

Popular Science

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Pictures



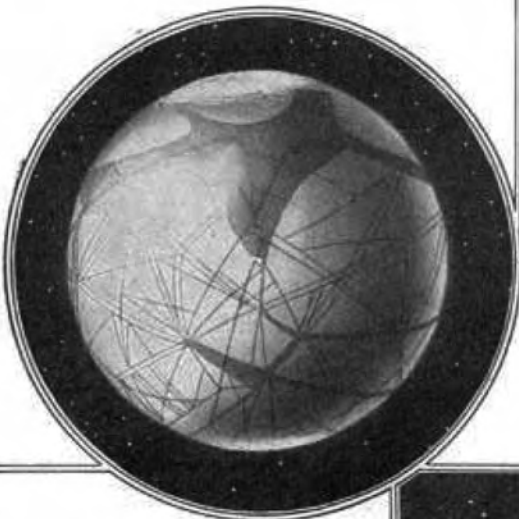
"Hello, Mars—This Is the Earth!"

THE more imaginative modern astronomers are inclined to believe, with the late Professor Percival Lowell, that Mars is inhabited. Assume that Mars is inhabited. How can we talk to the Martians? What a world-wide sensation there would be if we were to receive from Mars a flash in response to a signal of ours!

But how will the scientists signal to Mars? At its nearest, the planet will be about thirty-five million miles away in 1924. Various proposals have been made by Professor Pickering, Professor Wood, and the imaginative Professor Flammarion. In order to visualize and explain how these distinguished astronomers will communicate with Mars, Mr. Max Fleischer has directed the preparation of a motion-picture film for the Bray Studios. Through the courtesy of Mr. Fleischer and the Bray Studios we are enabled to present on these two pages excerpts from the film

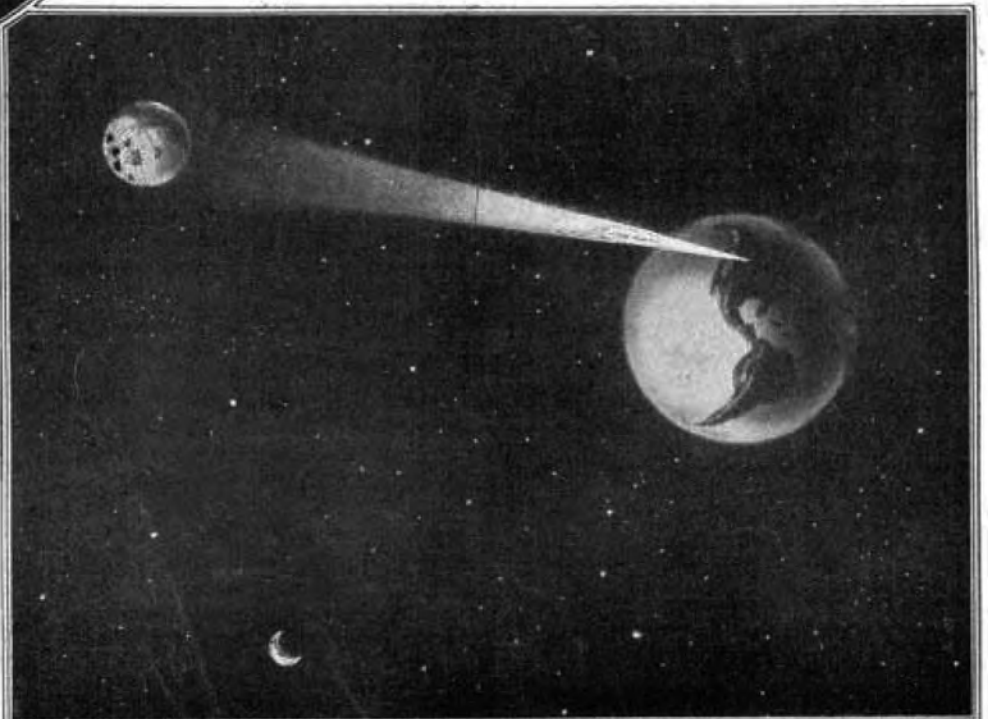


The well known French astronomer, Professor Camille Flammarion, to popularize the notion of Mars' habitability, suggested that an electric light. It would be a costly experiment. A huge tract of Sahara, for instance—would have to be "planted" with the lamps would have to be generated in a power house big once said that he hated to die rich. Here is a chance to

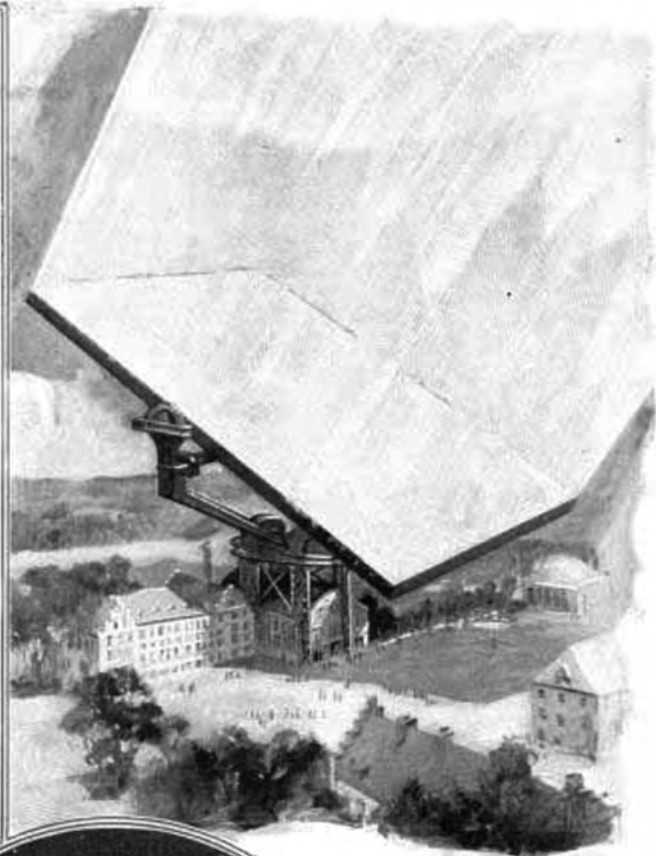


The distinguishing features of Mars are its "canals," first discovered by Schiaparelli and later minutely studied by Lowell. It was Lowell who advanced the theory that the canals are great irrigation ditches. Mars has almost dried up. Water is to be found only at the poles. If vegetation is to flourish, the water of the melting polar snows must be conducted to the arid regions. Hence the canals. Several hundred were charted by Lowell. The canals are the only evidences of intelligent life that we have.

To the right we have the earth flashing a message to Mars. Who knows but some day we may tell the Martians all about our great war, all about the struggle for democratic ideals, all about the terrible upheaval through which we have just passed! Perhaps we will learn from an older and wiser planet how we ought to run the Earth



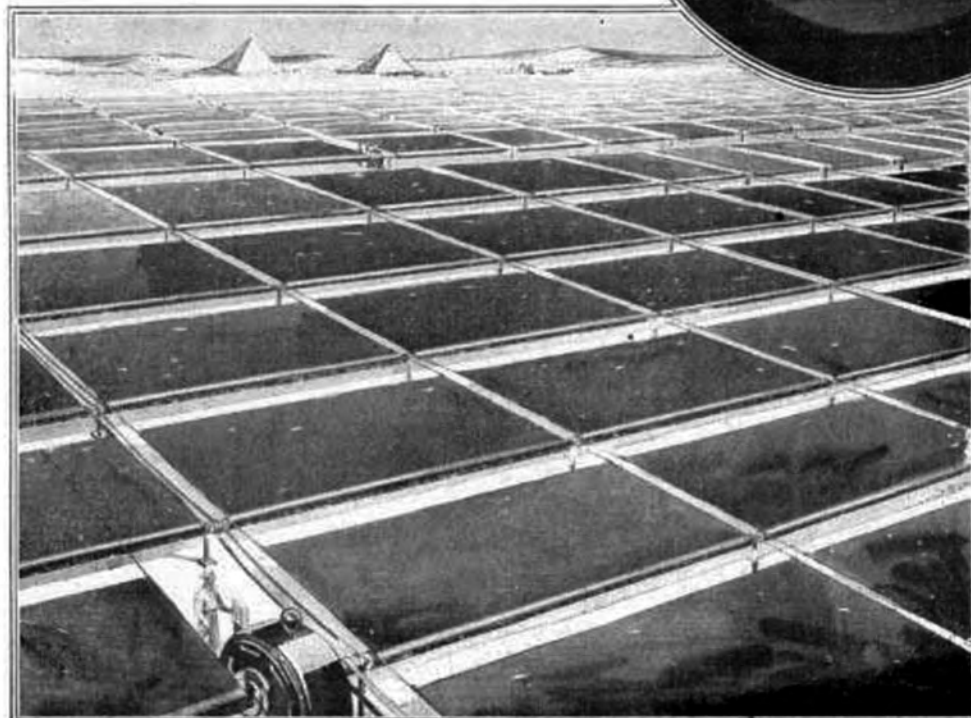
Will the Martians Answer Us?



who has done more than any other man in Europe enormous area on the Earth should be covered with of land—a considerable portion of the Desert millions of lamps. The current to illuminate enough to run a railway. Andrew Carnegie get rid of several million dollars at one swoop



Professor Pickering, of the Harvard College Observatory, suggested that a huge mirror be mounted, to swing on an axis so that it can reflect the sun's rays to Mars from any angle. It would take an enormous power plant to flash dots and dashes to the wondering Martians. And what would they see? As the picture on the left shows, a luminous spot which alternately glows and extinguishes itself



The picture at the left would like a neatly cut-up farm. It represents Professor R. W. Wood's proposed method of communicating with Mars. The Professor would cover some huge white space on the earth, a portion of the Desert of Sahara, for instance, with strips of black cloth. These strips he would wind and unwind by means of electric motors. The result would be a series of winks. When the black strips are wound up, the white sand below reflects the sun's rays; when the strips are unrolled, the white area is covered. This is probably the cheapest method of optical signaling yet proposed