

EXCAVATION OF OLD BABYLON IS WONDERFUL

Berlin, July 3.—Babylon, the great and mighty metropolis of the ancients, now buried beneath the sands of the Mesopotamian plain, will soon be uncovered to an extent that will show to the most casual visitor something of its vanished grandeur. This is the statement of prominent members of the committee in charge of the excavation work, which held a meeting here today to plan for the future progress of the gigantic undertaking.

For eleven years the German excavators have worked steadily and patiently in the mighty mound that heaves itself up from the dead flat of the sun-drenched and arid plain. This mound is Babylon. The city wall stretches out south-eastward from it, then turns back sharply toward the Euphrates, wall and river enclosing in a huge triangle the area of the town. Great mounds, covering the sites of palaces and temples, lie near the river, and by the water's edge, buried in palm trees, stands the house in which the excavators have lived and worked for more than a decade.

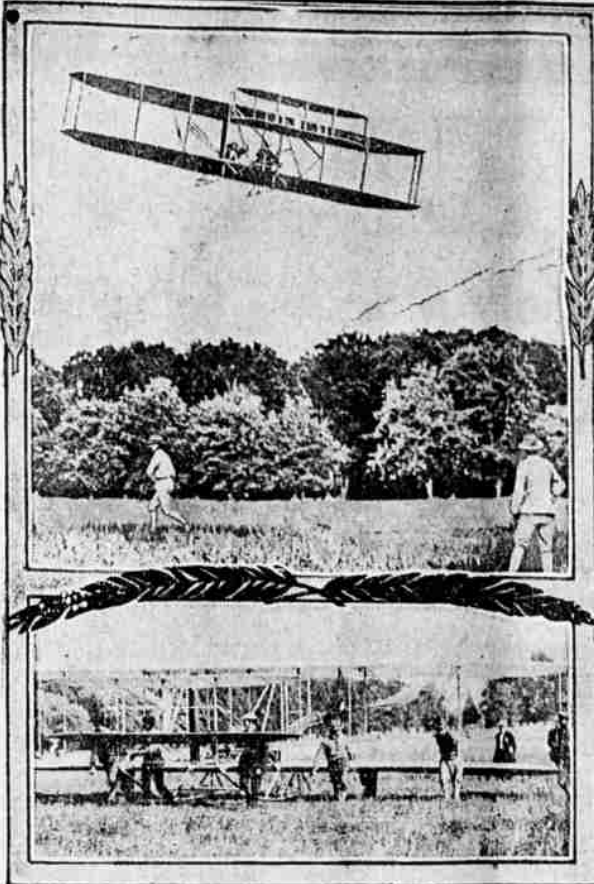
Within the largest mound, the kasr or castle, as the Arabs call it, lie the remains of Nebuchadnezzar's palace. Another eight or ten years' work will be needed to complete the ground plan of the whole structure, but enough has been done to show the nature of the house in which the king rested. It is built of large square tiles, stamped with his name and bound together with asphalt. The part which has been excavated consists of an immense irregular enclosure surrounded by thick walls. Within, there is a bewildering complexity of smaller courts and passages, with chambers leading out of them, all the more bewildering because in many cases the bricks have disappeared.

Babylon was used as a quarry by Greek, Parthian and Arab; and the walls must be traced by means of the spaces left behind after the removal of the building materials. The ordinary man when he sees a hole in the ground is inclined to state roundly that it is a hole; but he must go more cautiously here. This hole is not a hole but a wall. The small courts and chambers, no doubt occupied by retainers of officers and servants of the palace, formed a bulwark of defense for the king. His apartments lie behind a court, paved with doubtless layers of tiles. From the court a doorway leads into an immense oblong chamber, in the back wall of which is a niche for the throne. This is believed to be the throne of Nebuchadnezzar, in which he sat when he feasted, and on a fragment of wall facing the throne, you may see, if you please, the fingers of a man's hand writing the ominous message. Behind the banquet hall are the private chambers, and behind all a narrow passage leading to an emergency exit by means of which the king could escape to the Euphrates in the last extremity of danger.

Nebuchadnezzar's father, Nabopolassar, had built himself a small but still very considerable dwelling which completed the western side of the mound. This Nebuchadnezzar destroyed, filling up the halls and chambers with rubble and masonry, and laid out his own palace above it. A wide inclined road was constructed so that he might go down in comfort and watch the work; it was gradually filled up as the walls rose, but was brought to light again as the upper stories were destroyed by the excavators in order that the lower might be reached. They have thus recovered the plan of both buildings. Above the Babylonian walls lie remains of Greek and Parthian settlements, each of which has to be carefully planned before it can be swept away and the lower strata studied. And more than this—work is at present being carried on in a mound which formed one of the most ancient parts of the city, and the excavation pits have been sunk 12 or 15 metres deep to dwelling houses of the first Babylonian empire. They pass through the periods of the Parthian and Greek, through the age of Nebuchadnezzar and of the Assyrians, and each stratum must be leveled and planned before the next can be touched.

Add to this that the most ancient walls were constructed of sun-burnt brick, scarcely distinguishable from the closely packed earth, and some idea can be obtained of the extreme difficulty of the work. The oldest Babylonian houses which have been uncovered themselves rest on rubbish heaps and ruins, but deeper digging is impossible owing to the fact that the water level has been reached. The Euphrates channel has silted up several metres during the past 3,000 years and the primeval dwellings are now below it.

The northern part of the palace mound is as yet almost untouched. Here can be seen the sculptured block which used to lie among the earth heaps until a French engineer dug a pedestal for it and set it up like a sentinel above the ruins. It is a colossal lion standing over the body of a man, who lies with arms uplifted. The man's head is broken away, and the whole group is only half finished; but there is something terribly sinister in the aspect of the great beast with the helpless human figure beneath its feet. It is as though the workmen of the king had left for all time an image of Destiny, stepping relentlessly over the generations of mankind, before its they themselves passed into its clutches. All along the east side of the palace stretches the Via Sacra, a contracting at one point only its splendid width that it may pass through the gate that stands midway between the house of the king and the temple of the goddess Ishtar. This gate, its origin is attested by cruciform inscription—is the



WRIGHT AEROPLANE IN TESTS AT FORT MYER.

By the terms of their contract with the United States government the Wright brothers, inventors of the aeroplane, were required to accomplish a sustained flight of one hour at an average speed of thirty-six miles. They were also to receive a bonus for every mile of speed in excess of the contract figure. The contract was for \$25,000. The Wrights will go to Europe again this fall to carry out a contract they have with the German government and will demonstrate the practicability of their machine again in England.

ADVERTISED LETTERS. June 30, 1909.

Andrews, Mrs. Frank.
Bailey, Thomas & Fam.
Boners, Ray.
Brennan, Pat.
Caldwell, Mrs. Byron.
Callison, C. D.
Colvin, Mrs. Eva C.
Defke, Frank.
Goehagan, Tom.
Hamman, J. B.
Hardrath, Wm. (2).
Hiltson, Mrs. Pearl.
Hunter, R. B.
Karn, Johnny.
Longworth, Rolland.
Mahon, Iris L.
Mathews, Letta.
Miller, Geo. W.
Perkins, C. H.
Powell, D. H.
Quinn, W. J.
Sherfield, Mrs. Carl.
Smith, Miss G. F.
Temple, Mrs. Rose.
Trapp, Edward.
Tribble, Jim.
Turnbow, Mrs. Bell.
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Charles Murphy, who established this spring at the corner of Sixth and Olive a fly-proof dining and lunch counter, has begun a summer lunch house under the largest weeping willow tree in Lane county and will serve during the hot weather all manner of light drinks and foods.

E. T. Condon's bakery, ice cream parlor and confectionery will be open Sunday during the summer. 19

IRVING GRANGE HOLDS ITS FIRST IN NEW HALL

Irving, July 3.—Irving Grange met for the first time in its new home Friday evening, June 25.

There was a good attendance and every Granger rejoiced that the Grange had such cozy quarters and felt that the executive committee should be congratulated on securing such a pleasant home for the Grange.

The Grange had two regular meetings during the month of June. At the meeting Friday evening, the 11th, several matters of importance came up for consideration. The executive committee made its final report in the matter of obtaining the old M. E. church for a home for the Grange, and a number of the members were appointed to move the Grange fixtures to the new hall.

After the routine matters of the meetings of each month were disposed of, the time was usually occupied in the discussion of topics interesting to the farmers and their families, with songs, recitations, and other good things, such as ice cream, etc., etc.

Mr. L. Lemmon, an old time Granger, and also an old pioneer of 1845, gave an interesting talk about his journey to Washington, D. C., and other places of note in the East. He sat in the Senate chamber and listened to some of the speeches on the tariff question. Mr. Lemmon has a very poor opinion of senatorial courtesy, saying that the Senators showed less courtesy to each other in their debates than you will see in any country debating club. Mr. Lemmon also spoke of the large number of negroes in the cities of the East, especially of Washington, D. C., and naively made the remark that some of the negroes had more white blood than they ought to have. Mr. Lemmon thinks the negro question is going to be one of the hard problems to solve by this country in the years to come.

"The Boy on the Farm and His Surroundings," was the topic assigned to Brother Bert Ward, which was handled in a very creditable manner by him. Mr. Ward spoke of the boy's early years and on up to manhood, often having but little to encourage him, as compared with the boy in the city. He also spoke of the evil surroundings of the boy, which is made worse when a careless father hires help that is morally unfit to enter the presence of his family. Brothers Wing and Hurd took part in the discussion of the boy problem, saying that the education of the boy, and girl, too, was away from the farm instead of toward it. Mr. Ed. Zumwalt took up the humorous side of the question, saying that there was, after all, many things about the farm that was agreeable and pleasant, and that more real enjoyment and pleasure can be found on the farm by the boy than ever comes to him in the city. After telling of the many kinds of sport he had when a boy, he related that he often wondered how much a cow could pull by her tail, which he finally found out to his entire satisfaction.

Mr. Wiley Maxwell had for his subject, "The Best System in Farming." Mr. Maxwell told in a very entertaining way of the systems of farming in vogue during the past and the present. He gave examples of the superiority of the present mode of farming over that of the past, and that we must constantly study how to retain the fertility of the soil if we expect to reap good harvests in the future.

Paul Zumwalt and Miss Leda Zumwalt entertained the Grange with a cornet and organ duet. They were enthusiastically recalled. Miss Leda Zumwalt sang a solo, and Miss Leda Zumwalt and Miss Mary Day sang a duet, accompanied on the organ by Miss Florence Runyan. The musical numbers are always good and well rendered. There are quite a number in the Grange who have musical talent, and their music, instrumental and vocal, is always greatly appreciated by the Grange.

ELECTRICAL APPARATUS.

Eugene, Or., June 24, 1909. Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Eugene, Oregon, until 8 o'clock p. m., July 12, 1909, for furnishing switchboard, transformers, oil switches, etc., for hydro-electric power plant on the McKenzie river. Specifications may be obtained from the City Recorder of Eugene, Oregon. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

J. D. MATLOCK, Mayor.
R. S. BRYSON, City Recorder.

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An A. No. 1 dairy and stock farm consisting of 520 acres four miles from Eugene. Fine land for fruit and grain. \$25 per acre. Call or address owner, 232 East 11th street, Eugene, Ore.

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