

TAIL OF COMET NOT DANGEROUS

Eastern Scientists Claim Gas Is Too Thin to Cause Trouble

All Admit That Cyanogen Gas in Wake of Celestial Visitor Would Destroy All Animal Life on Earth by Combining With Atmosphere, Forming Hydrogen Gas, a Poison.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 10.—Abomination of desolation will not take place even if the tail of Halley's comet does hit the earth. Furthermore, there's not enough poison in the sidereal wayfarer's appendage to topple a beetle.

That is the cheerful announcement made today by Professor Edwin B. Frost, director of Yerkes observatory at William Bay, Wis. The Wisconsin astronomer laughed heartily upon reading the dire prediction of Professor Edwin Booth, of the chemistry department of the University of California. Professor Booth insists that if Halley's comet teems with cyanogen gas we are all likely to be exterminated as so many bugs.

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

"No, we are not going to be snuffed out like bugs in the entomologist's bottle when Halley's comet sweeps its tail over the earth. There is cyanogen gas in the comet's tail, and that cyanogen gas, when mixed with our terrestrial atmosphere in sufficient quantities, is as fatal as lightning, but there is not enough poison in the heavenly vagrant's tail to make a beetle blink."

Professor Frost is not the only sky expert to ridicule the fears of the California educator who expressed great alarm. Professor W. J. Hussey, astronomer of the University of Michigan, joins in Professor Frost's hilarity over the fear and trembling of the Golden Gate 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 14,000,000 miles away and the gas from it will not be sufficient to produce any noticeable effect. There cannot be any possible danger, even to an insect."

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 confided his fears as follows:

"If astronomers are right in their estimates of the amount of cyanogen gas in the tail of Halley's comet, and if that body's vapors do envelop the earth, we may have a chance to feel the sensations of the bugs and insects which are killed by the use of this deadly gas as an exterminator."

"We will all be snuffed out if a sufficient quantity of the cyanogen gas unites 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, but not against the property, is valid; that a saloonkeeper who consents to the injunction admits that he was maintaining a nuisance; that the lawful sale of liquor is not a nuisance; and that those who violate the decree to which they agree are guilty of contempt of court and are barred for five years from engaging in the liquor business.

The decision in effect declares that by agreeing to an injunction a saloonkeeper admits himself to be a lawbreaker and loses his right to engage in business.

Columbia Holds Record.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Reports from the teams of nine colleges which participated in last week's shoot of the Intercollegiate Indoor Rifle league show the following scores: Columbia, 1793; 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 State University, 1592. A Louisiana marksman made the highest score.

Sugar Trust Pays Debt.

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

King Goes Under Knife.

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

TO SEEK SOUTH POLE.

National Geographic Society Will Work With Peary.

Washington, Feb. 9.—America has decided to seek for South Pole laurels similar to those won for her by Commander Peary at the North Pole. The National Geographic society today resolved to send an expedition in search of the South Pole, provided the necessary funds can be raised. It is not believed there will be any failure on this score.

Commander Peary was notified immediately of the action.

Captain Bartlett, in command of the Roosevelt on Peary's trip to the North, probably will have charge of the Antarctic expedition.

After a meeting late this afternoon the board of managers of the Geographic society adopted the following resolutions:

"The National Geographic society believes it is of great importance to science that tidal, magnetic and meteorological observations shall be made at or near Coats Land in the same period that the British expedition under Captain Robert S. Scott is making similar observations on the other side of the Antarctic area, 1,800 miles distant, and at the same time that the recently discovered land shall be explored."

"The society is ready to accept Mr. Peary's proposition that it shall undertake jointly with the Peary Arctic club an expedition to the Antarctic regions as outlined above, provided that the board of managers, after consultation with members of the society, finds that the project will receive sufficient financial assistance to warrant the undertaking."

It is thought probable the expedition may be ready to sail as early as July. The rapidity with which financial assistance is forthcoming will determine the date.

SIX DIE IN RACE RIOTS.

Tennessee Clash Between Laborers Results in Deaths.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Feb. 9.—Sheriff Westmoreland and Deputy Sheriff Young, of Marion county, who came to Chattanooga at noon today, from the Hale Bar Locke's dam, state that six negroes were killed and six wounded, two probably fatally, in today's rioting.

Bad feeling had been brewing for some days between white and negro employees of Locke's dam contractors, and an attack upon one of the negro laborers by several white men yesterday, coupled with liberal distribution of whiskey and weapons among the negroes, brought the trouble to a climax. After an exchange of shots between a force of five policemen rushed by train from Chattanooga, and a squad of special deputies and the negroes, the trouble was quelled.

The negroes who took the most active part in the trouble retreated up the Tennessee river, and a posse is trying to apprehend them.

HARBOR BILL IS FRAMED.

Measure Agreed Upon By Committee Carries Forty Millions.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Approximately \$40,000,000 will be carried in the rivers and harbors bill for next fiscal year. This was conceded after today's session of the house committee on rivers and harbors. The Ohio river, the Great lakes, and other sections are provided for in items passed upon, but the amounts were not made public.

The committee will meet today and tomorrow, when it is expected the bill, which is distinctly an annual budget, though contemplating ultimate expenditures that are likely to reach \$600,000,000 will be finally adopted. This means a report to the house probably Friday.

The framing of the rivers and harbors bill probably will preclude a general public buildings appropriation bill at this session.

Taft Can't See Teddy.

Washington, Feb. 9.—John A. Stewart, president of the New York League of Republican Clubs, arrived here today and will confer with President Taft tomorrow regarding the homecoming celebration in honor of ex-President Roosevelt. A cable message was received in New York today from Mr. Roosevelt granting the Republican club's request for permission to form a reception committee, with representatives from all over the country to meet him on his arrival in New York harbor between June 15 and 21 next.

Hughes Heads Delta U'S.

New York, Feb. 9.—Governor Hughes was elected president of a corporation to be known as the Delta Upsilon fraternity, launched tonight at a dinner attended by members of most of the 38 chapters of the college fraternity. David Starr Jordan, president of Leland Stanford university, and E. D. Ridgway, magazine publisher, were elected vice presidents. The purpose of the new corporation is to broaden the society's power in holding property.

Suffrage Up to Women.

New York, Feb. 9.—A plan to let the women of New York state settle among themselves, by a referendum vote, the question of suffrage, will be offered to the legislature in Albany by the suffragette lobbyists next month. The plan has found unexpected endorsement at the hands of the anti-suffragist organizations here. The anti declare themselves confident that they can carry the state for "no votes for women."

A BRIEF DAILY REPORT ON THE WORK OF CONGRESS

Washington, Feb. 12.—An unfavorable report has been forwarded to congress by the commissioners of the District of Columbia on the bill recently introduced by Representative Guernsey of Maine, providing that public ceremonies in connection with the inauguration of the president and vice president be held on the last Thursday of March of each inaugural year.

The measure was presented with the idea of avoiding a constitutional amendment by permitting the president and vice president to take the oath of office in the house of representatives on March 4, and fixing the later date for public ceremonies.

Having completed the regulations for the labeling, marking and branding of whiskey in accordance with the principle laid down by President Taft in his decision of "what is whiskey," the committee which prepared the new rules will give an opportunity next Wednesday to the interests affected to make suggestions for modification.

This committee is made up of Secretary MacVeagh, Secretary Nagel and Secretary Wilson, but the detail work was done by subordinates. The hearing is to be given in response to a request from the whiskey interests.

Representatives of the claims departments of the big railroads were before the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce today. One of them testified that last year he settled claims amounting to more than a million dollars against his road.

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. Rapone 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 protégé 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 \$1,876,332. 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,

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.

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 expositions 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, to 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.

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 Dolliver 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 income 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 issue 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.

Farmer 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."

Committee Rebuffs Ballinger.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The senate public lands committee today reported unfavorably the bill prepared by Secretary Ballinger providing that the secretary of the interior be given "supervisory authority" to withdraw public lands. The committee suggested that the power proposed for the secretary be given instead to the president.

CALHOUN DEFENDS WOMEN.

Thinks Maids and Mothers Need as Much Consideration as Birds.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 11.—William J. Calhoun, United States Minister to China, appeared before the Supreme court of Illinois today, in appeal to have that body overrule a decision bearing upon the ten hour day for women.

Judge Tuthill last July held the law limiting the working day to ten hours unconstitutional on the ground that it infringes on women's right to contract for the hire of her labor.

Minister Calhoun was one of the large number of Chicago men and women opposing the decision who appeared before the Supreme court. The minister to China told the court that he would confine his address to a single phase of the case—its humanitarian or commonsense side.

"I am not a radical or a socialist, or an anarchist," he said, "and I don't even belong to the so-called 'uplift movement,' of which we have heard so much recently. But I do take sufficient notice of some of the abuses which exist in this highly and artificially developed civilization of ours, and which call aloud for correction."

"In the doctrine of the freedom of contract there is more of fiction than morality. When men and women are dependent upon their daily wages; when they are face to face with poverty all the time; when the loss of a day's work and a day's wage means not enough money to pay rent, or not enough to buy food, it is not fair, it is not common sense, to say that they enjoy any freedom of contract for the sale of their labor."

"Many women in their struggles for food and shelter, yes, and for life itself, are willing—even eager—to work long hours every day in the week and every week in the year, year in and year out, until their bodies break under the strain. But the wishes of such women should not be allowed to militate against the welfare of woman kind and mankind in general. When a woman, be she maid or mother, has worked in a factory ten long hours, she has toiled the limit the laws of this country should allow."

"But should the selfish desire of a few men to sell goods, to grind out more orders, be allowed to stifle the needful demand of maidenhood and motherhood?"

States Attorney Wayman, of Chicago, who also asked the Supreme court to set aside the ruling of Judge Tuthill, declared that the legislature should have power to protect human beings, as it has the power to protect animals.

"The legislature, we are told, has no right to protect women from the necessity of being forced to work 24 hours a day," he said. "Yet it can protect quail and grouse and prairie chickens. It is an absurd legal proposition."

Attorney Haynie, representing the Illinois Manufacturers' association, argued for upholding the decision of Judge Tuthill.

MRS. SAGE SCATTERS MONEY.

Distributes Thousands Among Charitable Institutions of Texas.

Galveston, Feb. 11.—About ten or 12 eleemosynary institutions and charitable societies are the beneficiaries of the Russell Sage millions in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$25,000 by reason of a visit from Mrs. Russell Sage to Texas. She denied herself to all newspaper interviews. Major Slocum, said to be her nephew, with his wife, is accompanying Mrs. Sage.

The reported contributions to charitable causes amount to something between \$140,000 and \$150,000, but the list is not complete as there are several donations ranging from \$500 to \$3,000 not given out.

A charitable ward in a large hospital in El Paso is to receive \$25,000. An orphan asylum in Uvalde county gets \$20,000, and a sanitarium fund for tuberculosis patients near Brackettville will be swelled \$25,000; Del Rio home for homeless children receives \$15,000, and \$10,000 goes for a sanitarium at Boerne and Pecos, and \$15,000 for a hospital for consumptives.

Rivers in France Rising.

Paris, Feb. 11.—Flood conditions in the Eastern sections are becoming worse. The Marne, near Rheims, rose 15 inches today, and inhabitants of the valley are fleeing with their belongings. The river Aisne rose three feet in a few hours. Pathetic scenes were witnessed in many places, for the victims of the last flood were just beginning to return to their damaged houses when they were obliged to leave again. It is estimated that the Seine at Paris will remain stationary from Friday until Monday.

Each Leaves Big Estate.

San Francisco, Feb. 11.—Through a petition for letters of administration filed in the Superior court here today it was learned that three members of the same family had died within a period of ten days, each leaving an estate valued at \$10,000. The wife and mother, Mrs. Theresa Kane, died first, and she was followed to the grave three days later by the husband and father, Patrick Kane, while James Kane, the 53-year old son, was the last.

Big \$9,000,000 Melon Cut.

Philadelphia, Feb. 11.—The shareholders of the United Gas & Improvement company, at a special meeting here today voted to cut a \$9,000,000 melon. They agreed to a 10 per cent dividend, payable in stock.

Cotton mills now under construction or about to be constructed in the South represent an outlay of about \$20,000,000.

FARMERS SAY "WE DON'T GET IT"

High Prices of Food Traced Straight to Middlemen in Cities.

Leaders of Equity Society Show Plainly Contrast Between Prices Paid to Producers and Prices Charged Consumers—Dairymen Unite and Bring Dealers to Time.

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 foodstuffs 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.