

A GIGANTIC TELESCOPE

Immense Instrument Planned For the Paris Exposition.

WILL BE LARGER THAN ANY OTHER

Length of the Great Paris Reflector's Tube is Nearly Two Hundred Feet, and It Weighs About Twenty-one Tons—The Two Object Glasses Each Weigh Sixteen Hundred Pounds.

One of the most remarkable features of the coming universal exhibition at Paris will be the gigantic telescope with which astronomers in 1900 and succeeding years will explore the heavens. Hitherto merely vague ideas have been formed in regard to this great siderostat, which is of such deep interest to the scientific world, but the other day the writer chanced to meet M. Eugene Antoniadi, assistant astronomer of the Juvisy observatory, who, with great courtesy, placed at the disposal of the New York Tribune such facts and information as will present a precise and accurate description of this marvelous instrument.

It was at the initiative of M. Francois Deloncle, minister plenipotentiary in the French diplomatic service that a group of amateur astronomers decided to devise for the international exhibition an instrument of exceptional dimensions and power, far exceeding anything before attempted. With this end in view, it was determined to give the object glass a diameter of 1.25 meters, or 49.2 inches—that is, 9.2 inches more than that of the celebrated Yerkes glass at Williams Bay, Wis., and 13.2 inches larger than that of the Lick telescope at Mount Hamilton, Cal. In order to utilize such an aperture to the best advantage and especially to check as far as possible the obnoxious effect of chromatic aberration it was decided not to subordinate, as usual, the optical work to mechanical difficulties by a reduction of the focal distance, but boldly to give the tube the enormous length of 50 meters, or nearly 200 feet.

To mount such an instrument on an ordinary equatorial foot would be practically impossible, for, to say nothing of the tremendous weight of the tube and the consequent instability and flexures to which it would be exposed, the dome destined to protect it ought to have a diameter of at least 200 feet, or 72 feet larger than the cupola of St. Peter's in Rome, and 103 feet more than the dome of St. Sophia at Constantinople. But this is not all. Owing to the apparent diurnal swing of the heavens around the polar star, the dome ought during observation to be in constant motion, so as to have its opening always in front of the object glass, moving with a velocity of 53 feet an hour. The eyepiece would, of course, also move at a corresponding pace, and it is obvious that the acrobatic feats the observer would have to accomplish in order to follow the movement of the instrument would better suit a vigorous athlete than the delicate frame of the man of science.

These difficulties have been surmounted by the wise conclusion of the committee to adopt the siderostat type of mounting, such as has been perfected by the French physicist, M. Leon Foucault, a man of remarkable mechanical genius. M. Antoniadi uses the expression "perfected by Foucault" advisedly, because he points out that the principle of the siderostat was known a hundred years ago, when a clever London optician named Brown constructed "a telescope whose tube was always horizontal, and in which a plane mirror reflected the image of the object to the eyepiece." The siderostat thus consists of a flat mirror, so mounted that when clockwork motion is applied to it it will send in the same fixed direction the rays impinging upon it from a heavenly body. A telescope directed along the reflected beam will then enable the observer to scrutinize the object without troubling himself about the motion.

The fixed tube of the great Paris reflector is of steel, very slightly less than 0.1 inch thick and weighs some 21 tons. Its diameter is 59 inches. The cylinder is formed of 24 separate parts, screwed together, and rests on eight cast iron supports, placed on eight stone pillars. In order to facilitate expansion by heat, the supports can glide on a system of rails attached to the piers.

There are two object glasses, the one for visual observations, the other being reserved for photographic work. Each glass weighs 1,600 pounds. They are both mounted on a truck gliding along a railway, thus allowing of their easy transfer in front of the tube. The eyepiece is also movable on a railway, and the focussing is effected by a screw 60 inches long, uniting the two tubes. Should the mirror of the siderostat not perfectly follow the object under scrutiny, then the corrections in right, ascension and declination can be made without difficulty from the eyepiece end by a most ingenious contrivance. The siderostat proper, which weighs some 45 tons, consists of a huge brass foot, measuring 20 feet in length and as much in height and resting on a marble pier. The diameter of the great mirror is 78 1/2 inches, or rather more than 6 1/2 feet, and its weight, mounting included, more than 6 1/2 tons. It is held in equilibrium by a system of levers and counterpoises, rolling in a well more than 6 1/2 feet in diameter, filled with mercury. The mechanical part of the instrument was made by the celebrated Paris maker, M. Gautier; the lenses by M. Mantois.

It was no easy task to grind and polish the surfaces of the colossal mirror and of the two object glasses. Here new methods had to be devised. The plane figure of the mirror has been obtained by the molar action of two flat metallic sliders. M. Mantois used the same process in grinding the object glasses, with this difference, however, that, owing to the curved surfaces to be given to the lenses, the sliders, instead of being straight, had the curvature of the disks. The rectilinear motion of the system thus gave rise to a cylindrical section on the glass which, however, in virtue of the revolution of the lenses on their axis, was transformed into a spherical surface.

The light grasping power of the Paris telescope, as compared with that of the most powerful instrument now in existence (the Yerkes glass) ought to be as three is to two. But this will not be the case, owing chiefly to the presence of the glass mirror of the siderostat. Under a vertical incidence, mercury itself does not reflect more than 67 per cent of the incident light, and here lies the gain in favor of the Yerkes telescope. The accurate figuring, moreover, of disks of such enormous size as those of the great French telescope is beset with formidable, if not quite insuperable, difficulties, and we have some reasons for doubting that the optical surfaces will be a success. Another point which will tell heavily against the performance of the giant will be its rather disadvantageous location in the midst of a vast industrial city and at a height of barely 150 feet above the sea level, contrasting in those particulars so unfavorably with the pure air, serene skies and high altitudes of our great American observatories. We are apt to forget too readily that we are actually living in the bottom of a dense aerial ocean, in which currents of various temperatures and densities are continually streaming in all directions. The greater the height we rise above the sea level, the clearer the air we get, though we can under no circumstances shake the yoke of atmospheric tremors. When scanning the heavens with the naked eye or an opera glass, the obnoxious effect of these undulations does not make itself felt. But if we take an astronomical telescope of three inches aperture and examine the physical appearance of a planet with it, we will notice that the quality of the image is not always the same and that occasionally it is positively bad.

Increasing the aperture, it is found that the blurring of the image from atmospheric instability becomes a more and more frequent phenomenon. With an aperture of 12 inches, good seeing is rare. The effect is, of course, much more nugatory in a 24 inch, the best being that with apertures of 30, 36 and 40 inches there are not five or six nights in a year when the instrument can be advantageously used with its highest powers.

Independently of these considerations the light grasping power of large telescopes, which in the hands of men like Hall, Barnard and Burnham led to such brilliant discoveries, depends to some extent its own end in case of the perception of fine planetary details. Here small telescopes compete keenly with large ones, for if we refer to the history of the discovery of the most evanescent planetary markings, such as the canals of Mars and the spots on Saturn, it is found that they have been almost invariably made with telescopes whose apertures did not exceed ten inches.

When questioned as to his opinion of the results that may be expected from the colossal Paris tube, M. Antoniadi replied: "A careful consideration of all the circumstances cannot reasonably render us oversanguine. Even supposing the surfaces of the glasses to be theoretically perfect, which will not be the case, we might safely predict that it will never show anything very clearly on the moon with a power of 4,000, which would cut down the distance of our satellite to 60 miles, a distance indeed quite different from the popular and sensational fallacy of 'La Lune a un metre'."

"There is, however, one point," continued M. Antoniadi, "in which the huge Paris refractor will beat all previous instruments of the kind hitherto constructed, and that is its great focal length. It will enable astronomers to take enlarged photographic views of the moon at a focus of 22 or 23 inches in diameter, and this will constitute a marked progress in the knowledge of the topography and physical constitution of our satellite."

South America's Future.

When South America comes to be systematically opened up by the great capitalists of the world, as will surely happen in the next century, the union of the fluvial systems of the Amazon and the Orinoco will absorb the attention of the world's best engineers, says The Mexican Herald. A great empire is destined to grow up in that continent, and from the Andes down to the Atlantic and the Caribbean sea will be witnessed the most tremendous activities. A rich soil, great grazing plains and gold mines of immense resources will be exploited by a new breed of men, the result of an intermingling of the hardiest emigrants from old Europe and North America. South America is a continent that will not be long neglected by the empire makers of civilization.

Deer Destroying Watermelon Crop.

A remarkable complaint has been filed with the territorial game warden, at Guthrie, O. T. For two years the shooting of deer has been absolutely prohibited in the territory, and the animals have become very plentiful, says The St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Farmers living near Carney, who are raising watermelons, complain that herds of deer come every night to their patches and eat all the ripe melons. They are forbidden to shoot or capture them and demand from the game warden protection for their crops.

WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT IT!



"Well, Johnson, been to the doctor, as I told you?"
"Yes, m'lord."
"And what did he say was the matter with you?"
"E says it's just generalibility, m'lord, that's all!"
—Punch.

FACTS IN A FEW LINES.

Motor milk vans are being used in England.
Cairo has a population of 535,000, Alexandria of 274,000.
Rabbits cannot gnaw through wire cloth if it is placed about the fruit trees.

There are only 100,000 Brits in India—one to every 3,000 of the population.
The Prussian army includes nearly 14,000 officers, among them 296 generals.

A motor car passenger service is mooted between Pretoria and the Transvaal.
For nervous disorders it is now found that the finest cure is the simple one of lying in bed.

Covent Garden, London, has been in the possession of the Bedford family for 300 years.
English locomotive exports last year amounted to \$7,400,000, as against \$5,000,000 in 1897.

A number of sharks have appeared in the Bristol channel, and bathers are becoming frightened.
Owing to the development of the Natal coalfields the shipment of Welsh coal has declined seriously.

At the recent international exhibition of picture postal cards in Nice the number of exhibitors was 352.
The Hessian diet has enacted a law that bachelors shall pay 25 per cent more tax on their incomes than married men.

At the semiannual drawing in Paris of conscripts for the French army the number of recruits was 11 per cent smaller than one year ago.
Eight thousand men are engaged in mining lead and zinc in Missouri. The total output for 1898 was 14,000 tons of lead and 140,000 tons of zinc.

Slate pencils are made in Tennessee from slate dust and other ingredients compressed by hydraulic means. One concern made 25,000,000 in a year.
The machinist employs a dog on his lathe; he takes a log cut if the tool will stand it; the castings are made of pigs of iron, which in turn were fed from a sow.

A law was recently passed in Switzerland prohibiting the manufacture, importation or sale of matches containing the ordinary form of yellow phosphorus.
In Massachusetts more money is invested in cotton mills than in any other manufacturing industry, but the making of boots and shoes yields the most valuable product.

India's area of wheat farms is now about two-thirds as large as that of the United States. The wheat is still thrashed by being trodden out by bullocks and buffaloes.
The giraffe was thought to be near extinction, but Major Maxse, a British explorer, has found great herds of them along the Sobat river, a tributary of the White Nile.

There is much French and Belgian capital invested in the principal railway lines of Spain, while England owns many of the shorter lines and is also at the head of the mining interests.
The drought of the last few years has cost New South Wales an enormous amount of money. The flocks of the colony have shrunk from 65,000,000 to 46,000,000, representing a loss of 20,000,000 sheep.

An immense but unsavory omelet was made not long since in London by smashing on the pavement 850,000 condemned eggs and washing them into the drains. Many persons were made sick by the stench.
Science has calculated that an average puff of cigar smoke sets free over 2,000,000 tiny particles, a whiff from a pipe liberates over 1,800,000,000 of these particles, and one from a cigarette starts 2,900,000,000 of them flying through the surrounding atmosphere.

It is said that the construction of the dam across the Nile at Assouan,

will not submerge the temple at Philae. The actual level of the water behind the dam will be a little above the present high water mark, so that the door of the temple will still be dry.

To check premature grayness the hair should be well brushed morning and night with a brush hard enough to produce a feeling of warmth in the skin. The bristles should be far enough apart to go through the hair, and they will penetrate the better if they are of uneven lengths.

Among the numerous things considered sacred in India is the banyan tree, one of the fig genus, remarkable for its vast rooting branches. The horizontal branches send down shoots which take root when they reach the ground and enlarge into trunks, which in their turn send out branches.

Women interested in employment for the working girls of New York have on their list of unhealthful employments that of pearl button making. These buttons are stamped out with a disk, and the dust which arises is bad for the lungs. An effort has been made to improve the conditions, but the evil is not entirely abated.

A pound of raw cotton is worth 5 cents. When made into fabrics that pound is worth from 25 cents to \$1. Massachusetts has 8,000,000 spindles and spins 1,250,000 bales of southern cotton to sell back to the south. The south hews the wool and draws the water; it does the drudgery of producing the raw material for the north to manufacture and get rich upon.

Tunnels under the Thames in London are multiplying rapidly. Hardly has the Blackwell tunnel been opened than another at Rotherhithe is projected. It is to be 30 feet in diameter, three feet more than the Blackwell tunnel. It is to be a mile and a quarter long. The total work will cost about \$7,000,000, but nearly \$4,000,000 of this will go for the approaches.

TRUTH AND A TRUNK.

Look Out For Baggage if a Woman Tells You It Isn't Heavy.

I know a woman who travels around the country with a trunk as big as a house. Protests of husband and friends are of no avail, and it seems to me the case is a perfectly proper one for the Antieruchy society. When I mentioned this to the lady with the trunk, she said, "But they are only to look after children and animals."
"Perhaps they can twist their constitution to get the baggage man under the head of animals and prosecute you."
She did not appear at all decomposed. The last time she went away I groaned for the expressman. The house was in an awful turmoil, and the trunk was on the third floor.
"It's not very heavy," I heard her say. "At the remark the expressman immediately called his helper from the wagon. 'I always know what that means,' he said, with a knowing nod to the maid. When he got up stairs, he could hardly lift one end. 'Never failed,' he said. 'When they say it's light, it's dead sure to be heavy. They don't mean it, but they can't tell the truth about a trunk. I don't know whether they think we don't know about weight, or we'll charge them less if they say it's light, or what, but we always look out for the trunk that's called light.' Then he and his helper tugged and pulled and jammed holes in the wall as they went down stairs.—Philadelphia Press.

She Insisted.

"Did that man to whom you were just talking say your affairs were mismanaged?" asked Mr. Meekton's wife severely.
"Now, Henrietta, that was simply a little aside. It wasn't intended for your ears at all."
"I insist!"
"Oh, well, if you insist; he didn't say my affairs were mismanaged! He said they were Mrs.-managed!"—Washington Star.

Boils and Pimples Give Warning.

AN UNFAILING SIGN THAT NATURE IS APPEALING FOR HELP. When Nature is overtaken, she has her own way of giving notice that assistance is needed. She does not ask for help until it is impossible to get along without it. Boils and pimples are an indication that the system is accumulating impurities which must be gotten rid of; they are an urgent appeal for assistance—a warning that can not safely be ignored.

To neglect to purify the blood at this time means more than the annoyance of painful boils and unsightly pimples. If these impurities are allowed to remain, the system succumbs to any ordinary illness, and is unable to withstand the many ailments which are so prevalent during spring and summer.
Mrs. L. Gentile, 2001 Second Avenue, Seattle, Wash., says: "I was afflicted for a long time with pimples, which were very annoying, as they disfigured my face fearfully. After using many other remedies in vain S. S. S. promptly and thoroughly cleansed my blood, and now I rejoice in a good complexion, which I never had before."

Capt. W. H. Dunlap, of the A. G. S. R. E. Chattanooga, Tenn., writes: "Several boils and carbuncles broke out upon me, causing great pain and annoyance. My blood seemed to be in a riotous condition, and nothing I took seemed to do any good. Six bottles of S. S. S. cured me completely and my blood has been perfectly pure ever since."

S. S. S. FOR THE BLOOD is the best blood remedy, because it is purely vegetable and is the only one that is absolute, free from potash and mercury. It promptly purifies the blood and thoroughly cleanses the system, builds up the general health and strength. It cures Scrofula, Eczema, Cancer, Rheumatism, Tetter, Boils, Sores, etc., by going direct to the cause of the trouble and forcing out all impure blood.
Books free to any address by the Swift Specific Co., Atlanta, Ga.

SEND NO MONEY WITH YOUR ORDER, cut this out and send to us with \$1.00, and we will send you our **IMPROVED BURDICK SEWING MACHINE**, by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination as high as you wish. If you are not satisfied, we will return the machine and your money. **WE WILL GUARANTEE THE BURDICK** to be the greatest value ever offered by any house. Machine weighs 120 pounds and the trial will average 75 cents for each 500 miles. **GIVE IT THREE MONTHS** trial in your own home, and we will refund the price if you are not satisfied. We will deliver and grade of Sewing Machines at \$28.50, \$10.00, \$11.00, \$12.00 and up, all fully described in our Free Sewing Machine Catalogue, but \$1.00 for this **BIRD'S EYE BURDICK** is the greatest value ever offered by any house.

BEWARE OF IMITATIONS by unknown concerns. The **BURDICK** is the only one that is absolute, free from potash and mercury. It promptly purifies the blood and thoroughly cleanses the system, builds up the general health and strength. It cures Scrofula, Eczema, Cancer, Rheumatism, Tetter, Boils, Sores, etc., by going direct to the cause of the trouble and forcing out all impure blood.
SOLID QUARTER SAWED OAK DRAP DESK CABINET, piano polished, closed drop from sight to be used as a center table, stand or desk, the other open with full length table and head in place for sewing. 4 easy drawers, latest 1899 skeleton frame, curved, painted, enameled and decorated cabinet finish, finest nickel drawer pulls, rosetts on four bases, and five motion feet. **First Prize High Award** at the Chicago Exposition, 1893. **Patented** by the **BURDICK** Sewing Machine Co., Chicago, Ill. **GUARANTEED** the lightest running, most durable and most reliable machine made. Every known attachment is furnished and our instruction Book tells just how anyone can run it and do either plain or any kind of fancy work. **IT COSTS YOU NOTHING** to see and examine this machine, compare it with any other, and then if convinced that you are saving \$20.00 to \$40.00, pay your freight and send us \$1.00. **ORDER TODAY.** Address, **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.)** Chicago, Ill.

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Contains 5 octaves, 11 stops, as follows: Bassoon, Principal, Flute, Organ, Swell, 4 sets of Grand, Tremolo, Crescendo, Decrescendo, Rehearsal, 1 set of 24 Free Street Melodion Reeds, 1 set of 24 Quality Reeds, 1 set of 24 Piano Reeds, 1 set of 24 High Reeds, 1 set of 24 Bass Reeds, 1 set of 24 Tenor Reeds, 1 set of 24 Alto Reeds, 1 set of 24 Soprano Reeds, 1 set of 24 Contralto Reeds, 1 set of 24 Contrabass Reeds, 1 set of 24 Bassoon Reeds, 1 set of 24 Flute Reeds, 1 set of 24 Organ Reeds, 1 set of 24 Swell Reeds, 1 set of 24 Grand Reeds, 1 set of 24 Tremolo Reeds, 1 set of 24 Crescendo Reeds, 1 set of 24 Decrescendo Reeds, 1 set of 24 Rehearsal Reeds, 1 set of 24 Free Street Melodion Reeds, 1 set of 24 Quality Reeds, 1 set of 24 Piano Reeds, 1 set of 24 High Reeds, 1 set of 24 Bass Reeds, 1 set of 24 Tenor Reeds, 1 set of 24 Alto Reeds, 1 set of 24 Soprano Reeds, 1 set of 24 Contralto Reeds, 1 set of 24 Contrabass Reeds, 1 set of 24 Bassoon Reeds, 1 set of 24 Flute Reeds, 1 set of 24 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