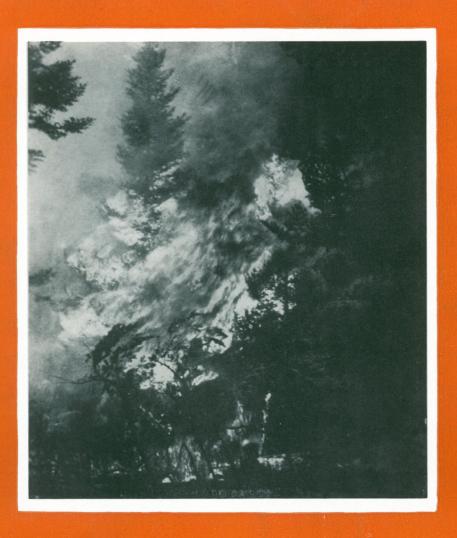
SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE.





AUGUST 29, 1936



Fire!

See Page 132

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. XXX

No. 803

The Weekly Summary of

Current Science

Published Every Saturday by

SCIENCE SERVICE 2101 Constitution Avenue Washington, D. C.

THE INSTITUTION FOR THE POPULAR-IZATION OF SCIENCE organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation, with trustees nominated by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the E. W. Scripps Estate and the journalistic profession.

Edited by WATSON DAVIS

Subscription rates—\$5.00 a year postpaid; two years \$7.00; 15 cents a copy. Ten or more copies to same address, 5 cents a copy. Back numbers more than six months old, 25 cents.

Canadian subscribers please add 50 cents a year, foreign subscribers 75 cents a year to regular subscription rate to cover postage.

Members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science have the privilege of subscribing to Science News Letter at the reduced price of \$3 per year. Application for this privilege should be accompanied by privilege card obtained from the Permanent Secretary, A.A.A.S., Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

In requesting change of address, please give your old address as well as the new one in notification to Circulation Department, Science News Letter, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C., at least two weeks before change is to become effective.

Copyright, 1936, by Science Service, Inc. Republication of any portion of the Science News Letter is strictly prohibited. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service.

Cable address: Scienserve, Washington.

Entered as second class matter at the post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of March 3, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices.

Advertising rates furnished on application. Member Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Board of Trustees of Science Service

Board of Trustees of Science Service

Honorary President, William E. Ritter, University of California. Honorary Vice-President, Vernon Kellogg, National Research Council. Representing the American Association for the Advancement of Science, J. McKeen Cattell, President, Editor, Science, Garrison, N. Y.; Burton E. Livingston, Johns Hopkins University; Baltimore, Md.; Henry B. Ward, Permanent Secretary, A.A.A.S. Representing the National Academy of Sciences, W. H. Howell, Vice-President and Chairman of Executive Committee, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; R. A. Millikan, Director, Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif.; Harlow Shapley, Director, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass. Representing National Research Council, Ludvig Hektoen, John McCormick Institute for Infectious Diseases, Chicago, Ill.; C. G. Abbot, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.; Harrison E. Howe, Editor of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, Washington, D. C. Representing Journalistic Profession, John H. Finley, Associate Editor, New York Times; Mark Sullivan, Writer, Washington, D. C.; Marlen E. Pew, Editor of Editor and Publisher, New York City, Representing E. W. Scripps Estate, Harry L. Smithton, Treasurer, Cincinnati, Ohio; Robert P. Scripps, Scripps-Howard Newspapers, West Chester, Ohio; Warren S. Thompson, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

Staff of Science Service

Director, Watson Davis; Staff Writers: Frank Thone, Emily C. Davis, Jane Stafford, Marjorie Van de Water, Robert Potter; Astronomy writer, James Stokley. Correspondents in principal cities and centers of research. Librarian, Minna Gill; Sales and Advertising Manager, Hallie Jenkins.

DO YOU KNOW?

Blindness caused by wood alcohol is permanent and cannot be cured.

Green colored vinegar is now being made from grapefruit as a citrus byproduct.

In all China there are less than 48,000 motor vehicles, and most of these came from America.

Sugar beets growing in fields and held in storage are liable to attack by a large number of fungi, over 50 of which belong to a single genus.

Experiments in using duck eggs in place of hen eggs in cake and other recipes have been made at Cornell University.

A Hungarian has found that spoilage of milk and other dairy products can be delayed by inoculating them with a weak bacterial flora.

Road construction in Babylon in Nebuchadnezzar's time is described on a brick found in the city, which mentions streets "made strong within with bitumen and burnt brick as a high-lying road."

German farmers are being urged by the government to raise sheep to increase the country's wool supply.

The proposed French-Italian road tunnel under Mont Blanc is expected to require six years of construction work.

Air conditioning in the Senate is adjusted somewhat warmer than in the House of Representatives, to suit the more elderly group of Senators.

As many as 189 species of American mammals are denounced as vermin, but among these "varmints" that worry farmers or other citizens 116 kinds are fur bearers of economic value.

It is reported from Germany that road tests show certain artificial rubber tires are capable of giving double the road performance of tires made from natural rubber.

Soviet scientists have established "frostology" stations in regions where freezing of the earth is a problem, to study effects of freezing and thawing on building construction and other activities

WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

Most articles are based on communications to Science Service or papers before meetings, but where published sources are used they are referred to in the article.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Why did the new finds in Guatemala interest archaeologists? p. 140.

ASTRONOMY

How old are the stars in the Milky Way?

Were astronomers successful in observing the Perseid meteors this year? p. 136. What is the equinox? p. 138.

BIOLOGY

Will protoplasm grow on oatmeal? p. 136. CLIMATOLOGY

What is happening to Hawaii's climate? p. 134.

CONSERVATION

Is color vision important for the fire look-out? p.~132.

GENETICS

What sort of stem is new in primroses? p. 135.

ICHTHYOLOGY

Does erosion provide a danger to fish? p. 137.

MEDICINE

Can the X-ray reveal a past injury to the skull? p. 143.

Is nursing with breast cancer bad for the infant? p. 134. What causes heart failure? p. 141.

Who was John Bull? p. 133.

PALEONTOLOGY

Did dinosaurs roam in what is now California? p.~137.p. 137.

How can archaeologists tell the age of fossil bones? p.~143.

PHYSICS

Can cosmic rays disintegrate lead? p. 134. PHYSIOLOGY

What woman has no secrets? p. 135.

How is bubonic plague spread? p. 137. What has been one handicap to the eradication of syphilis? p. 137.

SEISMOLOGY

How many earthquakes does Japan have in a year? p. 139.

Is the python as terrible in fact as in legend? p. 142. Where are Okapi still found? p. 136.