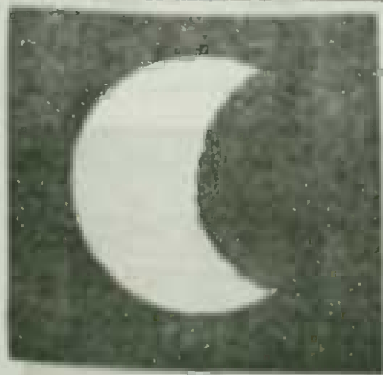


The territory within which the eclipse was a totality commenced well toward the western (to us) limit of the Aleutian Islands, a scattered archipelago, stretching out from the great projected peninsula of southern Alaska, two-thirds of the way across the Pacific toward Kamtschatka; proceeding southerly it reached the most southern point in its curvilinear progress north of the Sandwich Islands a hundred miles or more, when its upward course began, and it reached the shore of our western coast as a belt 100 miles in width, the exact centre of which was Point Arena; thence it proceeded gradually and curvingly in a northeast direction, clipping the corner of northwestern Utah at the southern limit, thence through Southern Idaho, Montana and Northwestern Dakota into Manitoba, where it ended. As it progressed the belt became narrower and the period of totality correspondingly shorter; at Point Arena the time was fully two minutes, while in Idaho, where the average width was 85 miles, it was ten seconds less, or thereabout. It became, then, merely a question of choice as to which place in the long list of available ones would be the best from which to make observations, California getting nine out of ten of the visiting observers, and meeting, in several instances, with less success, as we learn from the dispatches, by reason of light clouds, haze or other impediments, none of which occurred in either Nevada or Idaho.



VIEW AT 2:20 P. M.

At this point, a partial list of those distinguished in the profession of astronomy as a science, in the colleges or practically by reason of being at government signal stations and elsewhere, may be interesting.

Prof. D. B. Todd, of Amherst, Mass., observed at Norman, Cal. The Lick Observatory sent a party to Bartlett Springs, Lake County. The party was under J. E. Keeler, astronomer, who devoted the two

minutes of totality to a spectroscopic study of the corona. Besides Mr. Keeler, the party consisted of E. E. Barnard, astronomer (in charge of photographic observations), C. B. Hill, assistant astronomer, and A. O. Lenschner, student in astronomy.

A party from Harvard College Observatory took station at Willows. The party consists of Professor W. H. Pickering, chief; A. L. Rotch, meteorologist; Mr. Bailey, Mr. King and Mr. Black. The work of the party was the photography and photometry of the corona.

Professor Lewis Swift, director of the Warner Observatory of Rochester, N. Y., searched for intra-Mercurial planets.

Professor J. P. D. John, director of the Depauw Observatory of Greencastle, Ind., with his assistant, Dr. W. V. Brown. The equipment of this party consisted of two five-inch telescopes, an almucanter, etc.

Professor W. W. Payne, director of the observatory of Carlton College, Minnesota.

Professor H. S. Prichett, director of the observatory at Washington University of St. Louis, Mo., observed the eclipse by photography. All the foregoing were in California.

Mr. Blinn took some of the instruments of his private observatory in East Oakland to a station at or near Winnemucca, Nev.

In Nevada, also, United States Surveyor-General Irish, who is practiced in astronomy, made observations.

G. F. and T. D. Davidson, sons of Professor Davidson, of the Coast Survey, took a party to Winnemucca station, Nev.

Charles Burekhalter, of the Chabot Observatory, Oakland, took the 10 1/2-inch reflecting telescope of his private observatory to a station near Cloverdale. A number of gentlemen belonging to the Pacific Coast Amateur Photographers' Association made photographs under Mr. Burekhalter's guidance.

With the design of providing the readers of the News with the best attainable data regarding the eclipse, without entering into the technical and profounder phases of the subject, it was decided to dispatch a messenger to make amateur observations at a point as near the centre of the belt of totality as possible. After considerable figuring and comparison, aided by no small amount of guessing on our own part and others, as well as by information from abroad, it was decided that

Pocatello, Idaho, would be the most convenient and accessible headquarters, and a few miles northwest of there an excellent place to view the coming celestial spectacle. This programme was accordingly carried out, our emissary leaving Salt Lake City on the morning of December 31, bound for Inter-Idaho.

The trip to Pocatello is one but slightly relieved with incidents worthy of note. It is not quite 200 miles from Salt Lake, and about 20 miles west of north from it, being the junction of the Utah & Northern and Oregon Short Line railways. It is here that the former ceases to be a narrow-gauge road, the continuation to Montana being standard gauge. Necessarily there must be a rehandling of all freights and a transfer of all passengers and baggage going further in whatever direction, at this point, and this alone would make it an important one, viewed as a railway centre. It is said to contain near 3000 people when they are all at home, but it does not look to have more than half that number. On the southwest is a long row of two-story frame cottages, and on the west still another, close by another of one-story tenements, which by themselves give the place a somewhat townlike aspect. These are all owned by the Union Pacific Company, as is also the only hotel in the place, an excellent establishment in appointment and room, being about the size of the White House in Salt Lake, but of wood like all other buildings here. Among the other attachments of frontier civilization, it has a scale of prices sufficiently inflated to satisfy the most persistent stickler for "style;" a 25 cent meal costs 75 cents, and a half-dollar bed a dollar and a half. There are no saloons, this being an Indian reservation and the sale of liquor prohibited; through at train times a side door in the hotel seems to lead to where those who want to be stung worse than by an adder can be. This place has a special permit, it is understood. It is not to be inferred from this, however, that there is no drinking here, or no drunkenness. The dreadful shooting affray of a few days ago is easily traced to the ardent, and that prohibition does not prohibit any more than protection protects, is easily observed without going in quest of it. The railway employes inhabit the cottages referred to, at least those who have families do; the others board at the hotel or wherever else they feel disposed; if at the hotel,