

Secrets of Mayas Are Unearthed in Yucatan

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—Excavation of Chichen Itza, the once brilliant capital of the lost Maya race, a civilization of American aborigines, has revealed in amazing culture on the continent before the dawn of the Christian era and then disappeared, reappearing to posterity in a state of ruin and decay. The ruins of Chichen Itza, which have been the direction of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

An expedition sent into Yucatan, the site of the Mayan civilization, has sent back to the institution here its first report of archaeological progress on the task of digging the ancient metropolis from the jungle covered grave in a genuine effort to solve the mystery of the origin of the people who built it.

Sylvanus G. Morley, associated with the Carnegie Institution in Mexico, American Archaeologist, is in charge of the expedition, which reached Chichen Itza May 15. Since that time the excavators have devoted their unstinted attention to uncovering a group of pyramids and temples in the very heart of the buried city, known as "The Court of the Thousand Columns."

Part of this has already been reclaimed. The excavations being upon beautifully carved columns, whose numbers led to the name ascribed to the court above. In the course of their excavations the archaeologists, Dr. Morley wrote, found a great number of hieroglyphs, the entrance to one of the temples in this court.

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Examinations proved it to have contained a large central figure of Ku Kulkan, the patron deity of Chichen Itza, surrounded by jaguars and flowers. The mosaic lay in a thousand pieces, when the archaeologists found it scattered over a stone platform that had once been the floor of the temple. Dr. Morley compared it to a great picture made by the Indians, or his staff must carefully piece together and study.

Chichen Itza originally covered an immense extent, Dr. Morley wrote. "The civic and religious center containing the temples, ball courts, pyramids, market places, bath houses, terraces, and other buildings covered an area of about two miles long by a mile wide. But beyond this in every direction for miles and miles formerly stretched the homes of the humbler folk."

"Of these not a trace may now be seen. The great forest of Yucatan has obliterated them, so that now there are as much a part of the earth as the thousands of mayas who reared them so long ago."

J. O. Kilmartin, of the United States Geological survey, who was loaned to the Carnegie institution for the purpose of making a map of Chichen Itza, has just returned to Washington. Mr. Kilmartin has completed the first modern map of a portion of this ancient city, drawn to a scale which will later enable the archaeologists to insert in its proper place every temple and even every column in the temple, if desired. "The program of the Carnegie Institution," contemporaries excavations covering a period of at least ten years. No work will be possible in Chichen Itza during the summer and autumn because of the torrential rains which fall during those seasons. But it is expected that in ten years the expedition will have progressed far enough to know whether the many mysteries surrounding the history of the Maya civilization are to be solved there.

Dutch Island in Philippines Sought by United States

MANILA (AP)—The United States government has entered into negotiations with the Netherlands government to bring under the American flag Palmas Island, situated about 50 miles southeast of the province of Davao, island of Mindanao.

Palmas Island was ceded to the United States by Spain in the treaty of Paris in 1898, but the Dutch flag which has flown over it for nearly a century has never been taken down. Although the people of Palmas are virtually all of Dutch origin and the island a part of the Philippine archipelago, the Dutch have assumed sovereignty over the 500 inhabitants.

TREASURE IS SOUGHT
MILL CITY, Ore.—The excavation of a large pile of rocks, which workers are sure is an ancient tomb with buried treasure and possibly contains the remains of some noted chief is attracting much interest on the little north fork of the Shumlam river, about 10 miles east of Medford.

A large tunnel has been driven into the rocks, and the workers expect developments any day, having been rewarded with various signs of ancient life. No admittance is allowed to the cave at present, but considerable dynamite is used in trying to reach the supposed burying spot.

What one misses away from the town is the fact that there is any spot east of the Cascades where altitude, moisture and temperature permit diversified production without artificial aids. It should be in the valley of the Grande Ronde. You look instinctively for the dotted houses and intensively farmed areas of 10 to 40 acres and, instead, fields with fences that are blurred by distance meet the gaze. In 40 years the number of farms has not quite doubled. There were 659 in 1880 and 1279 in 1920. The cultivated area has fallen short of being doubled. It has grown from 92,212 acres in 1880 to 173,021 in 1920. The inevitable concomitant of large holdings is the amount of unimproved land. It covered 263,714 acres in 1920.

Some of the ranches cover thousands of acres. Governor Pierce's farm, for instance, contains 5400 acres. The one wonder that Oregon's chief executive, under the various times to which agriculture has been subjected, has become firmly convinced that money lies in the head that owns a farm.

In Cove District, Cove has berries and the Starkland brothers have richland ought to be brought before the Portland Advertising club some time to speak on "Entertainment Plus." To him no spot in all the world is so beautiful, climate no kind, no living conditions so absolutely ideal and no living so thrived with money and the money daily as the small electrical valley which leads from the large toward the mountains. The famous electric of Cove runs when others are gone. The Starkland brothers and their farm in New York by the railroad and not in this a point for electric that a rail at 50 to 80 cents a pound in the metropolis. Some of the trees are 60 years old, and still bearing. Yet, with all the money the area covered by tall bearing trees, in only 200 acres.

Some of the finest apples produced in the West are grown on the west side of the Grande Ronde valley and around Elgin. Prunes are of good quality. Small fruits do well. Perhaps the best opportunity, however, is for dairying. The occupation that most of all makes for cutting up big tracts into smaller ones. Conditions are favorable for hay. Yet the cow population in the valley is only 4700. The production of sufficient feed for present needs is a problem. The average Portland price for buttermilk was 14.5 cents a pound last year. In the Grande Ronde valley it was 17.7 cents. In the whole of Union county are three creameries, and not a single cheese factory.

We had come out from Portland after a year and a half of nearly continuous summer almost forgetful of what it would be like to be brought out in a rainy, foggy, overcast day, when the rain clouds all doing business at once. Having our feelings when the newly wet road from which the scenery was being enjoyed proved too slippery for traction, and all to get out and drive together in order to accomplish a partying with the fertile soil.

Union's Features.
Union county or the valley of the Grande Ronde has certain institutions which one may not pass over. One is the fair and livestock exposition at Union. Another is the federal-state experiment station where a son of the late Governor Whitcomb is in charge. A third is the Hot Lake sanatorium in which sufferers rather than all parts of the country that they may find relief in the naturally heated, abundant, flow of mineral water. But the climate institution is La Grande hospital. It is something always constant, always gracious, always ready to minister to the pleasure of a guest. It goes well with the solid attractiveness of La Grande's business center and the inspiring outlook upon valley and mountains to be had from the hillside homes.

In early years the pioneer travelers of the Old Oregon Trail came on their way to the new West out of a canyon from which the wind still blows at times with startling vigor. Not until 1841 were the first settlements made. Soon thereafter gold was discovered on Salmon river, in Idaho, and the flow of miners through the valley afforded a market for production of soil. Now the Old Oregon Trail is established and modernized into a magnificent motor highway. It leads through the valley and is the most picturesque and historic of any persons against said proposed improvement and the proposed assessment therefor against the property to be benefited thereby in said district.

any persons against said proposed improvement and the proposed assessment therefor against the property to be benefited thereby in said district.

That the boundaries of the district to be improved and benefited by the said proposed improvement as finally adopted by the Commission are as follows, to-wit: Beginning at the center of the intersection of Adams Avenue and Third Street in the City of La Grande, Union County, Oregon; thence east along the center line of Adams Avenue three hundred seventy (370) feet; thence north along the center line of Third Street four hundred twenty five (425) feet to point of beginning at located in Grandy's Addition to the City of La Grande, Oregon.

That said Improvement District No. 156 is hereby created by the Commission of the City of La Grande, for the purpose of improving said Improvement District by grading the alley in Block 2, Grandy's Addition to the City of La Grande, Oregon, full width between property lines to the proper sub-grade and by constructing therein hard-surfaced pavement twenty (20) feet in width between property lines; also by constructing the necessary catch basins, etc., all in the above named alley located in Block 2, Grandy's Addition to the City of La Grande, Oregon, the cost of the above named improvements are to be assessed to the property especially benefited thereby.

Dated this 2nd day of July, 1924.
J. E. STEARNS,
Recorder of the City of La Grande, Oregon.

Notice of Hearing on Proposed Street Improvement.
Notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern that the Commission of the City of La Grande, Union County, Oregon, proposes and intends to improve Improvement District No. 156 in the City of La Grande, Oregon, in accordance with the plan and specifications therefore heretofore adopted by the Commission and that the report of the committee on estimates for the said improvement is now on file in the office of the Recorder of the City of La Grande, Oregon, at the City Building in La Grande, Oregon, on the 10th day of July, 1924, at 7:30 o'clock P. M. of said day, at the Commission Room in the City Building in La Grande, Oregon, as the time and place when and where said Commission will meet and hear and determine all objections, remonstrances and claims of grievance of

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