

if their speed had been so near that of a satellite in a vacuum".

It appears obvious to me that Dr. Chant has, from the very first report of the occurrence, assumed the objects were meteors and reached his conclusions on the basis of such an assumption. He apparently felt that they must necessarily have exceeded 5 mps to have remained in flight, and has set his estimate of their speed in excess of orbital speed in order to fit his belief that the objects were in fact meteors (i.e., they did not fall to earth, therefore they moved in excess of orbital speed).

Chant's calculations of size, based on the evidence available, ranged from 123 ft minimum to 3000 ft maximum. He appears to be too conservative about his own estimate ("at least 100 ft") but again seems to be basing this on his assumption that meteors are not much larger than 100 ft in diameter.

Now, if we take another look at the reports (and Chant has presumably included the best in his paper) and consider this event without any preconceived idea that the bodies were meteors, different conclusions can be arrived at, such as:

- (a) the speed of the bodies was probably a little less than 5 mps, and
- (b) the bodies may have ranged in size anywhere from 123 ft to 3000 ft.

These conclusions could lead to all sorts of possibilities, including that the bodies were powered and controlled and thereby able to remain in an orbital path at below orbital speed.

What I am suggesting is that the evidence does not clearly support the meteor explanation, and therefore we must not state that they were meteors. Indeed, I think the evidence is clear enough to show that these bodies were probably not meteors.

This, of course, leaves us with the question, - what, then, were they? In my personal opinion, there is a lack of evidence on which to form any conclusion at all, and that the objects must therefore remain unidentified. As they were in fact flying, it seems reasonable to class them as unidentified flying objects.

Dr. Chant's analysis was, of course, made in 1913, but in the light of present knowledge about unknown objects in our skies, a review of this event seems to be in order.