

# **STRANGE LIGHT IN SKY WATCHED BY CROWDS**

***Due to Filmy Clouds in Clear Sky,  
Professor Jacoby Asserts—  
Aurora, Washington Says.***

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The peculiar lights that appeared in the sky last night between 9 and 12 o'clock, which were thought by many persons to be the northern lights, or the aurora borealis, were probably due to thin isolated clouds which, when appearing in a clear sky, seem to be radiant, according to a statement made last night by Dr. Harold Jacoby, Professor of Astronomy at Columbia University.

Professor Jacoby said that his attention had been called to the phenomena early in the evening, and he had examined the sky, but had been unable to detect anything resembling the aurora borealis. He said:

"There seemed to me to be no sign of the aurora borealis, although I did see some wisps of clouds directly overhead which seemed to be radiant. The aurora borealis seldom appears as far south as this latitude, and when it does it is generally seen low down in the sky near the horizon, unlike the light which I saw directly overhead."

The lights which were seen last night were alternately blue and red. Professor Jacoby said that the aurora borealis did not appear in red and blue colors, but had the appearance of an electro-magnetic discharge, resembling the light that comes from an electric light bulb.

The Weather Bureau issued the following statement last night on the light which attracted thousands of New Yorkers:

"The Weather Bureau reports an unusually brilliant aurora borealis for this latitude tonight. This illumination became especially noticeable about 8 P. M. and was very brilliant at 11 P. M., being well-tinted with streamers from the arch. This phenomena is not frequent in this latitude, and the present one is typical and exceptional for so far south. The aurora is an electrical discharge, chiefly in the upper air, and dependent in some way on the magnetic conditions of the earth and sun. It has a period of greatest frequency every eleven years, corresponding to sun spots frequencies."

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WASHINGTON, March 7.—Brilliant lights in the sky over the capital tonight brought a large part of the population into the streets to observe what was thought to be a big fire. It was the aurora borealis, and officials of the Naval Observatory said the display was the best they ever had seen in this latitude.

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BOSTON, March 7.—A brilliant red light was visible in the sky over New England tonight for a period of about three hours. At the Harvard Observatory it was said that the blood-red effect resulted from peculiar electrical conditions in the upper strata of the atmosphere.