

INCIDENTS ALONG ROAD TO FLORIDA

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ing hold and fixing up things. They are way behind the Pacific coast states in that respect, but are making improvements. Florida is working out a big road program that will be an attraction to motorists. The Old Spanish Trail is being rebuilt about 600 miles across the northern part of the state, and a road is now under construction that will circle around through the southern part. There is a private toll road circling Lake Ochechobee and across a section of the Everglades, coming into Palm Beach, but no road to the west coast across from Miami, except that under construction.

Tampa has a tourist bureau open at all times where one can register and get information. There are desks for writing, checker and card games going on, and it is generally full. "Bachman's Million Dollar Band" plays every afternoon in Plant Park, where seats accommodate several thousand people, and a splendid program is given. We attended the concert Sunday evening, and it was delightful to sit under the large shade trees and listen to the excellent music, with the temperature just right without any wraps. We have seen no mosquitoes here and very few flies.

Business men admit that the collapse of the real estate boom

in the state has depressed business, but all have confidence in the future, and that Florida will have a steady, legitimate growth from now on. Tampa was just on the edge of the big hurricane last September and no damage resulted here.

Tarpon Springs, 27 miles north on the gulf, is the base of the sponge industry and a very interesting place to visit. Sponges that would not go in a washtub are on exhibition, as well as all sizes for commercial use. Many curious and novelties are also on sale in the shops. A large open court with cells of barred doors like a jail, hold the separate "catches" of the sponge divers, who go down as deep as 35 fathoms for the best sponges, a dangerous occupation, sometimes having to fight sharks and octopuses, while the heavy water pressure often inflicts permanent disability. All along the beaches as far south as St. Petersburg we saw pieces of shallow water sponges washed ashore. These, however, are of no value.

Billy Sunday was just finishing an engagement at Mobile, Ala., when we passed through, as we learned afterwards, and will open here the later part of this month.

Under the caption, "Still Carry Insurance," the Orlando Reporter Star printed the following: Mayor Wall, of Tampa, opposed the location of the Billy Sunday tabernacle on account that it would increase the fire risk. But Billy claims that the men who take his advice thereby avoid the fire risk.

ANCIENT TOMB NEAR ALGIERS AWES ARABS

Antedates Christianity by at Least Two Centuries.

Paris.—A mysterious tomb, regarded with awe by the lowly Arabs of the region, stands on the crest of a lofty hill, about fifty miles from Algiers. It is known as Le Tombeau de la Chretienne, the tomb of the Christian woman, although French scholars regard it, without proof, as a Punic structure antedating the Christian era by at least two centuries.

So little is actually known of this mausoleum that small wonder is occasioned by the fantastic legend handed down about it in truly Oriental style throughout the countryside. The Arabs themselves call it Khour Er-Roumia, which means European or Christian tombs, the use of the plural suggesting that they regarded it as a multiple tomb. Even their legend throws little light on the origin of the strange edifice.

The mystery that hangs about it is deepened by current Arab legends, which imply the fixed belief that much undiscovered treasure lies buried inside.

At the top of the hill which rises a thousand feet above the Mediterranean, this extraordinary relic of antiquity rears itself an additional 100 feet. The structure is a circular mass of dressed stone, at least 200 feet in diameter.

Sculptured Columns.

Sixty engaged columns, sculptured in relief and resembling the Ionic in style, decorate the lower circumference of the tambour, a drum-shaped edifice, originally surmounted by a lofty cone of rock. At the four cardinal points of the compass huge false portals are sculptured. A design on each of them, resembling a great cross, is responsible for the present French name of the ruin.

In an effort to discover the treasure two small tunnels were long ago dug through the center. On one side near the summit is a considerable depression made by Baba Mohammed Ben Othman, pasha of Algeria, in 1776, when he used cannon to demolish the tomb. The French government has now put a stop to the work of treasure hunters and other vandals, and some years ago restored one of the principal frontages.

Entrance is possible through a low and very narrow passage which earlier excavations revealed in the substructure beneath one of the false portals, that facing the east. This entrance leads to a fairly spacious vaulted chamber whose solid stone masonry walls had apparently never borne decorations. But the right-hand wall has small relief sculptures of a lion and lioness.

Directly underneath these bas-reliefs another short, constricted passage, which has to be traversed on hands and knees, leads to seven ascending steps and then into a spacious and beautifully vaulted gallery built of large blocks of neatly dressed stone. This gallery, spiral in form, is more than 400 feet long. At the end a third passage leads first into a small chamber and then into a larger one. This was supposed, until recently, to be the exact center of the monument, but it is now known that it is somewhat off center, whether through accident or design has not been determined.

Place for Cinerary Urns.

The purpose of the chambers is also in doubt. Nothing has been found in them or in the spiral gallery. It may be supposed that the first was a vestibule to the second, in which three niches are sunk in the bare walls. It is a further guess that the niches were intended to hold cinerary urns. It is possible that these supposed mortuary chambers are blinds, like the four portals, and that the real vaults are deep in the foundations, approached by vertical shafts with horizontal passages at the bottom.

This manner of entombing the dead, filling up and disguising the shafts, after each interment, corresponds with the Phoenician and Punic practices of antiquity. If this supposition be true, the tomb still guards its secret, and the local Arabic tradition of the multiple tomb is not without meaning.

The builder, whoever he may have been, chose well the site of his last resting place. To the north, a thousand feet below, stretches the waters of the Mediterranean; to the south, long green slopes reach into the fruitful valley of the Mitidja. Along the southern horizon the cedar bearing Atlas mountains rear their purple wall, from which clear streams descend to make the valley prosperous.

Plant Life Is Traced to North Pole Origin

Philadelphia.—The evolution of modern plants and of modern climates began together at the North pole some six or seven million years ago, when the last of the dinosaurs were still lumbering about the earth. It continued with increasing speed through the tertiary age, which followed, until the comparatively recent time of the glaciers. It was during this time, according to the record of the rocks, that the plants of the earth began to show evidences of being divided into growth zones influenced by climate; until then all the earlier plants were of types such as now grow in the tropics, and they were distributed evenly over the whole earth, indicating the prevalence of a uniformly warm climate.

At the meeting of the American Bio-

logical society here Dr. ... outlined the evidence for his theory that the first temperate zone plant life evolved in the polar regions. The higher forms of flowering plants, he said, are primarily adaptations to a climate of alternating warm and cold seasons, and their final invasion of the still uniformly warm tropics has been recent and is a matter of competition with the plants they found there rather than a response to a climatic urge.

It is in the tropics today that the only relics of the vegetation of an earlier world, the cycads and similar plants, remain to contrast with the late-coming modern plants for a foothold. Plant fossils of tertiary age from the tropics are very little different from the living plants of the same regions, whereas tertiary fossils from the regions of the earth where winter comes show evidences of radical and rapid evolution.

SEES POVERTY ENDED BY ATOM

Scientist Makes Glowing Prediction for Future.

Philadelphia.—If the atom nuclei, which speeds through the air at the rate of 1,200 miles per second, could be separated from the electrons, which it gathers during the flight, and tightly packed together in one solid mass, the weight alone of one cubic inch of such matter would exceed 100,000,000 tons. Dr. Karl Friedrich Schuessel, one of Germany's most eminent scientists, touring the United States, and incidentally attending the sessions of the American scientists here, said in an exclusive interview.

"The time is not far distant, only a few hundred years, in the manner in which science measures time," said Doctor Schuessel, "when, with liberation of the atom, man will forget there ever was such a thing as poverty and suffering. As a matter of fact, he will have no worries, won't even have to work."

"It is common knowledge," said Doctor Schuessel, "that atomic power ago ceased to be a mere superstition, because of the achievements thus far recorded by science in the ascertainment of radio-active substances.

"For example let us take a lump of coal. Science has ascertained that the lump is simply an inconceivably large number of electrical particles clustering together.

"Now if these particles in that lump of coal could be liberated and controlled, they would provide vastly more power than would be needed to operate all the machinery ever constructed throughout the whole world.

"Again, for example, if the hydrogen contained in two teaspoonfuls of water were converted into helium, it is reasonable to believe that 200,000 kilowatt hours of energy would be liberated.

"It is my honest conviction along scientific lines that the time is coming, say in about 200 years, when the energy of the atom will be so concentrated as to do the work of the entire human race."

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