

this would seem the most liberal railway company in point of wages on earth, or else the employes get special—very special—rates.

Some preparations on the part of the citizens for seeing the eclipse at the best possible advantage had been arranged before our representative's arrival, and at 11 a. m. an excursion party left for Blackfoot, 25 miles north and a little east, in the centre of the belt of totality. As the belt would run southwest to northeast, as previously stated, it is easy to see that they went many miles further than they needed to, as to reach the centre the shortest route would be one at a right angle with the belt, and this would make one mile of travel equal to about three in the other direction; however, they had the railroad for it and the News man had a conveyance that didn't go more than one-third as fast as they, so it was about an equal thing after all.

There is one newspaper published here, the *Pocatello Reporter*, issued semi-weekly, by Wheeler & Kautzman.

The first solicitude of the morning was watching for the dawn with the hope of seeing a cloudless sky. Those ordinarily useful aerial appendages at this time would have been not only unwelcome but a distinct and unequivocal nuisance. At the first glimmer of the gray dawn our representative was at his room window taking a view of the upper deep. He was delighted—overjoyed. Not a cloud was to be seen, not even the fleecing overhead which sometimes acts as the avant courier of clouds. The day opened as a typical New Year should—bright, beautiful and promising. The incessant clatter of switching cars and the loud and shrill panting of the iron horse beneath the window was such a serenades kept him awake during the greater part of the night, but he didn't mind that then, when it was plain that his mission would not be a failure so far as meteorology was concerned. Dressing in an atmosphere ten degrees below zero, he sallied forth to look at the town, with the result stated above. (It was 6:40 p. m. when the train arrived, and therefore long after dark.) It did not take long to come around and then it was time to sally forth and get in position.

Pocatello is skirted closely on the south and west with mountains, and the sun, up to ten o'clock, seemed swinging around in his path to impending obscuration uncomfortably

close to their summits; but within an hour more he loomed up grandly in the field of view and seemed disposed to hold himself aloof from all entangling alliances until the ordeal had been passed.

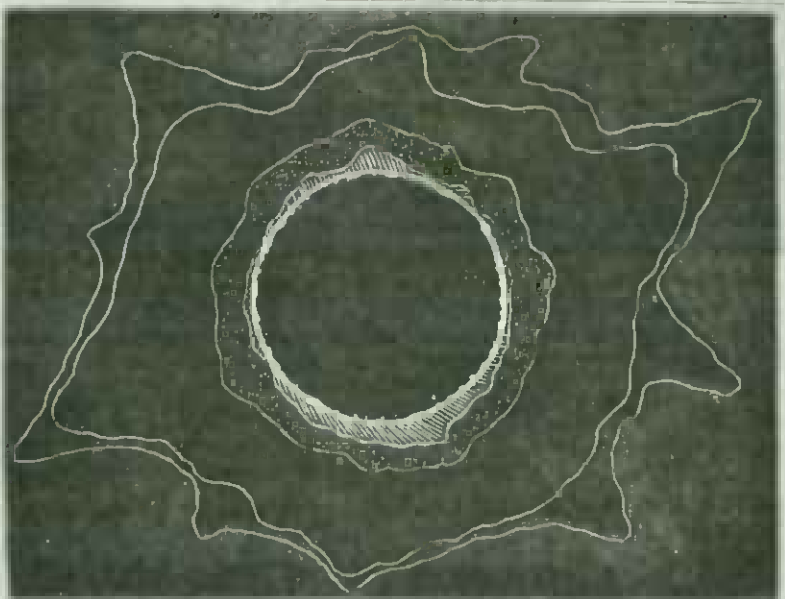
As the time for the first contact approached (this proved to be 1:35 p. m., standard time) glasses were adjusted and we began looking his solar majesty squarely in the face. At the time stated, an intense, scrutinizing gaze revealed just the faintest perceptible tinge of darkness on the western side of his disc, and this one minute later was very apparent. The contact itself could not, of course, be seen. It grew slowly, spreading as it advanced. Seated on a sagebrush while this was being witnessed, and watching the encroaching moon as it stealthily crawled between the earth and the sun, it was a subject to admire beyond ability to portray, and to direct the mind toward the grandeur of the science which, through its advocates, was able to direct one to that rugged and secluded spot to behold the glorious developments of infinite Providence.

At 2 o'clock there was the slightest perceptible diminution in the light, for the moon was well upon the sun's disc. Correspondingly it grew cooler; the atmosphere was as pleasant as could be desired at the outset, but from that time on it became more and more unpleasant, and the overcoat left behind was longed for in vain. Steadily the solar breadth decreased, though to give it a cursory glance with the unaided eye this was not noticeable till the last moment, which was one minute before 3, when, without glass or other assist-

ant, it was easily perceived that the sun was "going out," the filament of light on his southeastern border being so very narrow that it could be looked upon intently. This lasted but a few seconds, then all at once "winked" two or three times, and a dark, leaden orb, ragged at the edges and fringed all around with the most glorious and glowing aureole, burst upon the vision. It was such a sudden, complete and magnificent transformation that the beholder could not have been otherwise for a moment than completely transfixed, whoever he may have been. The space where the sun should be was a bank of the densest darkness, closely surrounded by varying shades of pink, gold and silver in irregular and shifting positions, growing lighter as they reached the outer limit of the corona, while modified protuberances and irregular fingers of flame shot away out into the vasty depths of ether. Tongue could not describe, pen depict, nor pencil portray it. It was simply a grand, glowing, roseate exposition of celestial pyrotechnics, to be appreciated only by being seen.

Apart from all other considerations, a total solar eclipse is one of the most magnificent and impressive spectacles the eyes of human beings ever rested upon. It is properly called the crowning glory of the heavens, its awful majesty causing all other celestial phenomena to pale before it. Its splendors are marvelous to a degree beyond human conception, and once beheld will linger so long as memory remains the warder of the brain.

Those who have seen merely par-



THE TOTAL ECLIPSE.