

COMET'S TAIL PAST

Nothing Unusual Rewards Millions Who Watched for Phenomena

No Ill Effects Nor Electrical Disturbances Apparent—Many Sun Spots in Evidence.

Portland, May 19.—The comet came, the comet went, and this old earth is no worse and no better, and thus far very little wiser.

There was no collision, as the superstitious and the ignorant feared, and now that the comet is headed away from us, there will be no recurrence of the manifestations of terror that were recorded from all parts of the world.

The earth did pass through the tail of the comet, but nobody suffered from the deadly cyanogen gas. To the naked eye, the tail of the comet was indeed the "veriest approach to nothing set in the midst of naught."

In fact, the phenomena of the daylight hours of yesterday were far the more interesting. During the afternoon sunspots were observed in varying numbers from five Western observatories at the same hour, but the astronomers who recorded them were almost unanimous in the belief that these disturbances had nothing to do with the approach of the comet. Two were seen from San Jose, with 13 smaller spots; three "considerably accentuated" spots from Chicago; three connected spots from Vallejo, Cal., and two from Portland, Oregon.

None of the Eastern observatories had anything of note to report, either during the day or the night. Near Chicago, at Williams Bay, Wis., where is the great Yerkes telescope, the conditions for observations seemed the best and the astronomers there were confident that the negative as well as the positive results of their examination would be of lasting scientific value.

The whole performance took little more than five hours. Observers differed as to the exact time at which the earth began to pass through the comet's tail, but the opinion averages a moment between 10 and 11 o'clock at night, Eastern time.

The combined speed of the tail and the earth was estimated at slightly more than 46 miles a second, and the breadth of the tail at about 1,000,000 miles.

Friday the comet will become visible again, headed away from us, with the tail sticking straight up out of the western sky a little above the spot where the sun sinks. There will then be no light from the rising sun to dim the glory of the spectacle and it is likely to be far more majestic than in the stages of the approach. At the end of this month, good-bye for another 75 years.

COMETS IMMATURE PLANETS.

Professor See Advances Theory After Years of Research.

Mare Island, Cal., May 19.—Professor T. J. 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 course of researches made at Mare Island during the past two years on the origin of the solar system," said Professor See, "I have proved that comets are really survivals of the outer shell of ancient nebula, from which our system was developed. All the inner parts of the nebula have been cleared away in producing planets and satellites, but many small masses still survive in the outer shell of the old nebula. These are the comets."

Ball of Radium is Theory.

Portland, May 19.—"I believe Halley's comet is a ball of radium," declared Dr. Davidson Buchanan last night in his lecture before the magazine class at the Y. M. C. A. "And I think," he continued, "that the proof of this theory will be established by the results of observations of scientific men now studying the comet. Like radium, the comet furnishes its own luminosity and continues for years without decreasing in weight." Dr. Buchanan said this at the close of an interesting talk on comets in general.

Trade is Brisk in Conjur Bags.

Atlanta, Ga., May 19.—Dealers in "conjur" bags in the negro sections of the city carried on a thriving business yesterday, as the result of the scheduled trip of the earth through Halley's comet. Meetings also were held in churches, thousands of negroes refusing to return to work until the passing of the "comet." Cloudy weather throughout the South obscured the heavens and somewhat allayed the fears of the superstitious.

Harvest of Converts is Reaped.

Standford, Ky., May 19.—Scores of negroes professed salvation at all-night sessions held in their churches here last night, to prepare themselves for whatever might happen when the earth passed through the comet's tail. Fields are practically deserted by the farm hands, for negroes have refused to work and are fleeing to town.

TO PROTECT WORKMEN.

National Manufacturers Association Considers Safety Appliances.

New York, May 18.—The beginning of a new era in the safeguarding of the country's vast industrial army will be witnessed at the 15th annual convention of the National Association of Manufacturers, now in session.

The absolutely vital necessity of preventing accidents in industrial establishments has been brought home to the 3,000 manufacturers forming the association by the fact that 500,000 persons suffer from accidents each year in the United States. Two hundred and fifty million dollars is the estimated economic loss annually, in this country, due to accidents. At least half the accidents are considered preventable.

A comprehensive report of a committee appointed some time ago by John Kirby, Jr., president of the national association, will be made, and the convention will be addressed by Professor Frederick Remsen Hutten, of the American Museum of Safety; Miles M. Dawson, who has studied accident prevention abroad for the Russell Sage Foundation, and, by other eminent speakers.

President Kirby said on the subject: "The question of appliances for preventing accidents to workmen, and accident indemnity, are at present receiving more attention than any other issues which attract public interest in the field of industry. They are live questions of vital importance to members from an economic as well as humanitarian standpoint."

"In preparing its report, the committee has communicated with 25,000 employers in all parts of the United States, as well as 250 national, state and local organizations of employers. Every state legislator of every state in the Union was also written to. Special correspondence was carried on with American and European experts."

"A little more than 10,000 replies to the various communications have been received. There were only three protesting, even in a mild manner, against taking up the questions of employers' liability and workmen's indemnity. It was disclosed that 99 percent of the membership of the association favors a constructive, progressive policy of dealing with this difficult question."

SEVEN BOILERS BLOW UP.

Instant Death to 13 Men and Injuries to Thirty More.

Canton, Ohio, May 18.—Quick death to 13 men, serious injury to 30 other employees of the plant, and damage to the buildings amounting to many thousands of dollars—these are the results of the explosion of a battery of seven boilers this afternoon at the American Sheet & Tin Plate company. Among the injured are half a dozen who probably will die before morning.

The force of the explosion was terrific. The big plant is practically a total loss. A mere shell of the building is left.

Identification of the men was difficult. Arms were blown from bodies, and fragments of the bodies were blown blocks away. Bits of human flesh have been picked up on porches and roofs of houses and in trees.

One hundred men were at work in the plant at the time of the accident. Only a dozen or so escaped some injury, and these worked heroically to rescue their fellow workmen from the burning ruins.

The body of one man was blown through a house 700 feet from the plant. The body entered the house from the east side and continued in a straight line through a bedroom and out the west side.

The torso of another man was found in a garden 500 feet away. One injured man begged to be killed. He had an arm torn off and a great hole gaped in his side.

The plant had five mills. All the employees working at mills 1, 2, 3 and 4 were either killed or injured, while the men in mill No. 5, farthest from the boilers, escaped serious injury.

Navy Next to Britain's.

Washington, May 18.—The United States leads the world in the total displacement of completed warships, with the single exception of Great Britain, but is behind five other countries in the number of such vessels. Reckoning the war vessels built and building, America and Germany are running on equal terms, but the former is leading in displacement when the ships provided for in the pending naval appropriation bills are added to the calculation. Great Britain, the United States and Germany remain the leading powers.

Many Burned With Hotel.

Phoenix, Ariz., May 18.—Only 71 out of more than 100 patrons who were in the Hotel Adams, which was destroyed by fire today, have been accounted for tonight, and fears are expressed that many may have been burned to death. The register of the hotel was destroyed by the flames, which caused damage estimated at more than \$275,000, but many whose names are remembered by the clerk are missing. The search continues.

Political Riot is Fatal.

Madrid, May 18.—A collision between Republicans and gendarmes is reported from Valencia, in connection with a manifestation in honor of the arrival there of the Republican deputy, Senor Seriano. The gendarmes charged and the Republicans used knives and stones. An officer was stabbed and killed and many persons were wounded. Fifty arrests were made and order was finally restored after the manifestants had sought refuge at the Republican club.

DOINGS OF OUR NATIONAL LAWMAKERS

Washington, May 21.—Continuing the debate upon the tariff, with the sundry civil bill nominally the subject under consideration, Champ Clark, minority leader, and Eugene N. Foss, newly elected Democratic representative from Massachusetts, made radical attacks upon the present tariff.

Clark said in conclusion that he had a proposal to make to the Republicans. It was that if a bill proposing substantial reductions in the woolen goods schedule were offered, he would vote for it without offering an amendment of any sort.

Arraignment of the administration's sale of the Philippine friar lands and of the activities of the so-called "sugar trust" in that archipelago, was made in the house today by Covington of Maryland.

He said everybody knew that the Rockefellers controlled the Standard Oil company and the oil fields and that the Havemeyers controlled the American Sugar Refining company, which he denounced as "crooked" with a "cunning criminality unequalled in the country."

He charged that the government sold the "magnificent estate of 55,000 acres of the San Jose estate on the dubious opinion of an attorney general at one-third the price the government paid at the time the lands were taken over from the friars."

Washington, May 20.—That the United States has gone wild in the matter of armament and especially in the construction of battleships, was asserted by Hale, Clay and Gallinger in the senate today.

These statements were made during consideration of the naval appropriation bill. The bill carried \$138,000,000 and Hale predicted that within five years the annual naval appropriation would be not less than \$175,000,000. Consideration of the bill was not concluded.

The opinion was expressed that the promised reduction of expenditures would not take place in the present session of congress, and Hale and Gallinger, both members of the committee on appropriations, agreed that the expenditures would exceed the revenues the next fiscal year.

Contending that the United States had reached a billion-dollar scale of governmental expenditures, Mr. McKinlay, of California, today in the house defended the appropriations of the present congress and warned America against Asiatic industrial invasion.

"How about Senator Aldrich's declaration that the government could save \$300,000,000 annually under economical methods of administrative expenditure?" asked Mr. Slayden, of Texas.

"If any man can suggest," replied Mr. McKinlay, "a substantial plan of saving in the appropriations he is an American patriot and should be made a cabinet officer."

A note of alarm was sounded by Mr. McKinlay over Japanese invasion of American interests. Japan, he said, was sending cotton to the Pacific coast and American manufacturers were already beginning to lose their markets.

Washington, May 19.—Representative Poindexter is continuing his "support" of the administration legislative programme. He announced today that he would not attend the Republican caucus to be held next Wednesday to reach an agreement upon the postal savings bank bill.

His explanation is that leading Republicans are opposed to this bill and will influence the caucus to take some action that will result in its defeat. He says that he will not be bound by any caucus that is inimical to this measure.

Because of strong opposition in the house, the senate today abandoned its amendment to the agricultural appropriation bill, giving Western states 35 percent of the receipts from forest reserve within their respective boundaries.

Under the present law, the states get 25 percent and this will continue. The house maintained that states were not entitled to more than one-fourth of these receipts.

Representative Hawley voted in the house to concur in the senate amendment but was defeated.

The conference committee in charge of the river and harbor bill will meet again Monday, at which time an effort will be made to reach a final agreement upon the bill.

Unless there is a change of purpose, the Bourne amendment closing the draws of Portland bridges will on that day be formally eliminated from the bill.

No action was taken today. Senator Borah today introduced a resolution calling on the secretary of the department of commerce and labor for a report on the iron and steel industry, regarding hours and wages of labor.

Washington, May 18.—Abandoning all hope of reaching any common understanding on the railroad bill with the insurgents, the regular Republican

Twelve Weighers Suspended.

New York, May 19.—That Collector Loeb's vigilant watch over the customs service here has not relaxed was evident today when the announcement came of 12 additional suspensions as a result of fresh investigations. Nine of the suspended men are inspectors. All 12 were formerly engaged in weighing importations of sugar, figs and cheese. These suspensions, it is announced, are the first result of a general investigation now being made.

senators moved an early adjournment of the senate today to permit the Democrats to get together to consider propositions looking to the completion of the bill.

Before adjournment Aldrich made an effort to obtain an agreement to take the final vote next Wednesday, but there were several objections and the request was not pressed.

It is the general understanding about the senate chamber that the Democrats will be asked to assist in expediting the bill by permitting amendments to be laid on the table, by refraining from speechmaking, and by other means, with the understanding that in return the last three sections of the bill, relating to capitalization, would be withdrawn.

President Taft today authorized several of the administration senators to deny absolutely the stories in circulation during the last few days, that the president recently had denounced insurgents in unmistakable terms and had used language to which these statesmen took offense. Reports reached the White House that some of the insurgents, smarting under what they had heard had been said of them, were determined to defeat the railroad bill and others of the president's measures, regardless of what might happen to them or the party.

Washington, May 17.—After giving the greater part of the day to the question whether the government or the interstate commerce commission shall appear as defendant in cases growing out of orders of the commission under the terms of the railroad bill, the senate today postponed action on the subject until tomorrow.

The postponement was made upon an objection made by Senator Cummins to the presentation of the subject in a new form on the eve of voting.

The discussion had been upon an amendment offered by Cummins. As the bill was reported, the United States was made defendant in all cases growing out of the proceedings before the commission. Cummins' amendment proposed to substitute the commission itself as defendant.

"All machines look alike to me," declared Barnhart, of Indiana, in prefacing a criticism of the organization of the house and Republican party in a speech in the house today. Cannonism, he said, was odious because it represented a system, and not because of the personality of the man.

"If Mr. Taft and Mr. Roosevelt are not with him," he said, "they are long on silence and short on show."

The cabinet influence, he said, was representative of trusts.

"Wickersham, Dickinson, Nagel and Ballinger," he declared, "are corporation attorneys and promoters. Hitchcock, Meyer and Knox are professional politicians and MacVeagh and Dickinson are self-professed Democrats who have never voted their party ticket since it declared against criminal combinations of capital and opposed a system of government which fosters millionaire-making at the unholy expense of the toiling millions."

The only way to get rid of this system, he said, was to vote the Republican party out of power.

Washington, May 16.—Stone, of Missouri, in the senate today, painted a picture of that body under what he termed the new leadership of the "insurgents."

Contending that in the contest of last Friday over the long and short haul provision of the railroad bill the "insurgents" had won a signal victory, he painted Cummins as occupying the place of Aldrich; La Follette that of Hale; Bristow that of Lodge, and Nelson that of Gallinger.

He pictured Clapp, "the bold, black eagle of Minnesota," as chairman of the committee on interstate commerce, in place of Elkins, while Beveridge was to be found exhorting his colleagues to harmony and regularity and Dolliver acting as musical director, and the "silver voice of Carter" was to be heard sweetly echoing in the chorus.

By a vote of 40 to 45, the house of representatives today declined to pass Senator Jones' bill authorizing the sale of the Walla Walla military reservation to Whitman college, at \$150 per acre. Two attempts were made to pass the bill, first by unanimous consent, but Fitzgerald of New York objected, and later under a suspension of the rules.

On motion of Representative Ellis the house today passed the senate bill changing the name of the Willamette customs district to the "Portland customs district," and fixing the salary of the collector at \$6,000. The bill also changes the name of the Southern Oregon district to "Coos Bay," and the district of Oregon is charged to "Astoria."

The house of representatives today passed the senate bill authorizing the Spokane & British Columbia railroad to bridge the Columbia river near the mouth of the San Poil river, Washington.

Secretary Nagel Coming.

Washington, May 18.—After a conference with President Taft at the White House today, Secretary Nagel, of the department of commerce and labor declared he would make a two-months' trip to the Northwest and to Alaska, leaving Washington the latter part of June. The secretary will look into immigration matters at Portland and Seattle, while his trip to Alaska will have special reference to the salmon fisheries in those waters.



Planting Potatoes.

The prevailing, and we might say foolish, custom of most farmers is to plant potatoes just as they come, little and big. Indeed, some use the smaller ones for seed and retain the larger ones for cooking purposes, sometimes placing them on the market.

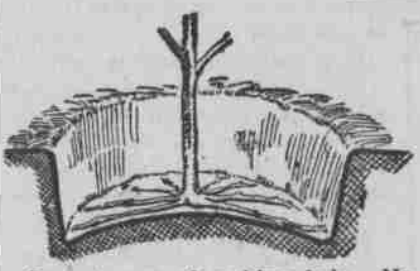
While such a course will not noticeably affect the potato crop for a single season, its continuation surely but slowly lowers the yield—not so much by an insufficient number of tubers, but by inferiority in size and quality. We believe this to be the chief blunder made by most potato raisers and that it accounts for more failures with this crop than any other one cause.

Assuming that you failed to select seed potatoes at the proper time last season (as nine out of ten fail to), great care should be exercised in selecting seed this spring. With the thought in mind that it was quite likely the healthy, vigorous plant which produced the larger tubers, these should be chosen for seed, since the smaller potatoes, which no doubt came from a weak or inferior plant, and, if planted, would produce a like growth. Is this not true of any other plant or animal life? Then why should it not be true of potatoes?—Twentieth Century Farmer.

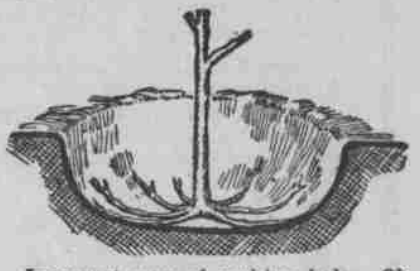
Facts About Farms.

Nearly 1,000,000 new farms have been created in the United States during the last ten years. In the last ten years the total number of farms has increased 18 per cent. In the older States, from Ohio eastward, there has been going on for 20 years a tendency toward the amalgamation of farms distant from market into larger holdings.

HOW TO PLANT SHRUBS, ROSES AND TREES.



Correct way of making hole. Notice how the bottom is rounded. The roots lie with a downward turn. They are not cramped or crowded or bent from their proper course.

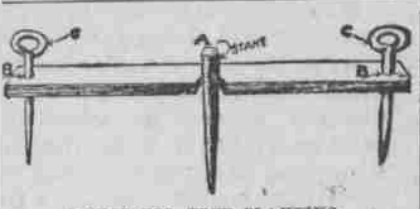


Incorrect way of making hole. Observe how the roots are bent upward. If the shrub lives the roots must bend downward again—not always successfully accomplished.

On the other hand, this section has witnessed the cutting up into smaller sizes of many farms nearer to market. There are now almost three times as many farms as in 1870, and an unprecedented increase in the value of farm lands and live stock.—American Agriculturist.

Tree Planting Device.

To those who will be planting shade and fruit trees, the following method may be of assistance. In preparing for planting stake out the plot having the stakes in line in several directions. After the plot is carefully staked the trouble is to get the tree



DEVICE FOR TREE PLANTING.

set on the exact place occupied by the stake. The following plan will overcome this difficulty. Take a board about 8 ft. long and 8 inches diameter, as shown in illustration. Bore a hole in each end and cut a notch in the middle. Place the board with the notch against the stake and drive wooden or iron pins into the holes B. B. The board can then be removed from the pegs, place the tree in the notch and pack the soil around the roots. The tree will thus be in the exact spot occupied by the stake, and in line with the others.

Egg Imports.

The fact that eggs are not included in any lists of imports which we have seen published and from the results of the American hen's activities, as reported by the census office, leads to the supposition that importing eggs would be like carrying coal to Newcastle. In 1900 over 1,293,682,433 dozen eggs were produced in the United States. This number is large enough to provide each person in the country with seventeen dozen eggs a year. There are almost four times as many chickens in the United States as there are people.

How Milk is Formed.

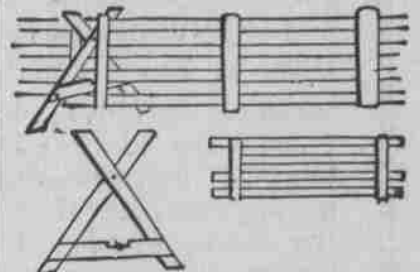
Milk is elaborated from the blood. Food is converted into blood, which is forced from the heart and lungs to the udder; from the udder it returns to the heart through the large veins from the under side of the belly, running from the udder nearly to the front legs, where they enter the body and connect with the heart. These veins are commonly called milk veins, but they are not, however, as no milk ever passes through them. The orifices in the body where such veins enter are called milk wells.—Rural World.

Value of the Silo.

The Missouri Experiment Station summarizes the value of the silo as follows: Silage keeps young stock thrifty and growing all winter. It produces fat beef more cheaply than does dry feed. It enables cows to produce milk and butter more economically. It is more conveniently handled than dry fodder. The silo prevents waste of cornstalks in the manure when silage is fed. The silo will make palatable food of stuff that would not otherwise be eaten. It enables the farmer to preserve food, which matures at a rainy time of the year, when dry would be next to impossible. It is the most economical method of supplying food for the stock during the hot, dry periods in summer, when the pasture is short.

Temporary Sheep Fence.

A movable fence of this kind for rolling sheep is made in panels as seen in the picture. The panels are



ten feet long, made of four-inch boards solidly nailed together. After this fence is once put up sheep or hogs are not likely to overturn it. A fence three and one-half feet high will turn most flocks.—Denver Post.

Drainage.

One of the essentials about the poultry house and grounds is good drainage. For this reason a good hill slope is the best place for the grounds. The land should slope enough so that rains will wash it clean of all impurities. On flat land the grounds should be frequently changed and planted to some crops that will take up the noxious elements. The draining and surface draining the grounds will assist in keeping them dry and pure. Scraping off the top soil each year and filling with fresh soil from the field will aid in

purifying the grounds. The soil from the yards may be used as a fertilizer for the field from which fresh soil is obtained.—Journal of Agriculture.

A Good Forage Crop.

Canada peas and oats is a favorite forage crop with many New York state farmers. The crop may be sown from early spring to the middle of May. By making sowings at intervals of two weeks, a succession of crops may be had. The common rate of sowing is one and one-half bushels of each per acre. The peas are usually scattered broadcast, on disked or harrowed ground, and then turned under about three or four inches deep. The ground is then harrowed and the oats drilled a few days later. The land may first be prepared and each crop drilled separately, but this is not usually as satisfactory as the other method. Peas and oats are good for hay or to cut and feed green. When the oats are heading and the peas blossoming one may begin to cut for green feed. For hay the oats should be in the milk stage, and the peas should have well-formed pods. Peas and oats can also be pastured to advantage with hogs. This crop will give a yield of five to seven tons per acre of green weight.

The Various "Rocks."

A breeder of Buff Rocks wants some one to explain why it is claimed that Barred Plymouth Rocks are so much better market fowls than all other varieties, especially the Buffs and White Plymouth Rocks. All three have the same general conformity, all three have yellow legs and yellow skins, and the buff and whites have no black pin feathers, as have the barred variety.—Exchange.

Farm Notes.

Cut alfalfa when it is dry. A good milk cow never becomes rolling fat. Milk sellers find the Holstein hard to beat. Milk the cows quietly, quickly and on time. Never buy pigeons unless the mating is guaranteed. One bad butter cow will eat up the profit of several good ones. Too much corn causes the bones of heavy hogs to break easily. But the manure spreader first and the piano will come easier. Clean the dairy stable in summer just as regularly as in winter. Treat the cows kindly and they will repay you in dollars and cents. In the big cities the market for squab is good for every month in the year. Red clover in bloom is not good for hogs, but when young it makes a fine pasture.