Oakland Tribune

SAYS HE SAW IT.

Cass Gilson Gives a Graphic Description of the Airship.

HE WATCHED IT MOVING.

It Was About 1500 Feet Above the Level Ground.

SIDE PROPELLERS WORKED.

It Was Cigar Shaped With a Tail Like a Fish's.

The airship has again been careering through Oakland atmosphere, and has even permitted a favored few to catch a glimpse of its metal sides and patent wings These who have seen it refuse to believe that they were misled by their imaginations or have mistaken Mars or Venus for electric light streaming from the fancied head of a mythical arlship

Now a young electrician of this city declares on his word of honor that he has seen the airship at close range, and describes its exact appearance. The young man is Case Gilson, a son of Professor Gilson, ex-Superintendent of Schools and principal of the Normal Training School. His testimony is supported by other young men who saw the strange aerial navigator at the same time.

Gilson and his friends saw the airship twice during last Thursday evening, at 8 and 8.30 P. M. The skies were perfectly clear, and a strong northwest wind was blowing. The airship was moving rapidly from the southeast towards the north in the teeth of the wind. No light was visible, merely the weird peculiar body silhouetted against the clear skies. Case Gilson, his small brother and the Petah brothers distinctly saw the strange sight, and Gilson describes its appearance very graphically.

"The airship was moving very rapidly from the southeast towards Lorin, and not a light was visible," said Gilson. "It was about 1,000 or 1,500 feet in the air and looked like a great black cigar with a fish-like tail. If it had side propellers, they were revolving so rapidly that I could not see them The body was at least 100 feet long and attached to it was a triangular tail, one apex being attached to the main body. The surface of the airship looked as if it were made of aluminum, which exposure to wind and weather had turned dark. I saw all this distinctly, and I am willing to take any oath to the truth of what I say.

"The airship went at a tremendous speed. As it neared Lorin it turned quickly and disappeared in the direction of San Francisco. At half past 8 we saw it again, when it took about the same direction and disappeared.

"I have studied the subject of airships to a certain extent, and I see no reason why one should not be successful. I know that I was not mistaken about the airship and took a kite for the real thing It was an airship, of that I am convinced."

Gilson has some ideas of his own on the construction of airships, and since seeing the strange objects in the skies has become more enthusiastic than ever.

Percy Drew was another individual favored with a glimpse of the airship. He says it visited Oakland Saturday night. It then carried a red light and moved with its usual quickness. Both young men agree that the ship was of enormous size, measuring at least 100 feet in length. Gilson thinks nitrogen gas is used to lift the machine, and that Fargo electric batteries supply the propelling power.

Gilson is at present the only person who has openly declared that the machine was visible on a clear night. Its previous appearances have been on cloudy, obscure nights, when persons may have been misled by taking stars for electric lights and clouds for the shadowy form of an airship Gilson is also an amateur astronomer, and declares that he could not mistake a star or a cloud for an airship He believes that if the French made a partial success of an airship in 1888 it is not surprising that American enterprise has perfected plans for a machine which is now successfully navigating the atmosphere. Why the machine does not appear in the daylight no one seems to know, and until it does unbelievers will continue to scoff.

HOW ABOUT THIS?

A San Josean Declares That He Travelled on the Ship.

By Associated Press to The Tribune.

SAN JOSE, Dec 1—The champion air-ship story of the season is told by John A. Horen, an electrician in the employ of the Electric Improvement Co, of this place

Horen says he has a patent on an electric platinum speaking apparatus, and by appointment he went to San Francisco Thursday to see the inventor of the air ship who wished to see the apparatus.

Said Horen: "We went on horseback to a point on Sandy Beach where the air-ship was, got aboard and rose very high.

"The height was registered by a meter on the ship

"The inventor does not count the distance traveled by miles, but by degrees after leaving the starting point.

"Thursday afternoon we travelled westward before day, and the next morning saw lights The inventor said they were the lights of Honolulu.

"We turned east and Saturday evening about dark landed near where we started

"The air-ship arose by means of two propellers, the movement was noiseless and swift.

"The inventor is 45 years old, but I cannot now tell any news, but the motive power is not steam or electricity.

"It is a wonderful machine and can be stopped and made to stand still in the air anywhere. It comes down as lightly as a feather."

Horen lives at the New York Exchange Hotel and went to San Francisco Thursday.

Some seem to give credence to his story, and all admire his ability as an an accomplished story teller, and say he has a magnificent immagination.

He sticks to his story.

He bears the name of a hard-working sober man

Oakland Ca Tribune Dec 8 1896

AS OTHERS SEE US.

An Oakland citizen declares that he saw the mysterious airship plainly a few nights ago; that it was cigar-shaped and a hundred feet long. Constructed, so he suspects, of aluminum metal sheets. If there is no mistake by the Oaklander, the wonder yet remains where in California such a monster, 100 feet long, could be built in secret, and where it could hide itself every day for a month from human eyes.—Woodland Mail.

Hayward Ca Review

Dec 4, 1896

The airship fake is dying out, locally and generally. This week several Hayward people noticed a light which they thought came from an airship, but a little investigation showed it was nothing more than the new arc light which the Board of Trustees has had put up in the Meek tract

The Examiner.

I. SAN FRANCISCO, THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 26, 1896. NO. 148.

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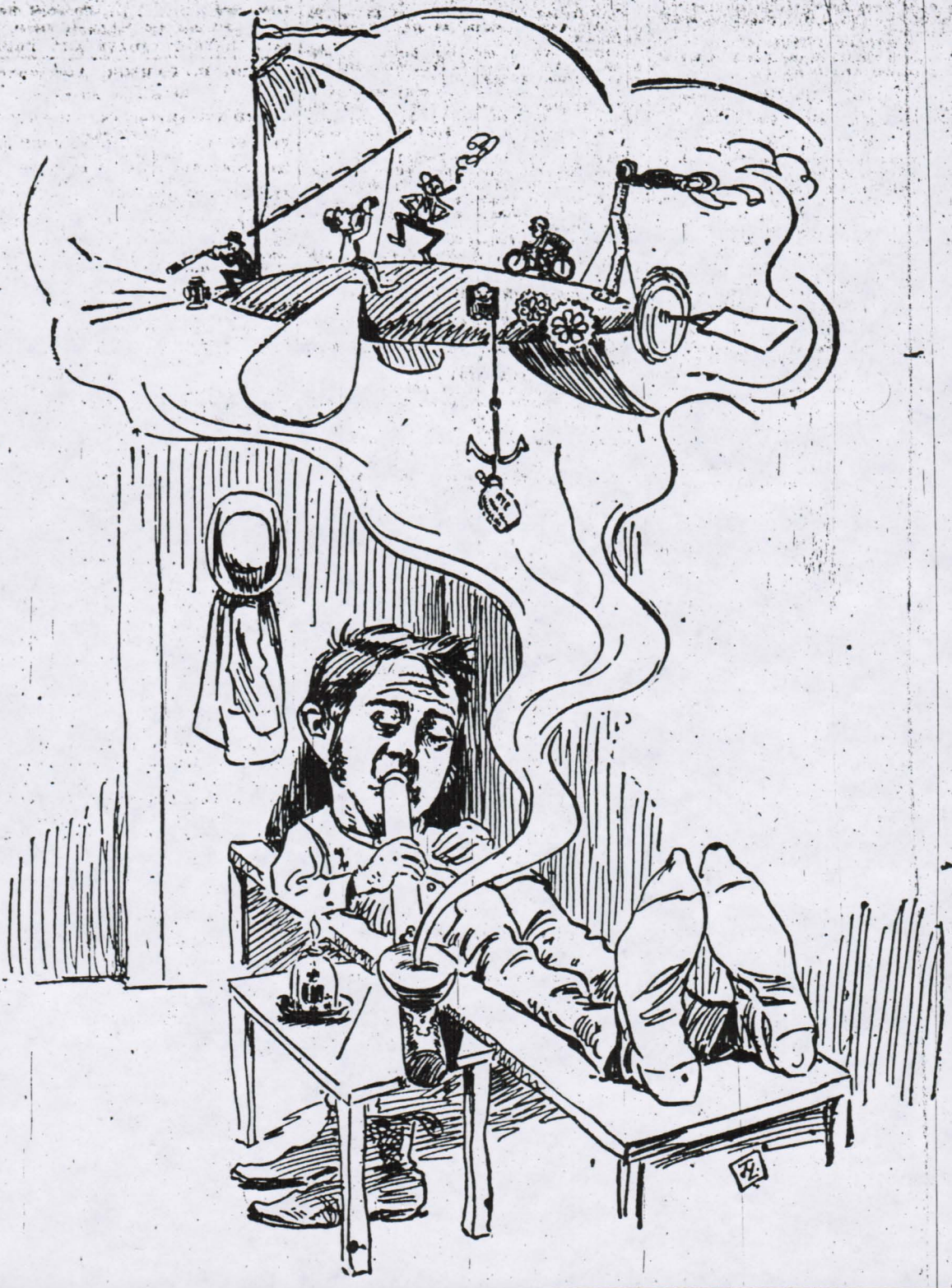
WHAT A BLOW TO WEYLER!

Ex-Attorney-General W. H. H. Hart insists that he is going to send a flock of airships to Cuba to destroy Havana and "slotter offul,"

The Examiner.

I. SAN FRANCISCO: TUESDAY MORNING. NOVEMBER 24, 1896. NO. 146.

AWFUL FATE OF AN AIRSHIP.

AND AFTERWARDS MR. COLLINS COULDN'T REMEMBER WHAT HE SAW.