

The Eclipse Of The Sun As Viewed In Philippines

By The Rev. Miguel Selga, S. J.

In the afternoon of May 9, 1929, the light of the sun was shut off by the Moon from a wide belt, which includes the most densely populated islands of Visayas. With a velocity of 30.5 miles a minute, the moon's shadow travelled from Palawan to Dinagat, covering the island of Panay, northern Negros, northern Cebu, Leyte and southern Samar. The average width of the belt of totality was 110 miles and included the capitals of the provinces of Antique, Iloilo, Occidental Negros, Cebu and Leyte. The duration of the total phase ranged from 3.9 minutes around Dumaran Island to 3.4 minutes in the southern part of Samar. The eclipse was visible everywhere in the Philippines; as total in the main islands of Visayas and as partial in the rest of the Archipelago. From Babuyan in the north to Tawi Tawi in the south the sun was at least 70 per cent eclipsed.

Three circumstances appealed specially to astronomers and gave considerable prominence to this eclipse in the Philippines; first, the altitude of the Sun at the time of the eclipse: second, the duration of the totality: and third, the probability of fair weather. Astronomers have undertaken long journeys to observe eclipses, when the sun was only 10 degrees above the horizon. The case of Lapland on June 1927 is too recent to have been forgotten. Why should not the astronomers consider coming to view our eclipse in the Philippines, where the sun was to be 35 degree above the horizon at the time of totality? It is estimated that the total amount of time during which astronomers have been able to photograph the corona, including all eclipses since the development of photography up to the present time, is less than one hour. Why should not the astronomers consider coming to the Philippines to add three more minutes of research to the

higher than the most sanguine speculator might have anticipated. Many an hacendero considered himself happier with the possession of a smoked glass than with a picul of sugar, at least under present Timberlake prices anyway. By two o'clock p.m. everybody in Iloilo, was out, in the streets, or on the field, or in the verandas, or on the flat roofs. Pinholes cameras, smoked glasses, undeveloped plates, old films were the astronomical instruments of the thousands of spectators. Between Jaro and Iloilo all cars and trucks were stopped fifteen minutes before totality, in order to minimize the vibration of the ground and give to the English party the best opportunity to take photographs for the corona with the least possible shaking of the instruments.

The Governor General paid us the highest honor by joining our observing party in the grounds of Colegio de San Agustin. The layout of our camp was simplicity itself: a foot-bal field 70 x 100 meters, clean, levelled, with an unobstructed view all around from NE to NW through the S. within the field the Moll solarimeter, the Abbot pyrheliometer, the Richard pyrheliograph, the Arago actinograph two cameras, four coronoscopes a telescope and an illuminometer. We began our series of observations at 1:30 p.m. to be continued until 5:00 p.m. Meanwhile hundreds of spectators were engaged in examining the radiant globe projected upon an azure sky. By 3:00 p.m. the illumination of the sky and of the objects around us had considerably diminished. By 3:20 there was a general and perceptible feeling of a drop of temperature. Darkness began to be felt, a tangible darkness, swift as imagination, silent as doom. The blue sky changed to gray or dull purple, becoming more and more dusky. People shouted "Stars! Stars!" and several minutes before totality there

QUEZON GOING TO CONTINENT

Plans to Spend Several Months In Health Resorts In Switzerland

Senate President Quezon is planning to leave for Europe shortly with Dr. Miciano, it was learned Friday.

He is leaving in the interest of his health. He may stay a number of months in one of the health resorts of Switzerland.

It is very probable that he will sail as soon as Senator Osmeña returns from Europe. The latter may thus act as president of the senate. It is not definitely known whether Mrs. Quezon will accompany her husband.

President Quezon has been advised by his physicians not to leave his house nor to do office work, but pressure of work needing immediate action is keeping him busy just the same.

term. The other phases of the eclipse had few attentive spectators beyond the observers devoted spe-

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