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THE POLE SOUTH BOUND?

Speculation Caused by Observation of London Astronomer.

Is the latitude of Fort Mill changing? Is your home closer to the equator or to the pole than once was?

These may appear to be foolish questions to the average man. He has no doubt grown to look upon the earth's "belt" and its axis as immovable lines even though they are imaginary. But an astronomer in London was quoted the other day as asserting that the distance between Naples, Italy, and the equator has been shortened by a mile and a half during the past 51 years, and that Greenwich has apparently moved half a mile toward the tropics in less than two decades. The possibility of such changes in latitude is discussed in the following bulletin from the National Geographic society:

"There is no question that latitudes change, but there is a very large question whether the changes are of any considerable magnitude and whether they continue for any great length of time in the same direction. The variations that have been established are due to a slight wobbling of the earth like that of a top which is not spinning evenly around its axis. This irregularity does not change the direction of the axis itself but does change the point of the earth's surface (the pole point) from which the axis emerges. By such changes most points on the earth would have their positions altered with reference to the poles and to the equator, which is always 90 degrees from the pole point and therefore follows it in any movement which it makes.

"If the earth's simplest possible rotation had had a single wobble added to it, the pole point would trace a clouded path—that is, it would return to the same position again and again after the completion of definite, equal periods. But there are at least two distinct and unequal wobbles known: one completed in a year and one in about 14 months. Their combination causes the pole point to wander in a rather uneven way, tracing lines that are very roughly elliptical and which cross and recross each other. But these wobbles cause only a very slight variation from a steady rotation.

"Whether there is a progressive change of latitude has long interested astronomers. In 1900 the International Latitude Service was formed and a string of 16 stations was established forming a band around the world. Observations were made at all the stations for 14 years and the information assembled by the service has been interpreted in various ways. The changes observed in latitude were very small and it is recognized that the possibilities of error due to imperfect instruments, inaccuracies in star declinations and the human equation were many. One careful analysis by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, however, seems to indicate that the pole point is shifting progressively southward toward the continent of North America. This would mean in effect that the cities of the United States are moving slowly to the north.

"One need have little worry, though, for the likelihood that the North Pole will turn up some day in your back yard. Even though one becomes generous with assumptions and assumes that there is a decided southward movement of the pole point and that it will continue steadily, its slowness makes the assumed shift almost negligible. The analysis referred to seems to indicate a southward drift of the pole amounting to a trifle over six inches a year. This would amount to less than one mile in 10,000 years."

Yesterday was the last day for citizens of Fort Mill to pay their street tax, \$3, to the town of Fort Mill without penalty, and the office of the town treasurer closed late in the afternoon about 50 of the 400 and was subject to the tax

Boll Weevil Sprays Useless.

A warning against liquid-sprayer attachments to cotton poisoning machinery is issued by the United States department of agriculture. Calcium arsenate applied as a dust, it is pointed out, is the only certain means yet found for controlling the boll weevil and any effort at control by liquid sprays is useless. Sprayer attachments are therefore not only unnecessary but an added burden. They increase the cost of machinery and make it more difficult and complicated to operate. The liquid spray, even if it were as effective as the dust method, would be decidedly more expensive. It would necessitate the use of water carts, to feed the machines, would demand an ample and constant water supply which is not available on most farms and in various ways would increase the cost of poisoning operations.

Orchardists and others who have to conduct poisoning operations regularly are constantly searching for poisons that can be dusted instead of sprayed. Cotton growers, it is stated, are very fortunate in that the only really effective method of controlling the boll weevil is the dust method and they should not waste time and money in experimenting with the expensive spray methods that farmers in other lines are so constantly trying to get away from.

Death of J. T. Darnall.

The Pineville section of Mecklenburg county lost a good citizen Saturday, June 20th, when J. T. Darnall succumbed to pneumonia at his home, following an illness of only a few days. He was reared in Fort Mill township and as a youth attended the old Fort Mill academy, of which the late Col. A. R. Banks was principal. Several years ago Mr. Darnall moved with his family across the line into North Carolina and had since made his home near Pineville. He was 47 years old and is survived by his widow, five children, four sisters and three brothers, Mrs. R. L. Bennett and Mrs. Walter Medlin of Fort Mill, Mrs. Sam McElhaney of Pineville, Mrs. Will Medlin of Maxton, N. C., Walter Darnall, Joe Darnall and Zeb Darnall, all of Pineville. The funeral services and interment were at Flint Hill Baptist church, of which Mr. Darnall had been a member for many years, in the presence of a large number of his friends and neighbors who had assembled to pay a last tribute of respect to the memory of a man whose death all deeply deplored.

Basis of Promotion.

F. M. Mack, superintendent of the Fort Mill graded school, yesterday said that he had received so many inquiries from parents whose children failed of promotion to higher grades as a result of their work for the session that he desired to make an explanation of the rules governing such promotions. "A pupil's final grade," said Mr. Mack, "is the average of the monthly or quarterly grades throughout the year. For instance, a pupil who has the quarterly grades of 70, 75, 80 and 85 would have a final grade of 77.5. A pupil who makes a grade of less than 70 on one subject may be promoted on trial, or conditioned in that subject. A pupil who fails on two or more subjects must remain in the same grade and take the same work over next year. Reading, arithmetic and English are very important and failure in any one of these clearly indicates a lack of preparation for the next higher grade. Poor attendance was the cause of the majority of the failures during the past year. It is only the exceptionally bright pupil who can be absent a large part of the time and still make the next grade. It is also a fact that pupils who are habitually tardy are nearly always poor students."

Charles H. Bradford of Fort Mill is this year a member of the graduating class of the pharmaceutical department of the Medical College of South Carolina.

NEWS OF YORK COUNTY.

Items of General Interest Found in the Yorkville Enquirer.

There is a probability that Rock Hill will have six voting precincts by the time of the holding of the State primary election in August. It was learned Tuesday morning that D. L. Moss and other voters will probably petition the York county Democratic executive committee to establish a voting precinct at the Arcade-Victoria mills in Rock Hill for the convenience of the men and women voters of those two communities.

Rev. J. L. Oates, D. D., for nearly 13 years pastor of the Yorkville A. R. P. church, who on Sunday announced to his congregation his acceptance of a call to the pastorate of Columbia A. R. P. church, said yesterday that he expected to take up the duties of his new pastorate about August 1. That, however, Dr. Oates said, is only a tentative date, and he may go to Columbia a short time before that date or a short time later.

"As to how much damage the boll weevil is going to do in York county this year, I think depends largely on the weather in June and July," said County Demonstration Agent John R. Blair the other day. "If there is a lot of rain during these two months the weevil will likely increase into millions and may take a toll of 60 per cent of the crop. If it is pretty dry I don't believe he will damage the crop more than 15 per cent. I have information that he is showing up even now in practically every section of the county."

There is a probability that Carhartt mill No. 2, at Carhartt station, between Rock Hill and Fort Mill, may resume operations pretty soon. B. M. Ivey, manager of the Carhartt mill in Rock Hill, who also has charge of the plant at Carhartt, has just returned from New York, where he went on business connected with the mills. The mill at Carhartt station has been idle for quite a long while. Hamilton Carhartt, owner of the two mills, who is now in New York, expects to sail for Liverpool, England, in a few days on business in connection with his mill there.

When the spindles in the new cotton mill at Clover begin numbing some months hence, Clover's population will be well over the 2,000 mark. The census of 1920 gave Clover a population of 1,608 and it is a practical certainty that the building of the new mill village which will house the employees of the newest manufactory will mean at least 500 more people for Clover and very probably more. Information is that since announcement in The Enquirer of the building of a second mill in Clover by the Hawthorne interests—real-estate values have gone up considerably. It is quite probable also that several new building firms will be looking toward Clover for a location.

That textile magnates of the East realize that they can no longer compete with the spinning mills of the South in the manufacture of yarns and are making plans to build their future mills in the South is the information brought by John R. Hart, Esq., who has returned from Frampton, Mass., where he conferred with mill men whom he represents as attorney in York county. "The textile business is looking much better in the opinion of Massachusetts textile men and others in the East with whom I talked," said Mr. Hart Monday. "While they are not expecting boom times like 1919 and the early part of 1920, they are expecting to see the textile business of the country get back to normal."

Only nine of the 27 members of the seventh grade of the Fort Mill graded school were unconditionally promoted to the high school and received certificates at the closing exercises of the school last Thursday evening, the nine pupils being: Goldie Alford, Frances Bradford, Ray Hunter, Louis McKibben, Faulkner Parks, Owen Patterson, Myrtle Reeves, Lucile Robinson and Thomas Spratt.

PREDICTS COTTON FAMINE.

Commissioner Harris Writes of Crop Conditions in Texas.

Returning to his office in Columbia a few days ago, B. Harris, commissioner of agriculture for South Carolina, wrote for the press of the State the following impressions he gained of the cotton crop prospects for the year on a trip he recently made to the Southwest:

On May 6, I left my office and started on my way to attend a pure food and drug convention to be held in Galveston, Texas, on the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th. In order that I might see as much of the present condition of the crops as possible, from New Orleans I went over the sunset route to Houston, Texas, and in coming back I came over the Southern Pacific railroad to Dallas and Fort Worth. From Fort Worth I came over the Texas Pacific by way of Little Rock and Memphis through northern Alabama by way of Birmingham and north Georgia to Atlanta.

These two routes carried me over some of the best cotton lands in the following States: The Piedmont belt of South Carolina and Georgia, on by Montgomery and Mobile. From New Orleans I went through Louisiana into Texas. On my return trip I came through Arkansas and Tennessee. I saw men from every section of the cotton belt, so I got direct, positive facts in regard to each section of the great State of Texas.

In south Texas, where the cotton is now fruiting, the boll weevil is reported in greater number than ever before at this season of the year and doing greater damage, as the winter was so warm, great numbers survived it. In west Texas we hear a great deal of dope put out by the bear speculators stating what a fine prospect they had there. On the 15th of this month they had one of the worst storms that had ever been known in that section. It was reported that at least 30,000 acres of cotton was damaged.

From Houston to Fort Worth, a distance of 300 miles, I traveled in the daylight—that was on the 18th. I crossed four rivers on that trip and very one of them was out of its banks and covered many thousands of acres of the best cotton land. A great portion of this land will not be planted this year; if they have any more rain it cannot be planted before June 1.

On my arrival in Dallas I called at the federal farm bureau office which is located there and is handling the cooperative marketing association farm products. I saw the president, Mr. Orr, and found him a very pleasant gentleman and well informed as to crop conditions. I asked him what proportion of the Texas crop there was to be planted and to be planted over. He said at least 50 per cent of the crop up to the 18th of this month, including the flooded districts, was yet to plant, and from what I could see I think he was about right.

I saw a great many good farmers, also business men, and some bankers who had lived in Texas for 40 years, and they have kept in close touch with agricultural conditions; they all said Texas had the poorest prospect for a crop up to this date they had seen in 40 years and they could not make anything like an average crop this year, owing to the lateness of the planting and excessive floods and cold, rainy weather. I saw some good cotton dealers who don't hesitate to say that with ideal seasons from now on we cannot make over 81-2 or 9 million bales this year.

Now as to acreage, if it had not been for the floods and heavy rains Texas would have increased 15 per cent, but on account of the floods she will not more than duplicate her 1921 acreage, and I doubt if she does that. Arkansas cannot increase on account of the same conditions existing in that State. The only States increasing in acreage this year are Oklahoma and North Carolina. Taking the cotton belt as a whole,

Partial to South Carolina.

J. T. Young, well known business man of Fort Mill, returned to his home Saturday after spending several weeks at Rochester, Minn. Asked yesterday if he thought he would rather live in that section of the country than in South Carolina, Mr. Young answered very promptly in the negative. "I did not see in Minnesota one thing which made me think I would enjoy life up there more than I enjoy it here," said he. "To begin with, the climate is against Minnesota. During the winter the temperature frequently goes to 30 below zero and seldom rises above zero, I was told. The section of the State in which I was has less than three months of summer, real summer, and when I left there last Wednesday many men were still wearing their overcoats, although the trees were dressed up in their new foliage and vegetation generally was in full flower.

"Rochester is a city of about 12,000 people and is 125 miles north of Minneapolis. One thing that impressed me about the place was its two excellent daily newspapers, which carry a big volume of advertising and apparently are read by almost everybody. The people with whom I came in contact were not complaining of the business depression, but I noticed that the stores did not appear to be doing much business. Returning home I spent several hours in Chicago and I was glad when the time came for me to leave the city. From what I learned by reading the newspapers while I was away, a man's life may be worth a nickel in Chicago, but hardly a dime. The city is overrun with crooks and cutthroats."

Mrs. J. M. Gamble Dead.

Fort Mill people generally heard with sympathy and regret the announcement of the death at her home a short distance north of town Tuesday morning of Mrs. Blanche Griffin Gamble, wife of J. M. Gamble. Mrs. Gamble had been seriously ill for several weeks and her death was not unexpected. She was the daughter of the late W. G. Griffin and Mrs. Griffin and was born near Fort Mill on December 4, 1890. On June 14, 1910, she was married to Mr. Gamble, who survives her, with four children, the youngest a baby only a few weeks old. Mrs. Gamble is also survived by her mother and three brothers. Funeral services were conducted at the home by the Rev. R. H. Viser, pastor of the Fort Mill Presbyterian church, of which Mrs. Gamble had been a member for several years, and the interment was in the city cemetery.

there will be no increase in acreage this year. I rather believe there will be a decrease.

I have said all the time you were going to see cotton very much higher, and in 1923 you would see cotton higher than it sold for in 1919. I am still of the same opinion. We now have a real world famine in cotton—the world nearly naked. No one has had anything like as many cotton goods as they need—the world is now beginning to get uneasy as to where the cotton fabric is to come from to clothe it. Every yard of cotton goods you buy now you pay on a basis of 35 cents a pound for cotton and from this date on you will see a material rise in price. Don't sell a bale unless you have to. I receive many letters every day now stating that the boll weevil is sucking the bud of the cotton.

I want to urge the farmers to plant a row of corn every eight feet across the cotton rows. And remember to let this year be one year that you raise everything you need on your farm for home consumption and be sure to keep out of debt. Let the bale of cotton you make this year be yours and sell it when you get ready. My prediction is high cotton for 1922 crop. I want to say that the farmers now have the situation in their own hands—there will be no surplus on September 1. No use now for a bale of cotton to ever sell without a profit to the farmer.

PUPILS ON HONOR ROLL.

List of Fort Mill Children Who Win Distinction.

The honor roll of the Fort Mill graded school for the last month of the 1921-22 session, which closed a few days ago, is as follows:

First Grade—Jennie Louise Bradford, Jacquelyn Bailes, Martha Bouknight, Sara Lee, Emily Meacham, Frances Mae Mills, Lestina Potts, Helen Phillips, Wilma Reeves, Inez Long, Dewitt McGuirt, David Rogers, A. Y. Williamson, Jr., Andy Morrison, Raymond Dyches, Fred Harris.

Second Grade—Jane Barber, Johnnie Wilkerson, Marie Gordon, James Epps, Marion Wilson, Marshall Porter, Frank Carothers, Loma Taylor, Dorothy O'Kelly, Marion Harkey, Gilmore Pitman.

Third Grade—Gilbert Gross, Jennie Lou Garrison, Maria Culp, Ethel Miller, Rochelle Patterson, Harriet Carothers, Annie Blease Lee, Mary Morris, Evelyn Robinson, Cleveland Lytle, Eugene Gordon, Louise Lowery.

Fourth Grade—Charlie Carter, Sarah Barber, Odell Plyler, Tillie Mills, Eva Dell Dyches, Mildred Medlin, Howard Patterson, Clement Potts, Guy Reeves, Sarah Neely Thompson, Louise Wilson.

Fifth Grade—Allie Bradford, Lula Parks, Pansy Gamble, Howard Bass, Melvin Carter, Willie Honeycutt, Helen Ferguson, Myra Kimbrell, Annie McGinnis, Lois Porter.

Pupils who received perfect attendance marks for the entire session were:

Second Grade—David Plyler.

Third Grade—Louise Lowery, Virgil Walker, Maria Culp, Rochelle Patterson.

Fourth Grade—Sarah Barber, Guy Reeves, Elizabeth Wright.

Fifth Grade—Julia McCorkle, Allie Bradford.

Sixth Grade—Eva Casey, Joe Broadnax.

Mrs. W. A. Hafner Dead.

Many Fort Mill people learned with regret yesterday of the death in Gaffney Tuesday of Mrs. Elizabeth Hafner, wife of the Rev. W. A. Hafner, who for several years was pastor of the Fort Mill Presbyterian church. Mrs. Hafner had been critically ill for some time and hope for her recovery was abandoned several days ago. She was 39 years old and before her marriage to Mr. Hafner six years ago was Mrs. Elizabeth Jordan of Winnsboro. She is survived by her husband, one son, Thomas Jordan, 10 years old, her father, Mr. Beatty of Winnsboro, and one sister. The interment was in Winnsboro this morning.

Barbecue for Militiamen.

Sixty members of the Fort Mill Military company Tuesday enjoyed a barbecue served by J. J. Porter in the grove near his store between Fort Mill and Rock Hill. During the morning, the militiamen spent several hours drilling and in the afternoon both officers and men went to the Catawba river for an hour's swim. A similar outing is being planned by the company for Tuesday, June 20. Guests of the company at the barbecue Tuesday included Maj. J. C. Dozier, Capt. Don Matthews and Lieut. Pride Simpson of Rock Hill and Capt. Elliott Springs and Capt. George Potts of Fort Mill.

Many Hear Debate.

An interesting feature of the closing exercises of the Fort Mill school last Thursday evening which was heard by an audience that packed the auditorium to the doors was a debate on the resolution, "That pupils who make an average of 90 per cent on their daily work should be excused from examinations." John McKee Spratt and Miss Nannie Lee Phillips were the affirmative debaters, while the negative was upheld by Miss Elizabeth Ardrey and Stephen Parks. The decision of the judges, Mrs. J. W. H. Dyches, L. M. Massey and W. R. Bradford, was in favor of the negative.

As we understand it now, normality means less income for everybody.