

LOST CONTINENTS BELIEVED TRACED BY SEA SOUNDINGS

Vestiges of Hypothetical Continent 'Lemuria' Believed Found On Floor of the Indian Ocean

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Man's steady progress in mapping the unseen world beneath the oceans by means of echo soundings, sheds occasional tantalizing glimmers of light on the extravagant but haunting legends or scientific theories of lands that vanished under the sea.

On the floor of the Indian ocean a British oceanographic expedition recently discovered a submarine plateau and two buried mountain ranges separated by a deep valley. Immediately men wondered whether these were vestiges of a hypothetical continent, "Lemuria," assumed by the late Ernst Heinrich Haeckel, German naturalist, to have existed in this very locality, in order to explain the distribution of the monkey-like lemurs.

Stories of World-wide Floods.
The captain of an American naval vessel, on sounding duty in the Pacific for years, has pieced together the outlines of a huge continentlike mass lying deeply submerged between North America and Asia, raising again the question of the one-time existence of a continent in the largest of oceans.

"Since the days of Plato—and probably even before—the imagination of men has been stirred by tales of a whole continent, freighted with humans, suddenly going down by the head like a stricken ship," says a bulletin from the Washington, D. C., headquarters of the National Geographic society.

"In the folklore of peoples in many parts of the world survive stories of widespread inundation—prototypes, perhaps, of our own Biblical account of the deluge and Noah's ark. That immense changes have taken place in the distribution of land and water areas in the long life of our planet, has long been known, of course, to students of science. Even elementary students of geology know that our great mountain ranges are largely composed of rocks laid down on the bottoms of vanished seas and then upraised. The recent discovery of submerged river valleys off Cape Cod and nearly three miles below the surface of the sea in the Bahamas region, give proof that many areas of the present ocean floor were once dry land.

Islands Have Sunk in Modern Times.
"Many islands are known to have disappeared suddenly. Among them is little Sarah Ann, in the mid-Pacific. Scientists expected to use it as a grandstand from which to observe the solar eclipse of 1937, but recently United States naval vessels sought it in vain. The island had vanished. Thousands of lives were lost when Tuanaki in the Cook group was swallowed by the Pacific in 1836. "But wherever the changes in the face of the earth and sea have involved large areas, they are believed to have come about with the slowness of time itself. The northeastern coast of the United States, for example, is supposed to be sinking at the rate of two feet a century.

"Atlantis is the most famous land lost in the sea. The poignant and fascinating story of Atlantis was given to the world by Plato, who had it from Solon, who in turn had it from a priest of Egypt. Atlantis Story Preserved in Ocean Name.

"The great Greek wrote of a civilization which flourished some 9000 years before his time on an island of continental size called Atlantis, which lay beyond Gibraltar, the 'Pillars of Hercules.' A mighty war ensued between Atlantis and Greece. After a fierce battle there occurred violent earthquakes and floods and in a day and a fatal night the rich and populous Atlantis disappeared and was sunk beneath the sea."

"Much of the conjecture since has centered around the Aeores which stand on a huge elevation of the ocean floor, the Mid-Atlantic rise, extending with two short breaks from Iceland to the latitude of Cape Horn, and lying about midway between the old and new worlds. Some reputable scientists have maintained that some islands near the Aeores may have disappeared, perhaps catastrophically, as late as the human period, thus giving rise to the legend. Others dismiss the whole story as pure fiction.

"At any rate, the name of the 'lost Atlantis' survives in the name of the ocean—Atlantic.

"The mammoth Pacific too has its mysteries of vanished lands. Remarkable stone images found on lonesome little Easter Island, 2000 miles west of South America, have led men to wonder whether this 40-square-mile patch of land is not all that is left of a large island group or continent and an extinct civilization. Like the Aeores it stands on a submarine elevation of continental size, the Easter Island rise.

"Much farther to the west, in the

You Need A Diuretic Stimulant
THE kidneys are like filters that work day and night in separating the poisons from the blood. Signals of distress are often swollen ankles, drowsiness, dizziness. Drink plenty of pure water to

and obtain at your nearest drug store the diuretic stimulant of Dr. Pierce's called **AMOUNT** with Mrs. E. M. McLaughlin of 235 S. E. 3rd Ave., Portland, Ore. says: "My kidneys bothered me. The medicine I bought from you, Dr. Pierce's Amount, has so thoroughly relieved me that I have not had the least trouble since."

Dr. J. C. Rhea, 1121 1/2 Broadway, N. Y., has free medical advice.

Meteorological Report

January 17, 1935.
Forecasts.
Medford and vicinity: Snow or rain tonight and Friday. No change in temperature.
Oregon: Shows east portion snow or rain west portion, tonight and Friday. No change in temperature.
Local Data.
Temperature a year ago today: Highest, 53; lowest, 37.
Total monthly precipitation, 1.96 inches. Excess for the month, 0.41 inch.
Total precipitation since September 1, 1934, 10.37 inches. Excess for the season, 1.37 inches.
Relative humidity at 5 p. m. yesterday, 69%; 5 a. m. today, 89%.
Sunrise tomorrow, 7:35 a. m.
Sunset tomorrow, 5:08 p. m.
Observations Taken at 5 a. m., 120 Meridian Time.

CITY	High Temp	Lowest Temp	Wind	Weather
Boise	40	32	—	Cloudy
Boston	26	16	—	Cloudy
Chicago	26	36	—	Cloudy
Denver	42	28	—	Clear
Eureka	46	40	66	Cloudy
Helena	14	-8	66	Snow
Los Angeles	44	—	—	Clear
MEDFORD	41	33	23	Snow
New York	28	22	—	Snow
Omaha	—	—	—	Clear
Phoenix	—	—	—	Clear
Portland	—	—	—	Snow
Reno	—	—	—	Cloudy
Roseburg	—	—	—	Snow
Salt Lake	—	—	—	Clear
San Francisco	—	—	—	Cloudy
Seattle	—	—	—	Snow
Spokane	—	—	—	Cloudy
Walla Walla	—	—	—	Cloudy
Washington, D. C.	—	—	—	Rain

South Pacific, the thousands of islands have long been regarded as the possible debris of a sunken continent. Unexplained ruins exist in the Carolines and on Malden island between Hawaii and Hawaii. A leading British oceanographer recently published the conclusion that an extensive continent founded in the central Pacific in early Tertiary times, when the mammals were rising to ascendancy over the reptiles, and some of our western mountains were being created.

"In the Indian Ocean between Madagascar and southern Asia, Haeckel placed his hypothetical continent of Lemuria. He called it the probable cradle of the human race, which in all likelihood here first developed out of anthropoid apes."

"Geology, too, has created a supposititious continent, Gondwanaland. Taking its name from a rock formation found in the Gondwana section of India and also in many other parts of the world, it is supposed to have included Lemuria, Africa, Australia, most of South America, and Antarctica."

Use Mail Tribune want ads

THE DATE PALM STAFF OF LIFE TO DESERT MEN

Dates Raised and Prized From Antiquity in Old World—Its Stic Among Trees—Needs little Water

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(Sp.)—Rival ships from Iraq, laden with dates, have just reached New York, after a spirited race across the Atlantic to obtain a premium for bringing this season's first dates. This annual 10,000-mile race, instituted in 1899, and reminiscent of the tea-cup races, calls attention to the importance of dates as an article of food.

"Americans who eat dates chiefly as sweets, dessert, or as components of puddings and cakes, seldom realize that dates have been raised and prized from antiquity as one of the most nourishing, satisfying foods in the world," says a bulletin from the Washington, D. C., headquarters of the National Geographic Society. "Over 4,000 years ago, dates were raised on the banks of the Euphrates. Inhabitants of China, Spain, and Greece, supplement their diet with dates.

Date Palms "Can Take It"
"Persians, Arabians, and North Africans eat them as we eat potatoes. They are the chief source of wealth and the staple article of food in Arabia. Give a desert nomad a few boiled beans, a little olive oil, milk, and some dates, and he considers it a Thanksgiving dinner. In the dry parts of North Africa, dates constitute not only the main meal of the inhabitants, but are consumed by dogs, horses and camels.

"Deserts would be totally unpopulated were it not for camels and dates. The date palm is a stic among trees, living on salty land that kills other vegetation. Sometimes appearing half buried in sand, it reaches down for alkaline water and thrives. Some date palms blossom and bear in the hottest regions of the globe, while others have endured where the mercury falls to 12 degrees F.

"The date palm is noted for its fecundity. From about its sixth year until sometimes past its hundredth, it bears great clusters of dates, aggregating between 100 and 400 pounds annually. A single bunch frequently weighs as much as 40 pounds and has to be straddled across a leaf of the palm to prevent it from breaking off because of its own weight. An acre planted with date palms will keep more people from starvation than an acre planted with anything else except plants.

"This fecundity is made possible only by artificial pollination. Male and female flowers are borne on separate date palms. Over 90 per cent of male palms, which have sparse

follage and do not bear fruit, are weeded out to make way for the fruit-bearing trees; one pollen-bearing tree usually is surrounded by 25 to 100 fruit trees. Wind pollination being too haphazard, it is not unusual to see Arab climbing trees to fasten with palm-leaf fibers a spray of waxy-white, pollen-bearing flowers on each greenish cluster of potential fruit. For this reason, modern date growers often keep a supply of pollen from one year to the next. One supply, kept in a bottle, had not lost its power when used ten years later.

Furnishes Wood of Desert.
"Date palms grow usually between 60 and 80 feet high. Their feathery green fronds waving against a hot blue sky bring cheer to desert caravans traveling a waste of sand, assuring them food, shade and usually a near-by bubbling spring. People whose sole encounter with dates is meeting them dried, dark, and compressed together in sticky packages, hardly realize the beauty of dates on the tree, when sunset tints the clusters of yellow or red fruit to scarlet, their stems to gold.

"In harvest time, boys with sickles scamper up the tall trunks, and sever the stems. Dates of inferior quality are tossed carelessly below to be caught on a sheet. The best are passed down the palm trunk from hand to hand, often by as many as eight boys who have climbed up one behind another. Once sorted, the best dates are usually sent by camel, then by burghs down rivers to the seacoast or packed in skins or tins, where some varieties keep indefinitely.

"What the birch is to the Siberian, and the bamboo to the tropic-dweller, the date palm is to the North African. Not only is the ripe fruit eaten uncooked, cooked, or pounded

into a paste with locusts and other foodstuffs; but from macerated dates are concocted. When the old date palms cease bearing, a body is drawn from incisions made in the trunks. The trunks provide posts and furniture for North African huts; the leaves, for thatch. Packing cases for transporting the fruit are also made from the leaves. The bark supplies fiber for rope, sacks, and matting baskets. The leafstalks are used as fuel.

Dates Grown in United States.
"In other parts of the world, dates are put to still other uses. Date palms are grown as ornamental trees in California, Florida, and Bermuda. Their leaves are used by Christians on Palm Sunday, and by Jews celebrating the Passover. Dates are not only eaten as such, but are made into jams, jellies, date butter, and vinegar. Date sugar, obtained from the sap of a closely related species, is an important commercial product in the East Indies. Date-palm meal is obtained from the stem of another related species growing in southern India.

"Iraq furnishes about 95 per cent of the dates imported into the United States. In 1933, the United States imported 47,492,841 pounds of Iraq dates. About 30,000,000 of these were shipped direct from that country, the rest transhipped through several countries of Europe. The United States imports small quantities of dates from Arabia, Algeria, Persia, and Turkey, and also grows dates in the Southwest, particularly in the Coachella and Imperial valleys of southern California, and the lower Salt and Gila river valleys of Arizona.

"In these gardens grow over a hundred varieties of dates. Some are used chiefly for cooking, others for eating. Some are dry, not sticky,

while others 'candy' on the tree. Preferred are the Ascherai variety, probably the best dry date; and the Deglet Nour, a very sweet, soft, melting date. Its name originally meant 'Date of the Light,' referring to the unusual translucence of its deep, golden-brown flesh."

Used Auto to Chase Rabbit.
GAYLORDSVILLE, Conn.—(UP)—Birt Anderson chased a 17½-pound jackrabbit a half mile in his automobile and then ran over the animal. The jackrabbit was in control of his car, which climbed an embankment, damaging the radiator and fenders.

Mines Employ 3,500.
RENO, Nev.—(UP)—Approximately 3,500 men are working in Nevada's gold and silver mines. It was estimated here. The largest number ever employed in the state's working totaled about 7,000 during the World war.

Boise Resumes Curfew.
BOISE, Ida.—(UP)—After a lapse of two years, the curfew bell rings again here. The city council ordered enforcement of a 50-year-old ordinance requiring ringing of the bell at 9 p. m. in summer and 8 p. m. in winter.

Semi-Annual Clearance Sale
Now in progress at Ethelwyn B. Hoffmann's.

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You needn't fear false teeth dropping or slipping if you'll sprinkle a little Fastech on your plates each morning. Gives all day comfort and teeth hold tight. Deodorizes. No gummy, pasty, taste or feeling. Get Fastech from your druggist. Three sizes.

Cannon Ball Felled.
MANHATTAN, Kas.—(UP)—Seventy-one years ago, during the siege of Vicksburg, William F. Lee was hit by a cannon ball and left on the field for dead. He died recently at the age of 94. Pneumonia was the cause of death.
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