

# CAMERAS FOCUS "LINES" ON MARS

### Great Geometric Figures on Planet Photographed. "Snow" Clouds Seen.

By the Associated Press.

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz., December 21.—Astronomy's modern candid camera have wrested new secrets from Mars, earth's nearest planetary neighbor, Dr. E. C. Slipher, Lowell Observatory astronomer, reported today.

Dr. Slipher said new photographic technique had given him convincing proof great geometric lines really exist on Mars. Scientists have argued whether these lines, heretofore less plainly discerned, are irrigation canals dug by Martian inhabitants.

Observation of yellowish-white clouds which appeared to be dust storms has been made possible by the photographic advances, which include modern ray filters and color sensitive film emulsions, the scientist said.

Slipher has studied Mars, some 50,000,000 miles away, for 30 years and photographed it about 100,000 times.

Compared with the earth, he said, Mars is hard put for air and water but has enough of these and enough sunlight to produce vegetation. This in turn might support other forms of life, even intelligent beings, he said.

**Smaller Than Earth.**

The red planet is about 141,000,000 miles from the sun and is considerably smaller than the earth.

Here are his conclusions, based on a recheck of previous studies by himself and others, and upon recent measurements of the temperature at the surface at Mars made here by Dr. W. W. Coblentz, physicist for the United States Bureau of Standards:

1. The Mars day is 37 minutes longer than earth's. The year is 687 earth days. In terms of earth days, Martian Spring has 199, Summer 183, Autumn 147, Winter 158.
2. Spectrophotographs show water vapor exists and the quantity has been measured; therefore the snowy white polar caps of Mars, which diminish each Summer, are probably snow which melts and provides moisture for vegetation. Great areas which turn dark blue-green in Summer may be covered by this vegetation. Bluish-white clouds appear to be dust storms.
3. Temperature of the brightly illuminated surface of Mars is not unlike that of a cool bright day on earth, ranging from 45 to 65 degrees.
4. The geometric lines, concerning which scientists have disagreed, do exist. They undergo seasonal changes in harmony with the theory that they are areas of vegetation fed by water from the melting polar caps. The vegetation theory is the most tenable explanation formulated to account for them.

**Conservation Suspected.**

5. Whether these areas of vegetation border canals made by intelligent beings trying to conserve and use the diminishing waters of the planet is a subject for theorists. The lines seem to be on too enormous a scale for acceptance of the intelligent life and canal theory; but the drying up process on Mars has come very gradually during eons of time and an intelligent race trying to preserve its life might have made them.

Slipher said the new photographic methods have gone far to confirm what astronomers have believed they saw through telescopes concerning these lines, but added that photographs are still imperfect. The oscillation of the image, caused by vibrations and movement in the atmosphere of earth, prevents sharp delineation.

## U. S. AIR SUBSIDY URGED BY MEAD

### Commercial Fleet Could Be Used to Protect Country, He Says.

Partial Government subsidization of commercial aviation fleets and equipment to provide a "network of air-lines spanning the entire country, protecting its coast lines and its possessions" and convertible to military use in the event of war, was advocated yesterday by Representative Mead of New York, chairman of the House Post Office Committee. He said:

"The United States can strengthen its military defenses by utilizing to a greater degree than at present, both the personnel and the equipment of the commercial airlines.

"Most of the modern luxury airmail liners, and even some of the non-passenger-carrying airmail ships, would be of little use in time of war, except to carry important troops, papers and supplies where other facilities could not be used.

"We now have approximately 900 pilots employed by airmail companies in the United States, Alaska and Hawaii and on the Pan-American lines." Mead pointed out, "all of whom could be commissioned in our air reserve forces and trained in present-day military aviation methods. A percentage of our passenger and airmail-carrying ships could be so constructed as to be useful in many ways in time of emergency."

## Weather

(Continued From First Page.)

southwest, apparently the victim of carbon monoxide. He had lived there alone and had taken his meals next door.

When he failed to appear for dinner, Michael McNulty, 467 L street southwest, investigated. A small gas stove was found burning and police said physicians believed the poisonous gas resulted from insufficient ventilation.

Washington's minimum temperature of 14 degrees was by no means as low as either of the two neighboring States. In Western Maryland, where 18 inches of snow fell, it was 6 below zero at Oakland, in Garrett County, and 4 below at Altamont, in Allegany County.

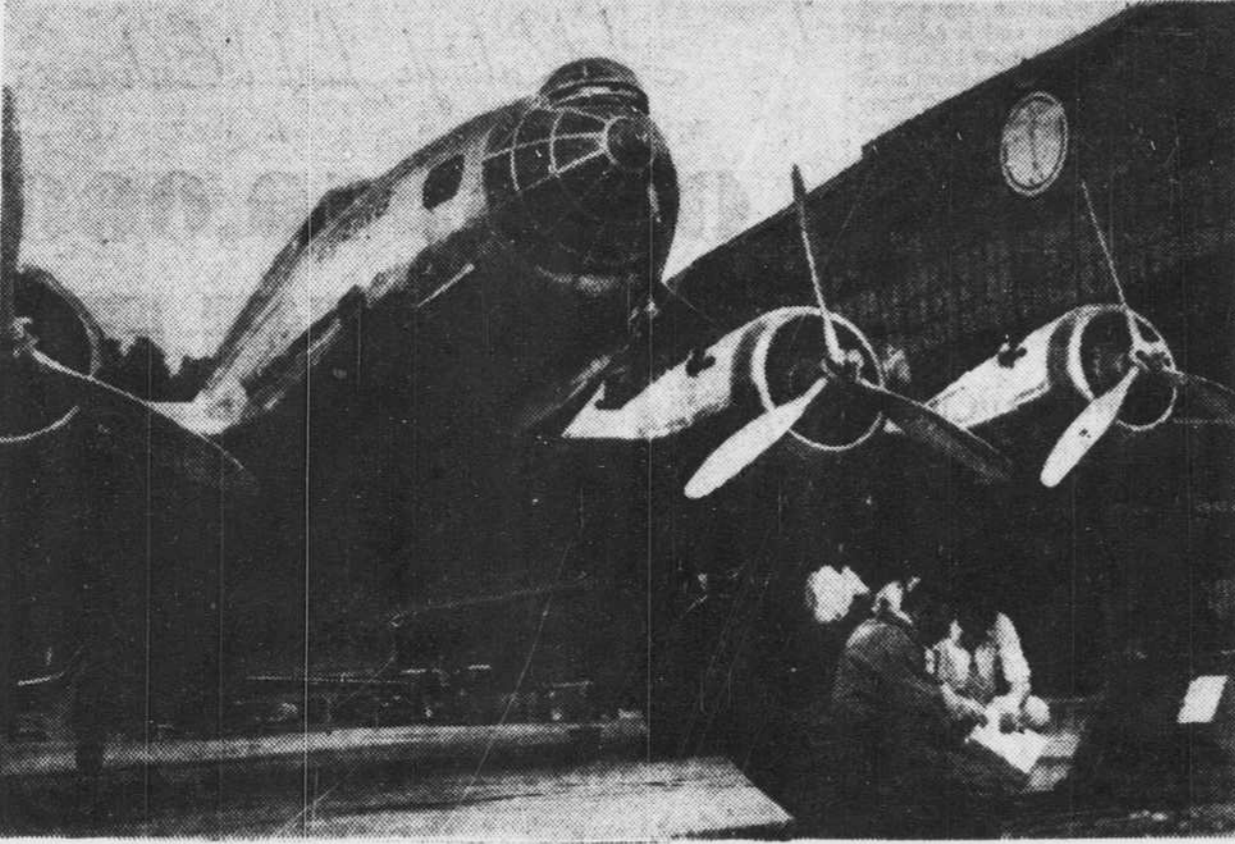
At Norton, in Southwest Virginia, the temperature was 3 below. At Wytheville, in the Shenandoah Valley, the temperature was recorded as even zero. All of the valley and mountainous regions recorded low temperatures, but the weather was clear and there was no snow. No snow is expected today in most of Virginia.

In Maryland the State Highway Department kept snowplows busy most of the day, and last night announced that all State routes were open to traffic.

**Snow Is Promised.**

In other parts, by no means, snow was promised, but with milder temperatures than those registered yesterday. Almost the entire area from the

## Army Orders 103 New Planes



Assistant Secretary of War Harry C. Woodring yesterday signed a contract with the Douglas Aircraft Corp. of Santa Monica, Calif., for a fleet of 90 giant bombing planes. At the same time, a contract was signed with the Boeing Co. of Seattle for 13 giant, four-motored "sky cruisers."

Upper photo shows one of the new Boeing planes. Lower: Woodring, seated at his desk, signing a contract; Gen. Oscar Westover, acting chief of the Army Air Corps, is witnessing the proceedings.

—Underwood & Underwood Photos.

## Army Planes

(Continued From First Page.)

of the original sum remains after yesterday's purchases. Whether that amount will be spent for pursuit planes was not disclosed, but it was understood the Army expects to allot most of it before the first of the year.

The latest acquisitions for the Army Air Corps are in line with recommendations made by Secretary Dern for the inauguration of a five-year program embracing procurement of 800 planes annually.

Work already has been started at the War Department on budgetary estimates of funds necessary to put the Dern program into effect.

The announcement of yesterday's contract gave no specific description of the Douglas and Boeing planes, both of which were put through exhaustive tests over a period of months by the Army Air Corps at Wright Field. One other firm of aircraft manufacturers figured in the competition for the bomber contracts, the Glen Martin Co. of Baltimore. It was not mentioned in the announcement.

The Douglas bomber, powered with two Cyclone engines, was said to "represent a marked advance over types of bombardment planes now in service or being procured."

The Boeing bomber was described as "of the latest design."

Eighty-two of the Douglas bombers will be delivered by flight to the Army's tactical units and the other eight are to be sent to Army depots as spare parts.

## WOMAN, 69, MURDERED

DETROIT, December 21 (AP)—Mrs. Mary Cantion, 69, mother of "Shorty" Cantion, automobile race driver, was found slain in her home tonight, according to a police report. Officers said she had been beaten to death with a hammer.

Detectives arrested her son, Walter, 40, and took him to the psychopathic ward at Receiving Hospital. There, Detective Sergt. Jack Harvil quoted him as saying: "I don't know why I did it."

## INDUSTRIALIST DIES

PITTSBURGH, December 21 (AP)—Gilbert P. McNiff, 50-year-old assistant vice president in charge of operations of the National Tube Co., died today after a week's illness.

The prominent clubman and member of the American Iron & Steel Institute, was born in Harrisburg, Pa., and served as a lieutenant colonel in the Ordnance Department, Reserve Corps, during the World War.

## REWARD IS VOTED IN LIGGETT DEATH

### State Senate Approves \$2,500 to Speer Murder Case Fugitive.

Arms laden with bundles, Walter Liggett, Minneapolis crusading publisher, stepped to his death in early evening of December 9. Mowed down by bullets of machine-gun assassin, he died while daughter pleaded with him to live, while wife who had witnessed shooting screamed. Later, police questioned Isador Blumenfeld, heard Mrs. Liggett identify him as gunman; second witness, former prison mate of Blumenfeld, fearfully repeated identification few days later.

Liggett, one-time resident of suburban Washington, had been fighting political faction of Minnesota's Governor and that of Minneapolis city administration, through columns of Midwest American. Other papers and press associations have demanded clean-up as result of murder.

By the Associated Press.

MINNEAPOLIS, December 21.—The hunt for the death car driver in the assassination of Walter Liggett was spurred today by the prospect of a \$2,500 State reward.

The State Senate, in an unusual action, approved a measure appropriating the sum for the apprehension and conviction of the killers. The House was expected to follow suit.

Thomas McMeekin, attorney for

## "Kid Cann" Blumenfeld, indicted yesterday on a first degree murder charge in the case, announced his client would plead innocence when arraigned Monday in District Court.

State investigators as they pressed search for the driver of the killers' car—apparently the unidentified "John Doe" named in a second indictment—said they did not share the announced belief of Peter S. Nelson, assistant county attorney, who said "some startling developments can be expected."

Police and county detectives, working with State officers, said they had little information to go on toward finding the gunman's driver. Neither Wesley Andersch, a salesman, nor Mrs. Liggett could give them an adequate description of their quarry, they said.

Police said Blumenfeld, liquor salesman in a Minneapolis concern, has been brought into the station on 18 charges during the last 15 years.

Police Probe Closes.

At St. Paul today a grand jury completed a 10-week investigation into police department activities by voting 16 secret indictments and one no-bill. Six of those indicted were arrested. They were James P. Crumley, former inspector of detectives; Irvin and Helen Koop, proprietors of a downtown hotel; George Devitt, restaurant owner; Dave Weinstein, cafe proprietor, and Art Miller, cigar store owner.

The grand jury cleared of malfeasance charges M. J. Culligan, who resigned as chief of police in St. Paul after an investigation of his department some months ago.

Its report recommended that the police department in the capital city be removed from politics and that a proposal for an impartial police commission be submitted to the voters.

## AUSTRIAN ROYALISTS UTILIZE UNCERTAINTIES

### Agitate for Immediate Return of Otto, but Leader Denies Action Now Planned.

By the Associated Press.

VIENNA, December 21.—Austrian monarchists, eager to make Archduke Otto their emperor, today took advantage of uncertainties in the European political situation to agitate for immediate return of the Hapsburg monarchy. The Legitimists labored so energetically that rumors flew about Vienna that Otto was en route back to Austria and would arrive Christmas eve—and even that he was back already.

But Baron Friedrich von Wiesner, an outstanding Legitimist leader, told the Associated Press:

"We are not adventurers. The Kaiser (Otto) is not here. There will be no important developments for at least a month."

**Gift for Quintuplets.**

STUART, Fla. (AP)—An invention he calls a "quint-crib" is Carpenter Jack Wennesheimer's Christmas present to the Dionne quintuplets.

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A practical gift! Warm and comfortable, for wear under coat or as sleeping wrap. Long sleeves, ribbon ties. Black and colors.

Street Floor.

Men's Pajamas \$1

Broadcloths, plain with contrast colors; coat and middie styles. Sizes A, B, C and D.

Other Pajamas at \$1.39 and \$1.95

Men's Ties 55¢

A glorious assortment of patterns and colorings, selected to suit any man or boy. 2 for \$1.

Other Ties at \$1

Men's Hose 19¢

Rayon and wool mixtures, plain colors, heater mixtures and fancy effects. All sizes. (Three pairs for 55¢.)

Full-Fashioned Pure Silk HOSE 69¢ pair

Lovely sheer transparent quality, with picot tops; all popular shades. Sizes 8 1/2 to 10 1/2.

2 prs. \$1.35 3 prs. \$2

\$10—\$12—\$15

## Furred & Sports Coats \$6.35

What a wonderful opportunity to have a good looking coat at a small outlay. Dress Coats with beautiful collars of popular furs. Sports Coats in checked patterns and plain colors.

Sizes 14 to 20 and 38 to 50 in the lot

Second Floor

Robes \$1.69

Make dad happy with a warm, cozy blanket robe; desirable colors and patterns. Rayon cord girdle. All sizes.

Other Robes to \$7.50

Gift Toilet Sets For Men and Women

Coty's Perfume Sets, \$2, \$3 and \$5. Coty's Shaving Sets, \$1, \$2, \$3 and \$5. Richard Hudnut Sets, \$1.25 to \$3.50. Harriet Hubbard Ayers Sets, \$1 to \$3.25. Williams' Shaving Sets at 89¢. Men's Shaving Sets at \$1.25. Fitch's Combination Sets, \$1.

All boxed for gift giving.

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Men's and Women's Boxed 'Kerchiefs Six for \$1

Choice of initial, embroidered corner, rolled edge, lace trimmed, hemstitched and other novelties.

99¢ and \$1

Gift Boxed Jewelry

Give her bright, sparkling jewelry and see her smile. Rhinestone, silver and gold finish bracelets, necklaces, clips, earrings and other trinkets.

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Zipper style jacket, knitted cuff-bottom knickers; sizes 8 to 16.

Knickers & Longies \$1.39

Knickers of suiting mixtures, fully lined, knit cuff bottom, longies in mixtures. Sizes 8 to 16.

Sheepskin Coats \$2.95

Black leatherette, all-around belt, wombat collar. 8 to 18.

Shirts and Blouses 49¢

Excellent wearing broadcloths in plain colors and fancies. Shirts and button-on blouses. All sizes.

Others at 59¢ and 79¢

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9x12-Ft. Wool Felt Rugs \$10

A brand-new shipment received in time for tomorrow's selling—Persian patterned, Oriental and broadloom types. Handsome colorings, \$19.95 values. Fringed and taped ends.

Third Floor.

## Wheat

(Continued From First Page.)

largest wheat crop in the State's history.

The result would bring about a "slump in prices despite the A. A. A.," he declared.

The big increase in acreage was attributed by H. L. Collins, agricultural statistician for the Department

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