

SAVANTS SAY SCOTLAND IS DRIFTING INTO OCEAN

Shift to Westward of 700 Feet Since 1865 Noted in Comparing Two Glasgow Longitudes

LONDON, Jan. 16—Scotland has been drifting westward into the Irish Sea and the Atlantic Ocean at the rate of 700 feet in the last 72 years, experts at the Glasgow Observatory estimated yesterday, according to the Montreal Star.

Recent computations show that Glasgow's longitude west of Greenwich is 17:11:25. In 1865 it was 17:10:55, and the difference—only .7 seconds—works out at 700 feet.

Amazed savants are going to have another look at their instruments before they finally admit that it is true. The figures of 1865, they said, were based on an observation over an ordinary telegraph line, whereas the new longitude is derived from radio time signals given by the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, in London, at regular intervals.

Theory Explained

Greenwich is stationary. T. R. Tan-nahill, Glasgow Observatory official conceded. He said the explanation of the drift seemed to be that England and Scotland were floating like a raft, anchored partly to the continent at some point in Kent and pivoting westward.

"We find it difficult to believe," he added, "but close examination of the early calculations reveals no error, and a mistake of .7 in the observation is unlikely, especially as they were taken on four different nights. It is far too startling an occurrence to accept without further investigation and observations will have to be made over a number of years before we are satisfied."

The news has split London astron-

omers into three camps. Dr. Harold Spence Jones, Astronomer Royal, was polite but skeptical. He suspected the accuracy of the 1865 observers, saying: "It is a quite impossible divergence due to any change in longitude."

Dr. A. C. D. Crommelin, former president of the Royal Astronomical Society, was cautious. "Such a change in position in a mere lifetime, does not seem probable," he said, "but it is perhaps wise not to be too definite. There is a theory, not generally held, I admit, that such a movement is taking place. The evidence in its favor, however, is not conclusive."

Quite a Possibility

Dr. Martin Davidson came out boldly and said the drift was "quite a possibility" as illustrated by the life history of the eel.

"The eel," he explained, "proceeds from the inland waters of the continent to breed in a spot in the Atlantic south of the Bermudas. This points to the fact that the land masses were once joined and are now drifting slowly apart, while the eels retain their old habits. The possibility of this theory being true is emphasized by the fact that young eels return to English and European waters. Consequently, the possibility that Britain is retreating on a semi-liquid foundation pivoting westward, is quite conceivable."

Harvard Interested

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Jan. 14—Dr. Kirtley Mather, Professor of Geology at Harvard described as "extremely important to the entire science of geology" observations at Glasgow of a "drift" of Scotland toward Ireland.

Somewhat similar phenomena, he said, were under observation in Iceland, Greenland and Scandinavia.

"We have been suspicious," he said "that there were changes in longitude at several places on the surface of the earth which would indicate a slow movement of the earth's outer shell. The difficulty is to get sufficiently precise measurements. Our modern methods are very much superior since the coming of radio to measurements of 50 years ago."

"Unfortunately there is some indication of a curious stretching of the earth's outer shell, followed by a

SHIFTING SPEAKER MAY AID QUALITY

Best Tone Found Only by Moving Console

An important but frequently overlooked factor in radio receiver performance is the height of the loudspeaker above the floor, particularly if the latter is covered by a heavy rug or carpet. If the set is a console not much experimenting is possible, but at least the whole instrument can be tried in different locations.

Table model receivers will be found to sound noticeably different when placed at different levels. In a typical case, a set of high quality was first placed in a false fireplace, directly on the floor, the owner thinking that the flared construction of the fireplace would help in projecting the sound outward. However, voice and music sounded quite poor, probably because a thick rug came within six inches of the cabinet. The receiver was then shifted to an end table about two feet high and the reproduction improved immediately. The crisp tone was obtained with the set on top of the fireplace, but in this position it was too conspicuous.

Rugs, drapes and stuffed furniture tend to absorb sound and make a room sound 'dead.' The sound waves from the loudspeaker must be given a chance to circulate; if the room is too well furnished the vibrations are absorbed too quickly and the programmes sound 'tubby.'

Thick rugs virtually soak up sound impulses. This is one of the reasons for the popularity of the inclined sounding board or speaker baffle used in some console receivers. The sound is thrown slightly upward rather than straight out and less of it is absorbed by floor coverings.

contraction, as though points of observation moved in one direction, and then back again in the opposite direction, sometimes within a day.

"That complicates the problem and I would like to know just how the Glasgow observations were determined, whether by observation of the stars on just one occasion or frequently, over a long period."

"The Glasgow observations may mean something of great significance. They do not surprise me for it is right in line with things we are discovering."

LIAR WHO WON A TOWN'S HEART

Winsted, Conn., to Build Bridge in Honor of the Writer Who Put It on Map

NEW YORK, Jan. 16—Winsted, Conn., is a little town, but it was lucky enough to have for the first thirty years after the turn of the century, a talented liar. His name was Louis Timothy Stone, and he died in 1933 at the age of 57. But he had put Winsted on the map and Winsted, properly grateful, is about to build a lasting monument to him in the shape of a new bridge over Sucker Brook to be known as the Lew Stone bridge.

It is the hope of the present generation of natives of Winsted that the bridge will stand forever as a tribute to the man who kept Winsted on the first page of the metropolitan dailies for years with his brief but delightful whimsies. Stone was a newspaper man and shared all the failings of the tribe, including an occasional acute need for ready cash. When that need afflicted him he sat down in the office of the Winsted Evening Citizen, with which paper he was regularly connected, and wrote a story for the late New York World, the late New York Herald, the Boston dailies and the Associated Press. His stories always made the first page and always yielded fat checks.

Once, years ago, he was in urgent need of \$150. He wrote a story about the Winsted wild man who was loose in the woods and terrorizing the countryside. Lew was not so well known then as he became later, and the telegraph editors of the New York, Boston and other newspapers took the yarn seriously and sent reporters post haste to Winsted, Conn.

Lew hadn't figured on the competition of big town reporters. He thought he would have the story to himself. Of course, with the town full of the strange journalists, Lew had nothing to write, but he had lots of fun with the visiting journalists, and finally rounded them up one day on a hunt for the wild man. The city newspaper men, armed to the teeth, detected a stealthy movement in a thicket. They fired in that direction, with better aim than Lew thought possible, and after they had invaded the thicket and came upon the still warm but bullet-ridden corpse of Pat Dan-ehy's jackass they saw a great light and shook the dust of Winsted from their feet. Lew had a great story about the visiting journalists in the Winsted Evening Citizen, but he gained no cash from the city papers

and had to think up another story to get the \$150 he needed.

Best Liar in New England

Lew was born in Winsted and remained there all his life. When he established himself as the best liar in New England many city papers offered him jobs but Lew was too smart to accept them.

"There's no chance to think up good lies such as I tell in the city," he would say, when he came down to New York or went up to Boston. "After a while they'd get on to me and chase me back to the woods."

Stone specialized in what Theodore Roosevelt called nature fakes. Here are a few of his masterpieces:

The cat with the hare lip that whistled Yankee Doodle.

The bulldog with the maternal instinct that parked for three weeks on a setting of eggs after the hen became discouraged.

The cow that was so cold one winter's day she gave ice cream.

The other Winsted bovine that was so shaken by a garage explosion that she gave butter at the next milking.

The Highland Lake windstorm that blew a piece of paper into a typewriter and printed the alphabet backward.

The rooster that alighted on the signal cord of a New York to Winsted passenger train and signalled the engineer to halt.

The twenty-five cent piece that, lost in the garden in the spring was found in the centre of a head of cabbage the following fall.

The cow, once owned by two old maids, that was so modest she wouldn't allow the man that bought her to do the milking. The purchaser finally solved the problem by donning his wife's dress.

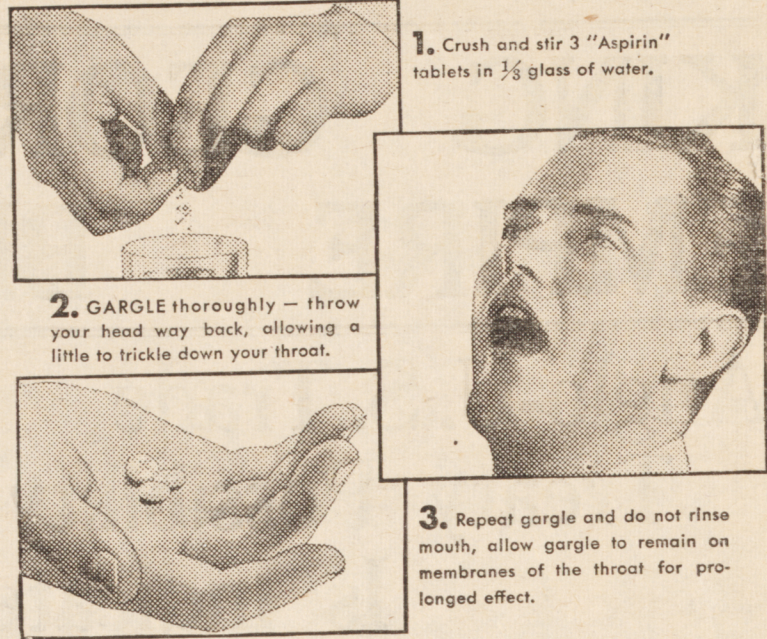
The hen that was handicapped but honest; she couldn't lay an egg every day for some unknown reason, but she made up for her shortcoming by laying two every other day.

The Winstedian who kept flies from playing leap-frog on his bald pate by painting a spider on the barren and exposed portion.

Week after week items like these were wired out of Winsted. No wonder the little city is proud of him.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 14—Consideration of an application from the Netherlands for extension of the Dutch air-day pending consultation with the lines to Australia from the Netherlands East Indies was postponed to Government.

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