

Flat Earth and Anti-Evolution

Children in North Carolina will be compelled to learn that they live on a flat earth located in the center of the universe, the kind of a world people believed in a thousand years ago, if the state legislature passes a proposed anti-evolution bill. According to opponents of the measure, this will be its effect, for although such teaching is not specifically commanded, all instruction concerning the origin and nature not only of man but of other living creatures and inanimate matter as well must be forced to conform literally to the words of the Old Testament.

Here is just what the bill says on the subject:

"The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

"Section 1: That it shall be unlawful for any professor, teacher or instructor, to teach in any school, college, or educational institution within the State of North Carolina, receiving aid from the State, any doctrine or theory of evolution, which contradicts or denies the divine origin of man or of the universe, as taught in the Holy Bible."

"Provided, however, that nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the teaching in said schools, colleges or educational institutions of all useful arts and sciences, *unless the same are taught in such a manner as to contradict the fundamental truths of the Holy Bible.*" This bill strikes deep and wide into the field of science. For example, no presentation of the planetesimal theory of the origin of the solar system and the new theories concerning the origin of matter would be permitted under such a law.

The assembling of state legislatures recently has produced a number of anti-evolution bills. In Missouri, a bill, defeated shortly after introduction, provided: "It shall be unlawful to teach any theory or hypothesis in regard to the origin of life on this planet that is not in harmony with the Divine account of Creation as set forth in the first and second chapters of Genesis in the Holy Bible or to teach that man has descended from the lower animals in any educational institution that is supported wholly or in part by state money * * *"

The anti-evolution bill before the South Carolina house of representatives follows closely the wording of the Tennessee act under which the Scopes trial was held. If it should be passed, a teacher convicted under its provisions would have to move

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HENRY NORRIS RUSSELL

Stellar Evolutionist

"Russell is the sort of a man who would attain distinction in any field, so it's fortunate for astronomy that he made the choice he did."

With these words one of his contemporaries, himself the distinguished professor of astronomy at another university, aptly characterized Dr. Russell, professor of astronomy at Princeton, and director of the Halsted Observatory there. To one who has had the pleasure of listening to him discourse on Italian literature, for instance, or some other subject remotely removed from astronomy, its force is evident.

But it was astronomy that he chose while yet a student at Princeton, and it is in this field that he has achieved an international reputation, bringing him, among many honors, the foreign associateship of the Royal Astronomical Society, as well as its gold medal, the Henry Draper Medal of the National Academy of Sciences and the Lalande Medal of the French Academy. His contributions have included important researches on the theory of spectra, of profound importance to the physicist as well as the astronomer. It is his theory of the evolution of stars, now very generally accepted, for which he is chiefly known, however.

Born at Oyster Bay, N. Y., October 25, 1877, Dr. Russell graduated from Princeton, where he had studied under Prof. C. A. Young, and took his Ph.D. there in 1900. After a few years at

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Death From Live Fishes

Many a gullible mortal has swallowed a fish story, but how many have ever swallowed a live fish? Dr. E. W. Gudger, associate in ichthyology in the American Museum of Natural History, has recently published a collection of accounts, dating back to 1567, of live fishes lost in the food and air passages of man.

On the coasts of France and Italy and in India and the Far East, says Dr. Gudger, fishermen are accustomed to take live fishes between their teeth either to kill them by biting, or to hold them while the hands are used to free the hook or net. A fish so held, if it pricks the lips with its spines or makes a sudden wriggle, readily causes the man to open his mouth into which the fish is very likely to jump still further.

Most of the accounts show, continued Dr. Gudger, that the fish most often lodge in the pharynx where the spines, fins and gills make it impossible to pull them out without lacerating the throat. Death usually follows from suffocation unless an operation can be performed to open the trachea and remove the offender quickly. The consequences are somewhat less serious though not less unpleasant when a fish finds its way into the esophagus, according to Dr. Gudger's data.

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Two Plants: Same Disease

The same virus or invisible germ, undetectable even with the highest powers of the microscope, that causes the blight disease is also to blame for the curly-top disease of sugar beets, and is borne back and forth between these very dissimilar plants by an inconspicuous little insect known as a leaf-hopper. The identity of the two diseases and the part played in their transmission by the leaf-hopper have been demonstrated by Prof. M. B. McKay and T. P. Dykstra of the Oregon Experiment Station.

After observing the coincident occurrence of curly-top in beet fields and of the blight in neighboring crops of tomatoes, the two investigators caged healthy tomato plants in an insect-proof greenhouse, and allowed leaf-hoppers captured in a field of diseased beets to feed upon them. After two or three weeks the tomatoes developed typical symptoms of their disease, and thus confirmed the suspicion entertained of the activities of insects.

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Stellar Evolutionist

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Cambridge University, England, he returned to his *alma mater* as an instructor in 1905, becoming professor in 1911 and director of the observatory in 1912, posts which he still holds. In 1921 he was also appointed as research associate of the Mt. Wilson Observatory in California, where he now spends part of his time each year.

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Congo elephants are particularly fond of bananas.

Primitive African tribes made beads out of ostrich egg-shells.

Almost every kind of warm blooded animal is pestered by some kind of flea.

Last year the United States imported 310,000 canaries and almost 54,000 parrots.

Planting black walnut trees in good soil is a good investment, the Forest Service says.

Production of rose oil is being attempted in Greek Macedonia by refugees from Bulgaria.

Spitzbergen, which today is a synonym for frigid climate, once had weather like pleasant France.

Butterflies cannot claim membership in the fly family because they have four wings instead of two.

A method of mixing concrete, developed at Ohio State University, is said to increase the strength 115 per cent.

A motorist traveling 30 miles an hour could drive for three years and 16 days over American highways without seeing the same milepost twice.

Many of the rats on farms are found to migrate there from the cities, in shipments of dairy and poultry feed.

After every great war in which mothers and children have been under-fed there has been rickets among the babies.

Halley's comet appeared in 1066 A. D., shortly before the Norman conquest in England, and a tapestry records the alarm it caused among King Harold's subjects.

Anti-Evolution

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from the state, or else change his profession, for the bill has the drastic provision that: "Any teacher violating the provisions of this Act shall forfeit all pay due, or to become due, and shall be forever barred from further teaching in any University, State College or other public school of this State."

The anti-evolution bill introduced into the Alabama house of representatives is similar in wording to the anti-evolution act that became a Tennessee law in 1925.

In spite of the Tennessee law, school teachers of that state and perhaps others may still be able to present evolution to their students without committing a crime, by simply reading the evolutionary ideas out of a book, like the daily reading of the Bible. This is the opinion of Henry E. Colton, Nashville lawyer, prominent in the hearings before the State Supreme Court on the famous Dayton case. This conclusion follows from a technical distinction between "teaching" and "reading" made by the court itself in its recent decision.

"Although it is a technical definition, it appears to be perfectly clear," Mr. Colton stated. "As pointed out in the opinion of Chief Justice Green and Cook, Chapter 102 of the Acts of 1915 requires that ten verses of the Bible be read each day at the opening of public schools, without comment, with the further proviso that the teacher does not read the same verses more than twice during any session and with the still further proviso that students may be excused from such reading upon the written request of their parents. After referring to this Chief Justice Green and Justice Cook say in substance that it could scarcely be contended that such 'scriptural reading' would amount to 'teaching.' By the same token it may be argued with reasonable certainty that teachers of biology and other kindred subjects in which the scientific theory of evolution constitutes a fundamental and necessary part, may at least read to their students about the scientific theory of evolution as to the origin of man without comment. With a bright student no comment is necessary. This distinction between 'reading' and 'teaching' is likely to be followed in many other states where anti-evolution litigation is in effect or pending."

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The Jerusalem artichoke is an American plant.