



ECLIPSE OF THE SUN, JUNE 19, 1936

Stretching from the shores of Africa clear across Asia to be lost in mid-Pacific is the coming total eclipse of the sun next June 19, 1936. Siberia and the islands off the Northern tip of Japan will be the favorite observation places of astronomers, some of whom will journey half-way around the world to get a two-minute look at the sun while its blazing light is blocked out by the intervening moon.

ASTRONOMY

Astronomers Plan Expeditions To View Total Solar Eclipse

ASTRONOMERS will go to Siberia and to the islands of northern Japan to view the total eclipse of the sun which occurs next June 19. Some of them will journey half-way round the world to watch the sun disappear behind the intervening moon for a time which, at its maximum, is 2 minutes, 31½ seconds.

At sunrise on June 19, inhabitants of Tripoli in northern Africa will see the sun come up black as the moon blocks out its light. At Athens and in Asia Minor the sun will rise in normal fashion but within a few seconds will be obscured.

Thus onward with a speed that covers nearly half the world's circumference in the daylight hours, the shadow cast by the moon on the earth will sweep, across the Black Sea, the southern Ural Mountains, across the steppes surrounding Orenburg and into Siberia. There it sweeps across thousands of miles to the islands on the northern tip of Japan, until it finally ends far to the

east in the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean.

Starting comparatively narrow, the path of totality gradually widens, and the time the sun is obscured lengthens, until at the northern end of Lake Baikal at 12:30 p.m. on June 19 the path is 82 miles wide and the eclipse will last just a little more than 2½ minutes.

From Lake Baikal eastward the path of totality narrows again and the time of totality shortens.

As always, astronomers are wondering whether the sky will be clear at their chosen observation points after they have traveled for thousands of miles with bulky and heavy equipment.

Prof. S. A. Mitchell, of the University of Virginia, who is president of the Eclipse Commission, International Astronomical Union, estimates that the chances of clear weather throughout the eclipse track are about fifty-fifty. Where American eclipse parties will observe, however, the chances are slightly better; 60 per cent. in favor of

clear weather. Since 1933 the Soviet government has collected all the available weather information old and new on the climatic conditions of the various possible observation points.

The largest American party will be the joint Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology expedition headed by Dr. D. H. Menzel and Dr. J. C. Boyce. They will be located at Ak-Bulak, which is not far from Orenburg, just west of the southern limits of the Ural Mountains.

The joint expedition of Georgetown University and the National Geographic Society, headed by Dr. P. A. McNally, S.J., will be stationed at Kustanai, about 500 miles east of Orenburg and just east of the southern tip of the Ural mountain range.

Dr. Willi Cohn of the California School of Fine Arts will be in northern Japan with Japanese expeditions, as he was in the 1934 eclipse which occurred in the South Seas. Dr. Cohn will cooperate with Science Service in reporting the eclipse conditions from that point.

England will send two expeditions into the eclipse area, under the auspices of the Royal Society and the Royal Astronomical Society. At Omsk will be the party of Prof. J. A. Carroll of the University of Aberdeen.

A larger British party will be at Kamishari in Hokkaido, the northern island of Japan, where Prof. F. J. M. Stratton of Cambridge University will be in command.

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SEISMOLOGY

Severe Earthquake In Celebes Sea

THE BED of the Celebes Sea, south of the Philippine Islands, has been shaken by a heavy quake, reports of eleven seismographic stations indicate on interpretation by the scientists of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. The reports were transmitted through Science Service.

The shock occurred on the night of Tuesday, March 31, at ten minutes after nine o'clock, Eastern Standard Time. The epicenter, or point of greatest surface disturbance, was approximately in latitude 3 degrees north, longitude 124 degrees east.

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Gold is alloyed with baser metals, but platinum is usually alloyed with a still more precious metal, iridium.