

Pickering. This material consists of about 100 reports from the Toronto area, a number from the Georgian Bay region of Ontario, and 4 from more westerly parts of Canada (Mortlach and Pense in Saskatchewan, Fort Frances and Fort William in western Ontario), as well as one from Bermuda and 5 from ships in the North Atlantic. Data from the United States, which Chant made no attempt to obtain, are conspicuous by their absence, altho he did secure 2 observations: one from southern Michigan and another from Watchung, New Jersey. Yet, if the procession were indeed continuous or quasi-continuous, it ought to have been seen in far-northern North Dakota, Minnesota, and perhaps Wisconsin, in both halves of Michigan, in western New York, in northeastern Pennsylvania, and in northern New Jersey. On the other hand, if it were a discontinuous phenomenon, as suggested by Wylie, one would not expect to find any indication of connection between the different, known observations, when the intermediate areas were investigated: the pattern of observation developed should not reveal a linear concentration, but a diffuse distribution of randomly scattered and inconsistent reports of meteoric activity on that evening. An attempt to unearth hitherto uncollected observational evidence, therefore, seemed likely to help clarify a confused situation.

During the past 18 months, the writer has carried out extensive inquiries of newspaper editors in the 7 states just named. For the most part, only those within 50-75 miles of the Chant trace were queried, but in Michigan and in eastern Pennsylvania the canvass was carried as far as 200 miles to the southwest of the trace. It cannot be claimed, however, that *every* newspaper within possible observational distance has been questioned. Of some 615 newspapers asked to search their files, 274 have been generous enough to do so, altho in only 27 instances was anything relevant found. In addition, weather bureaus of all the states, and local historians in New York, have been questioned; in New Jersey, several newspaper files were obtained thru the courtesy of local public libraries. A number of editors coöperated with the research to the extent of carrying the appeal for information in their columns, and those appeals produced several valuable observations. In Pennsylvania and New Jersey, advertisements also were placed in newspapers near the supposed track of the procession.

The results of this extensive canvass have been somewhat meager in view of the effort expended (both on our part and that of the newspaper editors and others who coöperated in the search), but a certain amount of new evidence has been obtained, which, if it does nothing else, at least definitely serves to rule out both the spaceship interpretation of Fort and the ordinary meteor-shower interpretation