental intellects fall in the tussle with the problems of light it is any wonder that humble folk should blunder in the matter?

I once knew a good lady who made a very grievous blunder about light. I didn't know her personally but my father did. When he was a young man, in the early 40s of the last century, he was engaged in propagating the gospel in the hill sections of the Shenandoah valley, Va. At regular periods he was wont to go with a little band of ministers and retreat into the upper regions of the Blue mountains, the closer to commune with the overworld. On one of these occasions a fellow brother whose permanent abode was in those upper regions invited them all to dine with him at the evening meal. They took his good wife completely by surprise and not in the best of humor. Her husband hastened to assure her that they would be content with "just a little light supper." In just fifteen minutes a smiling face appeared at the dining room door and announced: "All is now ready."

When the brethren assembled around the table they looked down upon a spread of immaculate linen six plates arranged in perfect order, and in the center of each plate a brightly burning candle. It was a prospect that would have blanched the cheek of Colonel Sellers, but not one of the party ever let on. That was a "light supper," but what is a "light year?"

Let it be thoroughly understood once for all that a light year is no more a measure of time than is a yard stick or a rod pole. A light year is simply the distance that light travels in one year of 365 1/4 days, traveling uniformly at the

rate of 186,000 miles per second. According to this method of measuring distance when we wish to say that the sun is 93,000,000 miles from the earth we simply say that the sun is 8 1/3 light minutes from the earth. Astronomers long ago learned that stellar distances are so great that in locating the heavenly bodies of the remote regions of space some very large unit of measurement must be employed for the sake of brevity. Accordingly some ingenious mathematician suggested the "light year" as a measure of distance and it has been in universal vogue ever since. Sir William Herschel believed that the most distant stars visible only to the most powerful telescope

were as much as four million light years removed from the earth. Recent researches in mathematical astronomy tend to confirm these conclusions of the elder Herschel. S. H. VAN TRUMP.

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**When Vacations are Over**  
Vacations require money and Savings Accounts have therefore suffered somewhat this summer.  
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