

REPORT OF DIRECTOR  
OF THE  
Solar Observatory, Mount Wilson, California.

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BY GEORGE E. HALE, DIRECTOR.

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(Extracted from the Fourth Year Book of the Carnegie Institution of  
Washington, pages 56-77, plates 1 and 2.)

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REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF THE SOLAR OBSERVATORY, MOUNT  
WILSON, CALIFORNIA.\*

BY GEORGE E. HALE, DIRECTOR.

I have the honor to present my first formal report on the Solar Observatory. In view of the fact that the work of the Expedition for Solar Research from the Yerkes Observatory has been continued by the Solar Observatory, this report covers the entire period of our occupation of Mount Wilson, beginning with February 29, 1904.

The circumstances leading up to the establishment of the Solar Observatory have been stated elsewhere † and need not be repeated here. Suffice it to say that a grant of \$10,000, made by the Executive Committee of the Carnegie Institution in April, 1904, rendered it possible to bring the Snow telescope of the Yerkes Observatory to Mount Wilson in the summer of 1904. As a study of the atmospheric conditions had given rise to belief that the site would prove a very advantageous one, warranting occupation for a considerable period of time, a lease of a large tract of land on the mountain was at once negotiated. The Carnegie Institution had not then decided to establish an observatory of its own, and the future was therefore uncertain. Accordingly the lease was taken by myself personally, but a new lease has since been executed in the name of the Carnegie Institution. The property belongs to the Pasadena and Mount Wilson Toll-road Company, and I desire to put on record my sense of obligation to the officers and controlling stockholders of this company, Messrs. J. H. Holmes and W. R. Staats, of Pasadena, to whom we are indebted for liberal and courteous treatment. The lease, which comprises a large tract (not yet completely surveyed) of the best land on Mount Wilson, not only involves no charge for the use of the property, but establishes restrictions of great importance on the adjoining land of the toll-road company. These restrictions, as fully set forth in the lease, seem to obviate completely such interference with the observations as might be caused by smoke, electric lights, vibrations from machinery, and other similar disturbances. The lease also contains other advantageous concessions, including one-half the water rights on Mount Wilson, free use of the toll trail to the valley, etc. The seemingly unique advantages of Mount Wilson, in atmosphere, topographical features, and proximity to an

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\* Grant No. 217. \$150,000 for building observatory and maintenance for 1905. (For preliminary report see Year Book No. 3, pp. 155-174.)

† Contributions from the Solar Observatory, Nos. 1 and 2.