

# MARS IS ONLY 34,648,000 MILES AWAY SO HAVE A LOOK TONIGHT

By DAVID DIETZ  
Science Editor of The Times  
STRONOMERS all over the world are praying for a cloudless night tonight. The reason is this:

The planet Mars tonight will be closer to the earth than it has been for the preceding century or than it will be for the next century.

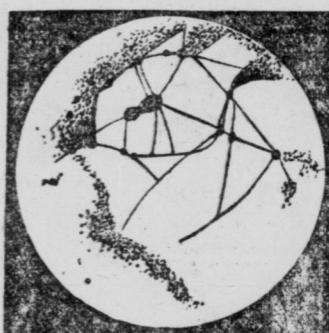
Mars is only 34,648,000 miles away tonight.

They are hoping that the view will throw much needed light on such disputed questions as to whether Mars has an atmosphere or whether Mars is inhabited.

It is within the range of possibilities that tonight's work may solve the Martian question.

REFERENCE to the accompanying diagram will show why the distance between the earth and Mars varies.

Both the earth and Mars revolve



DRAWING OF MARS BY THE LATE PROFESSOR LOWELL.

around the sun. The earth is approximately 93,000,000 miles from the sun. Mars is approximately 141,500,000 miles from the sun.

Now in general, Mars and the

earth are closest to each other when they are in what astronomers call opposition. That is, when they are both on the same side of the sun and when a straight line drawn from the sun to Mars passes through the earth.

But the orbit of Mars is a flattened circle, and accordingly its distance from the sun varies.

Therefore the distance between the earth and Mars at opposition depends upon where Mars is in its orbit.

If opposition takes place at what the astronomer calls aphelion—when Mars is farthest from the sun—it will be 63,000,000 miles from the earth to Mars.

But if opposition takes place when Mars is closest to the sun—at what astronomers call perihelion—then the distance will be only 34,648,000 miles.

And that is just what happens tonight.

## REWARDS SPUR POLICE ON TRAIL OF ELKS VANDALS

Prosecutor Also Says He Has Evidence for Grand Jury.

Work of apprehending the vandals who entered the new Elks Club Bidg., under construction at Meridian and St. Clair Sts., and caused damage to metal doors and window casings to the extent of \$10,000 is progressing satisfactorily, according to report of detectives assigned to the case today.

The reward of \$1,000 offered by the Dahlstrom Metallic Door Company, Jamestown, N. Y., and an additional \$100 by the Bricklayers and Masons Union No. 3, spurred activities of police.

John J. McNamara, business agent for the structural iron workers, who refused to sign a resolution adopted by the Marion County Building Trades Council condemning acts of vandalism and pledging aid of the council in running down the vandals, today refused to make any explanation.

"I have not a word to say," McNamara said.

### Sperlin Explains

C. D. Sperlin, business agent for the Sheet Metal Workers' Union, who also refused to sign the resolution, said he only did so because he had no authority to do so from his union.

"Personally, I indorsed every word in the resolution," Sperlin said.

The Sheet Metal Workers Union, in a meeting on Thursday night, unanimously adopted a resolution similar in text to that of the Trades Council. The resolution pledged support to civil authorities in apprehending vandals in any acts of sabotage or violence.

Prosecutor William H. Remy is making thorough investigation of the vandalism through his office, and states he expects to have evidence for the grand jury, which convenes Sept. 1.

### Editor Flays Act

Don Campbell, editor of the Indiana Construction Recorder, official publication of the building contractors of Indiana, commenting on the recent labor troubles, declared the acts committed at the Elks Club outrageous.

"There is a national board of jurisdictional awards, created for settlement of jurisdictional disputes, but it appears all over the country this board is disregarded by men of the locals, who seek to settle matters for themselves," Campbell said.

"There is no doubt that destruction of property in such manner and under such conditions will have a serious effect on the building situ-

## NECKS STRETCH TO SEE PLANET MARS

Neighboring World Near Us Can Be Viewed After Sun-set for Several Days, Astronomers Say.

There was Jackie Coogan, Baby Fergie, Fatty Arbuckle. Then comes Ringling Brothers Circus. But before that is Mars! Mars will give a free exhibition lasting all night Friday. And incidentally, Mars will not come this way again for about 124 years.

Mars will be closer to the earth Friday night than it has been since 1877. It is usually somewhere in the neighborhood of 200,000,000 miles away, but at present it is kindly coming around to show itself off and will approach the earth as near as 34,000,000 miles!

Years Twice as Long

The years on Mars are twice as long as the years as we know them, according to Dean, but the planet turns on its axis every twenty-four hours, as the earth does. So the year there has about twice as many days as ours does.

"The length of the years causes the seasons to be altogether different from ours," said Dean. "They are having spring there now. One can see, through a powerful telescope, what is thought to be the southern polar cap of the planet.

"The polar cap appears to be decreasing in size and is thought to be ice and snow as we have it in the earth's polar regions.

"I don't think much of the ideas of wireless messages between the earth and Mars," he continued. "It is altogether too visionary. We have no reason to think they have developed wireless. We have had it only a short time.

"I don't think Mars is any older than the earth. According to Moulton's planetesimal hypothesis, the planet's were all created at the same time. So Mars, if it is inhabited, will not lessen perceptibly for five or six days, as it is near the earth for several days."

And what's a little distance like that? It is only equal to 13,600,000 trips around the Indianapolis speedway. And at the rate Joe Boyer traveled in the last race he would only have to keep his Dusie going for 14,158 days or about thirty-nine years.

Mars is visible to the naked eye from a short time after dark until almost sunrise according to John C. Dean, Indianapolis astronomer, who has studied the planet for years.

Appears After Sun-set

"Friday night Mars will appear in the southeastern part of the sky right after sunset and will be visible until sunrise," Dean said. "It is distinguishable by its bright reddish color. Its brightness will not lessen perceptibly for five or six days, as it is near the earth for several days."

"I have not a word to say," McNamara said.

Dean disagrees with some astronomers who claim Mars is inhabited.

"If it is inhabited," said Dean, "the inhabitants are certainly not anything like human beings. Nature does not produce things alike. It is too cold there for people like us to live."

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## FIRM PREDICTS NEW PROSPERITY

Nordyke and Marmon Hiring

100 Men a Day.

Increasing "sound prosperity" with demand for real values, was predicted today by G. M. Williams, president and general manager of the Nordyke & Marmon Co. He said his company has been adding 100 men a day for the past week to speed production.

Sales for the past two months have been 54 per cent larger than last year, he said. He predicted fewer automobiles would be produced in 1925. Too many were built in 1923, he said.

Indiansapolis is defendant, because the street "was negligently allowed to become out of repair." The plaintiff says there were many holes in the street, varying in depth from three to ten inches.

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**T**HE discussion over Mars was precipitated by an Italian astronomer named Schiaparelli in 1877.

The first map of Mars had been drawn by astronomers in 1840. But until 1877, no one noticed anything unusual about the planet.

Then Schiaparelli announced that he could see dark markings on the planet. He called them "canale," Italian for "channels."

But the word was translated into

both English and French as canals.

The battle was on at once. Other astronomers disagreed with Schiaparelli. It was not until 1886 that another astronomer agreed with him.

In 1892 Professor Percival Lowell of Boston built an observatory at Flagstaff, Ariz., equipped with a twenty-four-inch telescope. He became the most famous exponent of the theory that there were canals on Mars and that Mars was inhabited.

But the late Professor Barnard, considered the greatest authority on planets, although he used both the thirty-six-inch telescope at the Lick Observatory and the forty-inch telescope at the Yerkes Observatory, was never able to see any canals on Mars.

Barnard, however, was able to detect certain changes in the general appearance of the planet with the change of seasons.

Astronomers unable to see the canals say that the others see the canals as a result of a trick of

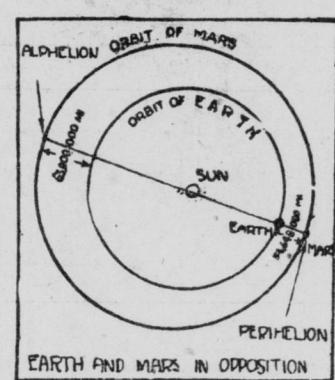


DIAGRAM SHOWING POSITIONS OF SUN, EARTH AND MARS.

psychological optics—their eyes show them what they want to see and not what really exists.

## BRING DOGS TO POUND, IS PLEA

Dr. Conger Will Send Ambulance—Rabies Rare.

"Dog days" are with us once more.

And today they called for vigorous protest from Dr. Elizabeth Conger, city poundmaster, over the treatment dogs are receiving.

She said policemen are shooting stray dogs promiscuously, from fear of rabies.

"If citizens or owners are afraid of dogs, let 'em call us and we'll send an emergency ambulance or a truck to take the dogs to the dog pound," she said.

Law says a policeman has no right to shoot a dog except on request of the owner, or in case of emergency.

Dr. Conger said if persons who owned dogs which showed symptoms of rabies would call Main 3439 or Webster 1511, the dogs would be sent for and kept under surveillance at the dog pound, 4400 Massachusetts Ave., until cured. She also asked persons who saw stray dogs to call her.

"Rabies does not develop until ten to fifteen days after the first symptoms—frothing at the mouth—appear," Dr. Conger said.

"I handle 5,000 dogs at the pound every year and I never have found

MARS has a diameter of 4,200 miles, about half the diameter of the earth.

The planet has two moons, which are so small that a large telescope must be used to see them.

The planet rotates on its axis in 24 hours, 27 minutes and 22 seconds. It revolves about the sun in 689 days. Each season on Mars therefore, would be twice as long as on earth.

There is considerable doubt as to the existence of an atmosphere on Mars. Spectroscopic evidence is against it. Clouds, however, are observed above the planet, but many astronomers think they are dust clouds and not water vapor.

The astronomers who believe Mars is inhabited think they are ice caps. Others think they are only frozen carbon dioxide.

one case of rabies. I'm not afraid of the dogs."

Police went to the home of Fred Mossberger, 513 Coffey St., and shot a stray dog, believed mad.

Dr. W. H. King, State health commissioner is investigating to determine whether there is an epidemic of rabies following shooting of a dog belonging to H. W. Hollingsworth, 1247 N. Pershing Ave.

## HEAT FAILS TO SWELL ARRESTS

Only Five Arrested on Speeding Charges.

Although the weather gave the desire to "step on it" and cool off, only five persons were arrested on speeding charges since Thursday, the turnkey's slate shows today.

Gratification of results in the campaign against speeders was voiced today by police officials upon learning that only ten persons have been arrested in two days for violating the speed laws.

Those arrested on speeding charges:

Russell Meyer, 16, of 1423 E. Market St.; Marion Jackson, 34, colored, of 324 W. Twenty-First St.; Oliver North, 24, of 2227 E. Tenth St.; Harry Reinhardt, 17, 214 N. Tremont Ave.; Henry Otterback, 18, of 721 Union St.

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