

LAS VEGAS AGE

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THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 15, 1931.

PAVING PROTESTS

IN MODIFYING their action to meet the expressed wishes of property owners in the proposed paving district the mayor and city commissioners are moving in the right direction. In matters of this kind, especially under present conditions, it seems well to "temper the wind to the shorn lamb."

From the expressions voiced at the meetings recently it appears that most of the property owners desire street improvements. Yet to proceed with the large district mapped out, even though it might be lawfully done, would bring hardship to some and create a bitterness of spirit which we are all striving to avoid.

There is room for plenty of honest difference as to the best policy to pursue. So if the board can comply with the wishes of most of those who desire the improvement and also with the wishes of most of those who oppose it, well and good.

The Age believes in advancing with public improvements as fast as can reasonably and properly be done, but not in forcing any particular type of improvement on those who do not want it.

And in spite of some mistakes which we may have made, there are few people in Las Vegas who would go back to old conditions. We remember the great outcry against the idea of building cement sidewalks along streets in the early days of the town. It was argued that we had got along all right by walking in the center of the roads, and that we would just simply lose our property if we took on the burden of building cement walks.

THE PRESIDENT IS RIGHT

THE CAMPAIGN by a certain element of the United States senate to "harass Hoover" has fallen flat.

Discredited in the public mind by the obvious personal animosity which graced their efforts, the harassers have failed miserably to defeat the efforts the President is making to carry out the work of government relief in a sane and sensible way.

It sounded a little rash at first when the President charged that some of the senators were doing politics at the expense of human misery. But those same senators have since proved the case for the President and shown to the world that what he said was true.

Now we still have the disgraceful condition of a few senators threatening to force an extra session of congress by a filibuster unless their own personal demands are acceded to by the majority. It is another case of the tail insisting on its right to wag the dog at will. We predict that the better judgment of a majority of both parties in Congress will prevail and that there will be less politics and more action during the remaining weeks of the session.

If some of those harassing and filibustering senators knew how tired the American people are of their mouthings they would be surprised,—but probably would keep on in the same key.

THE RED CROSS

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS has many times in the past proved itself the best organization to administer the relief of the suffering in great disasters. It is by all odds the best means to employ in feeding those who are now suffering for want of food.

The organization has sent out a call for \$10,000,000 for the purchase and distribution of food. Of this amount Nevada's quota is \$6,000.

That seems like a small amount, but is our proper proportion based upon the population and wealth of all the states.

Nevada has always been liberal in the relief of distress and Las Vegas will promptly do her share to keep the state in good standing.

Service Cleaners Lower Prices

You may now have your clothes reconditioned by the reliable Service Cleaners at a new low price. Men's suits and overcoats will be cleaned and pressed by this concern for \$1. Ladies' dresses and coats also cleaned and pressed for \$1. The Service Cleaners have one of the largest plants in Nevada. It is thoroughly complete in every detail and equipped to give one day service on all dry cleaning jobs. The firm has enjoyed the reputation of doing excellent work and giving prompt service. Your clothes are insured while in the care of the Service Cleaners. Bonded delivery men will call for and deliver your clothes. A first class repair department is maintained. A suit or a ladies' garment reconditioned by the Service Cleaners is as good as new. The firm is located at 119 South Main Street. The phone number is 310.

Seek Cradle Of Civilization

PARIS, Jan. 14. (AP)—An attempt to penetrate the mysteries of ancient Persian culture is to be made this summer by an American expedition, according to Franklin Mott Gunther, former United States minister of Egypt and president of the American-Persian institute. The expedition will try to discover the cradle of modern civilization, believed to date back to some 4,000 B. C., or many centuries prior to the famous Egyptian dynasties. Gunther explained that evidence has been accumulating for many years, showing that the origins of what is termed modern civilization are to be found on Persian soil. Recent excavations have established that the ancient civilization of Egypt was derived from even earlier Sumerian culture, which flourished in the Euphrates valley.

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Air Blasts Due to Electrical Action Found Cause for Zig-Zag Lightning



Dr. Harris J. Ryan, Leland Stanford university scientist, finds lightning zig-zags because of air blasts from electrical action. In experiments he produced lightning lacework (left) with an electric arc. Below is lightning's "autograph" made by long-continued artificial bell.

PALO ALTO, Calif., Jan. 12. (AP)—An electric arc 30 feet long, a continuous whirling, roaring snake of flame, produced at Leland Stanford university, shows why lightning is jagged.

The zig-zag is due to air blasts caused by electrical action.

The Stanford lightning, an unending stream of fire, made by 2,400,000 volts of electricity alternating 120 times a second across 30 feet of air, discharges the intricate mechanism of electrical forces. It is produced in the high voltage laboratory under direction of Dr. Harris J. Ryan, by a method originated in his laboratory.

The eye sees only a twisting rope of fire, coiling like the handwriting of a crazy person, but a speed camera shows a lace-like design of fine fiery lines.

They are the threads of which the artificial lightning is made, and are spun one at a time as the current alternates to and fro.

The first flash, lasting about a millionth of a second, breaks down the air to permit the passage of the electricity. After that the 30-foot gap is illuminated each hundred-and-twentieth of a second by electric current surging back and forth. Each surge, says Dr. Ryan, follows a slightly different route and produces the photographic lace-like design.

Technically each strand of the lace is an ionized path, full of particles of electricity that have been broken from the air molecules. When these particles, or ions, are once free, they rush at terrific speed along the illuminated channel; they carry so much electricity that an ionized path in air is a better conductor of electricity than the best copper.

The whirling and whipping of the arc, Dr. Ryan says, is due to blasts of air produced by the electrical action.

The blinding light is made of each electrical particle as it is

ether will state that he has done a complete about face since 1928 and is now for prohibition. It was Lucas who caused distribution of a cartoon of a barroom labeled "Al Smith-Raskob's idea of business" during Lucas' secret campaign last fall against Senator Norris of Nebraska. Smith, presidential candidate in 1928, asked an apology on the ground the cartoon was based upon a hoax attributing to him a statement he had not made. Lucas countered with a suggestion that Smith and John J. Raskob, chairman of the Democratic National committee, apologize to the American people for "an organized campaign to misrepresent and smear the President of the United States."

YOUR BRAIN and YOUR HEALTH

By DR. LELAND B. ALFORD THE HEAD

It seems to be a general principle of living structures to migrate in the direction from which they are stimulated. This principle explains why the head contains so many sense organs and also so much of the brain.

It is said that the pounding of lights, sounds and smells on the heads of original living forms accounts for the presence in the head of the eyes, ears and nose. The organs moved toward the source of the greatest stimulation.

The same sort of migration takes place in the nervous system. The principle has been intensively studied in Holland and given the pretentious name of neurobiotaxis—the biological pulling of nervous structures.

Neurobiotaxis may account for the size of brains. In the course of ages the eyes, ears and nose from which the majority of nervous impulses come have pulled many nervous structures into their vicinity.

The result is of course increased efficiency. The brain becomes a headquarters where important activities are carried on in proximity to one another.

Furthermore, as they move the structures arrange themselves into clusters, those with the same duties getting together. These clusters form the so-called centers, each of which performs a certain duty.

The brain of man, therefore, contains much that in lower animals is located in the spinal cord.

What the spinal cord has lost the brain has gained and hence humans have the large and complex organ. Will the head some day be so large that it will be necessary to prop it up with a high starched collar? Will the brain produce sublime thoughts but lack the backbone to put them into practice? These are the questions being asked.

SMITH GETS HOT ANSWER FROM LUCAS

Lucas Says Smith Should Apologize To People

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14. (AP)—The request of Alfred E. Smith for an apology from the Republican National Committee was answered in brusque fashion tonight by Robert H. Lucas, the committee's executive director.

Lucas said he would admit owing Smith an apology "if the Government flashes that come from broken from its molecule."

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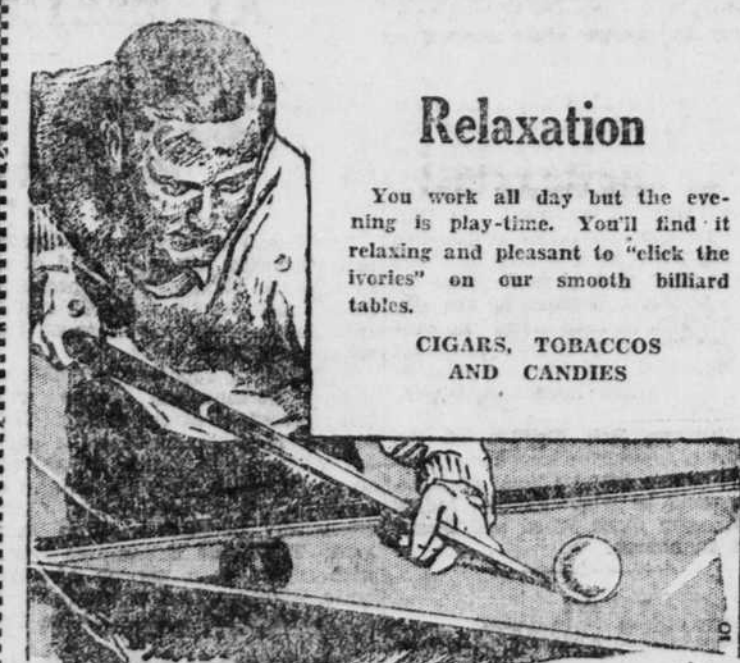
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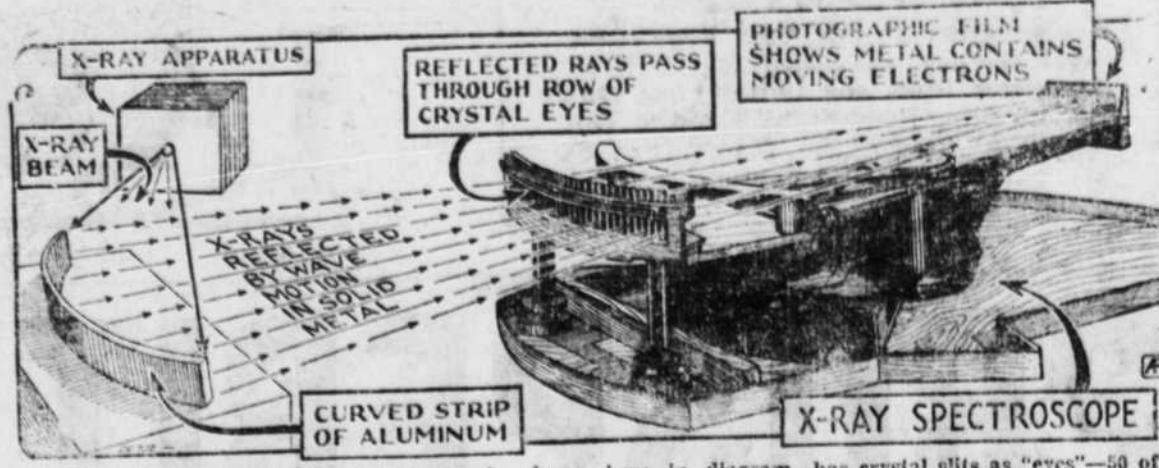
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X-Ray 'Eyes' See Motion in Solid Matter



A multiple crystal X-ray spectrograph, shown here in diagram, has crystal slits as "eyes"—50 of them—which pick up scattered rays of space and focus them on a single photographic plate. These "eyes" have recorded evidence that tiny particles of solid substances are in rapid motion.

FASADENA, Calif., Jan. 12. (AP)—A device with 50 X-ray seeing eyes has been perfected at the California Institute of Technology.

These eyes have "seen" and recorded on photographic negatives evidence that the minute particles of solid substances—such as a piece of graphite, aluminum or beryllium—are in tremendously rapid motion.

So nearly are these waves motions of the particles of graphite, aluminum and beryllium like the wave motion of light that some scientists have called matter "bottled radiation."

If this invisible motion exists, so Dr. Jesse W. M. Du Mond and Harry A. Kirkpatrick of the California Tech staff reasoned, it would affect wave lengths of the X-rays scattered by solid bodies. They made their new machine, the multiple crystal X-ray spectrograph, to find out.

If the particles of the solid were vibrating about, the X-ray waves, being as small as the particles, would rebound variously according to the direction of the particle's motion at the moment of impact.

The effect of such collisions upon X-rays is well established and shows as a change in the wave length, or energy, of the rebounding ray. This is called the Compton effect.

The shift of wave length was discovered by Dr. Arthur Compton, Nobel prize winner of the University of Chicago. The effect produces a broadening of X-ray lines and it is this broadening that Du Mond and Kirkpatrick are studying.

Their problem was to find some method of picking up these reflected and scattered X-rays, and they overcame it by arranging a curving row of 50 crystals to pick up the rays through metallic knife edge slits.

Like 50 eyes these crystal slits pick up the scattered rays and focus them upon a single photographic plate. This is an unbelievably difficult job of "seeing," because from several days up to five weeks is

These spectrum photos definitely show evidence of electron motion in the interior of the solids.

Further, Dr. Du Mond reports to the National Academy of Sciences, they indicate that in the seemingly unmovable solid interior there are flying about in wave paths tiny particles which he calls "free electrons," because they seem not to be attached to the main bulk of the substance.

Collars Go Higher On Winter Coats

PARIS, Jan. 14. (AP)—Madame's collar stands higher and higher on the new winter coats. Some of the evening model col-

lared in sables have high standing collars that reach the top of the wearer's head, while daytime coats display collars of breitchwants and Persian lamb that suggest the same Elizabethan design.

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