

# Beloved, an Aurora Borealis Glows in Northern Sky; Startles Capital

A remarkable manifestation of the aurora borealis, remarkable in that it was so far south and so late in the season, was observed in this city last night. Shortly after 9 o'clock brilliant, dancing, wavering lights appeared in the north and northwest heavens and continued intermittently until well after midnight. The celestial phenomena attracted the attention of weather bureau officials, who described it as one of the most unusual sights that this city has ever known.

Stretching across about 30 degrees of the northern zenith, the lights flared in bursts of red and purple and streaks of gold and white. They glowed for three or four minutes at times, and again showed in fitful flashes of only seconds' duration. They glared at times and caused a report throughout the city that there was an immense fire to the north.

Telegraph wires were seriously affected. The electricity partially responsible for the appearance of the lights overcharged the wires throughout the Northwest and was responsible for extremely poor service, although the atmospheric conditions appeared to be ideal.

"This poor service," said Dr. H. C. Frankenfield, in charge of the weather bureau, "points plainly to the appearance of the aurora borealis. It is very rare that the 'northern lights' are seen as far south as this, and especially at this time of the year."

Officials of the Western Union Telegraph Company confirmed the statement of the weather bureau expert that their service had been impaired by the phenomena.

When the lights first showed in the northern heavens householders began telephoning to find out what was happening.

A number of persons called up the police to find out whether Baltimore was on fire, and finally led the police to ascertain for themselves the cause of the lights. Numerous others were convinced that the lights came from searchlights planted by the government to guard the city from air attacks. This delusion became quite general, despite the fact that the lights were diffused and not in a long, single strip, such as would be thrown from a searchlight lens.

The supercharged telegraph wires felt the effect of the aurora borealis' visit for several hours after the lights disappeared.

Dispatches from New York, Boston, Duluth, Memphis and other points told of gorgeous displays witnessed by citizens. At Duluth the lights took the form of an eagle with pinions spread.

At San Antonio, Tex., two army officers believing a camp on fire sped away for hours over the prairie in an automobile. Chicago thought the city burning. At Norfolk fears were entertained that ships were burning or that coast timber was ablaze. In all places people were much excited.