

Engineer Says Vast Polar Ice Cap Could Tip Earth Over at Any Time

Hugh A. Brown Thinks \$10,000,000 Project for Atomic Blasting in Antarctic Could Avert End of World as We Know It

By ROBERT PLUMB
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DOUGLASTON, L. I., Aug. 29—The end of the world as we know it now can be put off with a \$10,000,000 engineering project, Hugh Auchincloss Brown said today in the comfortable old-

fashioned library of his home here.

The 69-year-old electrical engineer, who has been practicing his profession for nearly half a century, gave warning of a horrendous fate in store for the earth. The rapidly increasing weight of the large Antarctic ice cap can tip the globe over at any time "just as you might roll a pumpkin over so that a frosted side could thaw out in the sun," he reported.

Mr. Brown did not set an exact date for this undesirable and world-shaking event. "Everyone wants to know that," he observed.

But he declared that a thirty-five-year study of the earth, followed as a hobby, has convinced him that the globe goes through a similar gyration every 8,000 years to compensate for the unbalancing effect of heavy ice formation at the poles. The present "epoch" is up and the earth is due to tumble like a run-down top.

When this happens, he said, most of the major continents will be flooded and the ice-covered North and South Poles will exchange climatic conditions with what are now tropical regions. The New York area may find itself at the bottom of thirteen miles of muddy ocean water, along with most of the civilized world.

Being forewarned of the impending danger, Mr. Brown said there is hope that we can put off the disaster, which he maintains has wiped out past civilizations at regular 8,000-year intervals throughout man's 1,000,000-year history.

He urged the immediate formation of a "global stabilization organization" to survey the vast Antarctic ice cap and figure out how much ice should be blasted off, with atomic bombs, to bring the earth into balance.

"This would be a big engineering undertaking—no small item—but it is not an insurmountable problem," Mr. Brown said. "Since the discovery of atomic energy and the invention of the atomic bomb the detaching of considerable masses of ice from the periphery of the Antarctic ice cap no longer appears to be as formidable an undertaking as before these discoveries."

About \$10,000,000 would cover the cost of the preliminary survey to determine where and how much to blast, he estimated.

"This sum will not be difficult

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to raise when popular support for global stabilization is aroused," Mr. Brown declared.

"Careening of our planet will not mean the end of the world, but there will be few survivors and for all practical purposes it will mean the end for those who live on earth now.

"This danger creates at once a natural human desire to do something about it. We cannot sit back and hope that someone else will do something for our benefit."

His interest in the possibility of suddenly changing world conditions was stimulated many years ago when he heard that "woolly mammoths" had been found frozen in the icy area around the North Pole. In most cases these monsters were found with bits of fresh food clinging to their teeth.

"The fact that they were found in this condition proves that they were subjected to a sudden 'quick-freeze' that killed and preserved them immediately. What could have caused this? Obviously, only some sudden drastic change in the weather such as might have happened if tropical regions were suddenly transported to the icy Arctic.

"To explain the disaster that overtook these ancient animals became my aim. Also, I was interested in the fact that although anthropologists have found remains of men 1,000,000 years old, only from the last few thousand years do we have recorded history. Tales of sudden floods and the mysterious appearances and disappearances of large land masses are found in the folklore and legends of all races of men.

"From the shape of the globe I calculated that the polar regions before the last gyration of the earth, about 8,000 years ago, were located in the Sudan Basin in Africa and the Samoan Islands of the Pacific.

"Close to these points, Egypt and Savaii Island, in the Samoan group, are thought to be where modern civilization began. Since they were near the former North and South Poles, they would be least affected by floods as a result of the earth's tumbling.

"In addition, the earth would tumble around two 'pivot points' located about ninety degrees from the old poles. These areas would be little affected by floods. I think the last pivot points were Equador and Peru in South America and Sumatra, off the Malay Peninsula. These areas also have been thought to be centers of the oldest recorded civilizations."

The next tumble of the earth will leave Eskimos as the few survivors, he continued, provided that they can adapt themselves to being suddenly plunged into a tropical or semi-tropical climate. The next pivot points will be uninhabited areas in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

"Proof that the earth is going to tumble due to the increasing weight of the Antarctic ice cap is found in the fact that about fifty years ago astronomers discovered it is 'wobbling' around its axis of spin which runs between the poles," he said.

"When the ice cap gets so heavy that the stratified layers of the earth cannot hold it in place any longer, it will break away from the polar region and move rapidly along the surface of the earth toward the equator.

"This will tremendously increase the pull of the heavy ice cap because of centrifugal force developed when the earth spins. At the breaking point the earth will suddenly tumble to relieve its unbalance and the ice cap will move into what is now the equator."