

OLD SOL'S ANTICS ALARM WASHINGTON SCIENTISTS.

Washington, D. C.—Government scientists, including the heads of the United States Weather Bureau, have been thoroughly startled by results of examinations made of the sun's world heating capacity, made by Dr. C. C. Abbot, home secretary of the National Academy of Science.

According to Dr. Abbot the sun appears to have gone on strike, and is exerting its warming qualities upon the earth to an extent from 3 to 4 per cent. less than 15 months ago. This unusual action on the part of the sun is assumed to be responsible for the present late spring, may have had its influence upon the strange winter season just passed, and may presage a damagingly cold summer and an intensely severe season next winter.

Scientists see in the present situation a possible duplication of the disastrous summer of 1816, when frosts occurred during June and July, causing wholesale loss of crops and reducing food production to a minimum. Whatever may be the cause of the decision of the sun to reduce its heating effect, no one is prepared to say when the present conditions may return to normal and further increases in the cooling off process are considered possible.

Weather Bureau officials refused to commit themselves on the startling statement made by Dr. Abbot in a paper before the meeting of the Academy of Sciences just closed, saying the experiments upon which Dr. Abbot bases his conclusions are so new that it is impossible to determine their value in anticipating weather conditions for long periods in advance.

All admit, however, that if the experiments should be demonstrated as correct over long periods of time, it would revolutionize methods of weather forecasts and make possible predictions many years in the future.

Dr. Abbot, who has succeeded in throwing this bombshell into the ranks of world scientists, makes no prediction as to the future, saying the experiments which have resulted in measuring the sun's heat and determining that it is three to four per cent. below normal have been in progress only 20 years, and this is a short time in the history of the sun. They were commenced by the late Professor Langley, formerly head of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, and continued by Dr. Abbot. This scientific iconoclast says it is impossible to predict what would happen if the low temperature of the sun continued.

WORLD MUCH MIXED.

He points out that the world is so filled with varying conditions which affect climatic differences, such as clouds, deserts, oceans, mountains, etc., that general "coolness" need not be expected. He merely points out that last winter was most unusual and that the present spring is the latest on record. Some scientists have previously offered the opinion that a lowering of the sun's heat four degrees for an indefinite period might approach a return of the glacial period. Dr. Abbot has no opinion on this subject, pointing out that changes in the heat exerted by the sun on the earth reoccurred.

While Dr. Abbot offers no reason for the sun's changes in temperature, other scientists connected with the various government institutions associate them with the phenomena of sun-spots, resulting from wholesale eruptions of gaseous substances from the sun's surface, extending outward almost unimaginable distances.

Dr. Abbot proposes to keep the sun under observation until July, 1925, at least. The observations made by him have been taken at two points to determine how much heat the sun radiates. One of these is 5800 feet above sea level on the top of Mount Harqua Hala, Arizona, and the other at an altitude of approximately 9500 feet on the summit of Mount Montezuma, Chile. At these isolated stations, free from the dirt and dust of lower points, the scientists of the Smithsonian Institution have been able to observe the sun nearly every day and make their measurements.

While Dr. Abbot is extremely conservative about drawing conclusions from his investigations, he describes the drop in average heat from the sun of from three to four per cent, as "extraordinary," and that nothing so outstanding in the way of a change in the heat of the sun had been observed since measurements were begun in 1905.

The Weather Bureau's reports quoted by Dr. Abbot before the nation's assembled scientists show that 1921, the year before the decline in the sun's heat began, was the warmest on record for the past 50 years. This condition existed in Europe as well as in the United States. Last year showed a slight decline, but was still above normal, as was the early part of the past winter. But in December, three months after the sun had cooled to near the lowest point, unusual contrasts occurred. The southeastern States were warmest and the northwestern ones coldest for 30 years.

IN STRANGE COURSES.

In January unusual storminess prevailed and the storm track followed strange courses. These conditions continued into February and the temperature began to average below normal, especially in northern and northeastern sections. New England, the Weather Bureau reports show, has experienced one of the heaviest snowfalls for the entire winter ever known. March was generally below the normal temperature in the same region, and the latter part of the month and the first days of April brought about the most severe cold wave ever known so late in the season in the country east of the Mississippi Valley.

Strange weather conditions have extended out to sea, and the prevalence of icebergs has compelled steamers in the North Atlantic to take a course farther south than usual. The Great Lakes are still locked in ice, and at the end of March these ice conditions approximated those of midwinter. It was predicted by navigators that St.

Mary's river and the "Soo" locks will not be open before May, or weeks after their usual freeing from ice.

Neither Dr. Abbot nor Professor Charles R. Marvin, chief of the Weather Bureau, would discuss the effect of these strange solar conditions upon next winter. Dr. Abbot said he was interested in finding the facts and leaving it to the meteorologists to draw the conclusions. Professor Marvin said his bureau was giving the findings of the Smithsonian scientists careful examination.

All acknowledged that the world is facing a strange and unusual situation, which will probably right itself, but which may have a startling effect upon climatic conditions during the next 12 months.—The Philadelphia Record.

Fooling the Caterpillars.

Young Andrew was seated at the curbstone with a tin can in his hand, glancing now and then at a nearby telegraph pole. A man who was passing was attracted by the youth and stopped to remark: "Going fishin', young man?"

"Nope," replied the lad. "Take a look in there," exhibiting the can, which was partly filled with caterpillars.

"What are you doing with them?" inquired the man, who now felt a genuine interest.

"They crawl up the tree and eat the leaves, you know?" said the boy.

"Yes, they are a pesky nuisance, to be sure," agreed the man.

"Well, I'm foolin' a few of em," the boy explained. "I'm sendin' 'em up this telephone pole."

Platinum Heaviest Metal.

Platinum is the heaviest material in the world. A cubic foot of platinum weighs 1,347 pounds. Pure gold is next. A cubic foot of gold weighs 1,200 pounds, while a cubic foot of lead weighs 710 pounds, and that of silver 655 pounds. A cubic foot of ebony weighs 76 pounds. This is the heaviest wood in the world. A cubic foot of green live oak weighs 69 pounds, while that of willow weighs 34 pounds. The lightest solid and non-porous substance is cellulose, which weighs 7 pounds per cubic foot. A cubic foot of granite weighs 170 pounds, while that of limestone weighs 180 pounds, and that of sandstone 145 pounds.—Exchange.

Juggling Old Sermons.

According to the ten year old daughter of a certain clergyman, there are ways of making an old sermon seem almost new.

"Jane," said one of the friends of the young critic, "does your father ever preach the same sermon twice?" "I think perhaps he does," said Jane, cautiously, "but I think he talks loud and soft in different places the second time, so it doesn't sound the same at all."—Philadelphia Ledger.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

Church of All Nations Opens New Building.

The new \$400,000 building of the Church of All Nations, a Methodist settlement house, was opened recently on the site of the old plant at 9 Second Avenue, New York. The church was built out of the \$100,000, 000 centenary fund of the Methodist church.

The building is the largest of its kind erected on the low east side since the construction of the University settlement some twenty years ago. It has long been the dream of Doctor Henry and Mrs. Henry. It is equipped for all athletic sports, has literary club rooms and a kindergarten furnished by the American Criterion club.

The alley is the gift of small sons of the late R. H. Montgomery, and the swimming pool and showers are gifts of Mrs. Grace Rainey Rogers.

There is a chapel for the Italians called the Bishop Burt Chapel, in honor of Bishop William Burt, now of Buffalo, who was for many years in charge of the Methodist work in Italy. A feature of the plant is a social room where young women and men can meet.

—Women of Scranton and vicinity are planning to provide a room for two girls in a proposed dormitory through the State College campaign for a \$2,000,000 emergency building fund.

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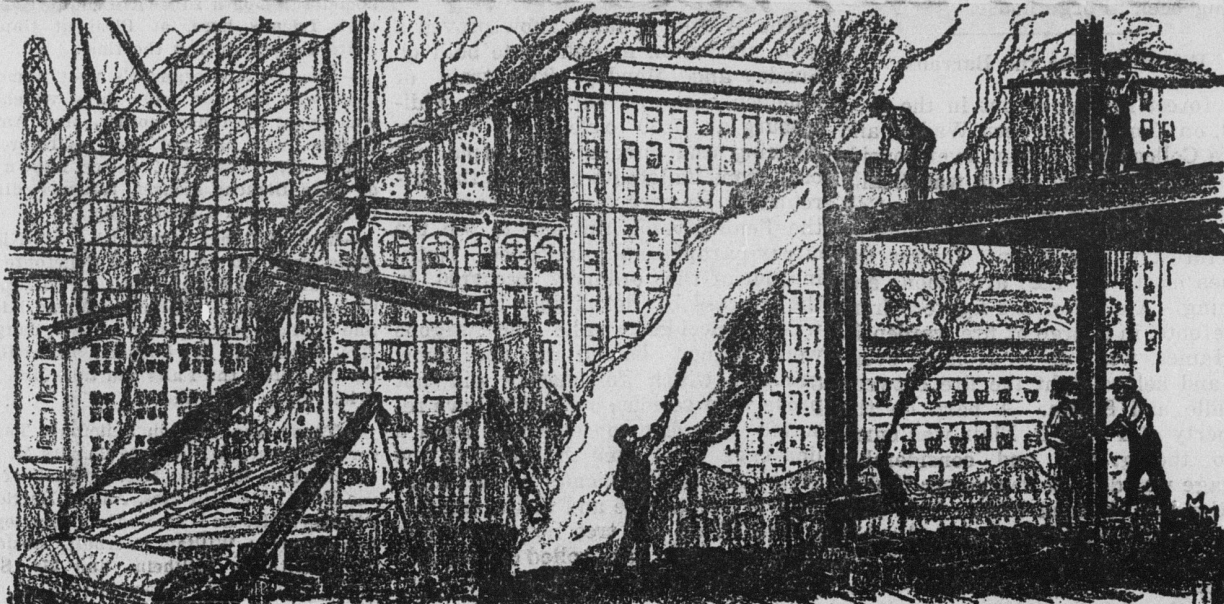
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AND this does not include twenty large additions to present central office buildings.

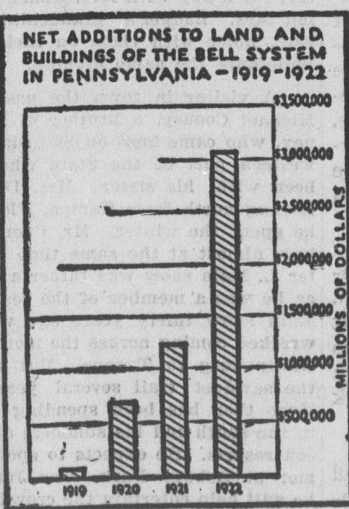
Nearly four millions of dollars will be spent on building construction alone.

Millions of dollars' worth of equipment will be placed in them—switchboards, cables, terminal room apparatus, and other central office mechanisms.

We spent three millions for land and buildings last year, but the growing needs for telephone service in Pennsylvania make necessary a continuation of this tremendous construction program.

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Our Summer stock of Corsets is just in. See our special Corset at \$1.00. **Model Brassiers**—the "Model Brassier" is the best in the market. Bandeaux from 50c. up. Corset Brassiers from \$1.00 up.

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