

Salt Laker Among Newly Discovered Ruins of an Ancient Mexican City

THE question of how old is America in civilizations and races is one of particular interest to all who live in what has long been known as "the New World."

The interest has a centering place in Utah and properly so, for here also interest centers in a written record of races that lived here long before the coming of the Spaniards, and that gave through this record, according to the belief of the Utah pioneers, the necessity for the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon.

Just back from Mexico, L. S. Maringer brings a story of keen interest to those interested in the development of new data, leading to the establishment of proofs of an ancient people, and a civilized people.

Thirty miles southwest of the city of Mexico, great pyramids long thought to be hills, are being uncovered from the coating of lava and ashes, and are beginning to stand forth as the mighty masonry monuments of a forgotten civilization.

UNCOVERING BURIED CITY.

The Mexican government, working with the methodical precision of military maneuvers, is uncovering the buried city, and in the work is giving employment to 1,200 soldiers of the regular army, under their officers. They start to work at reveille and leave it with the bugle call to dinner. While going through the ancient ruins, Mr. Maringer was given every courtesy, and breaking away from the tourists he spent nearly a whole day in the lava bed beneath which most of the city still slumbers. One thing he found and brought back with him was an Aztec calendar stone, a facsimile of the greater one on exhibit at the museum of the City of Mexico. Another was a small clay idol of which he found more than a dozen on his day's ramble.

PYRAMID OF THE SUN.

The kodak pictures shown above are samples of the material for his inspection. One is a long distance view of the great pyramid as it stands near the head of a paved avenue, four miles long. This is known as the "Pyramid of the Sun," and is the first of a number in that vicinity to be uncovered.

A more magnificent one, standing at the head of the long avenue that went through the buried city, is the next one that will attract the attention of the Mexican army, and when the work on all of them is completed, valuable additions to the world's knowledge of ancient America will surely be made.

COVERS TEN ACRES.

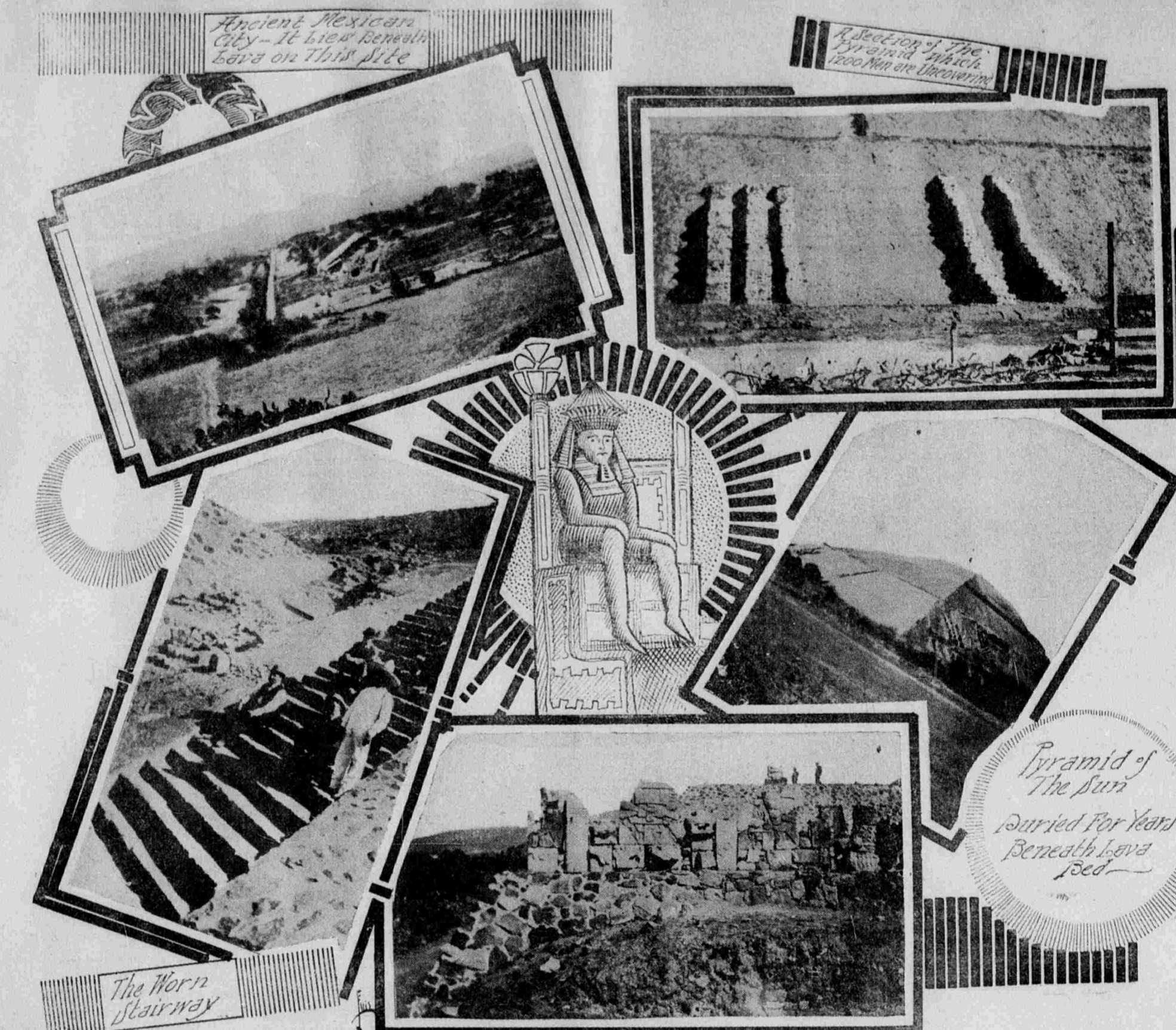
The Pyramid of the Sun stands 215 feet high, and covers 10 acres at the base. Around its entire width run three great promenades, and up its steep sides run a stairway of stone every step of which is worn with service. Besides the regular stairs are many indentations in the sides, where people could have gone up in cases where great throngs appeared, and the stairs were inadequate. In parts the masonry was found to be covered with hieroglyphics, and some bits of these stone writings are shown in the kodak series.

In talking of his visit, to the "News," Mr. Maringer said that he left Salt Lake in company with Fred Hodgson, who has gone down to Mexico to locate permanently, and on Dec. 23 made his visit to the rediscovered city.

COURTESIES EXTENDED.

"We made the run to the ruins over a local railroad," he said, "and in pulling out of the Mexico city yards we noticed a coach standing on a siding, which was used as Maximilian's private car. The road was styled 'The Queen's Road,' and was of English construction, iron ties exclusively being used. We got off the quaint little English train at a station two miles from our destination, and walked the intervening distance."

"To secure permission to visit the uncovered pyramid we had to interview the commander of the troops. The passage, however, was readily furnished, and then every courtesy was shown us, including a luncheon at noon. We found the pyramid a wonderful piece of masonry, occupying over 10 acres of land at the base, and from the upper promenades we could see the main



avenue stretching four miles through the buried city, whose wonders are yet to be proven. In one spot of this city a shed stands, and under it a piece of chiseled stone was found not long ago. It proved to be an upper step, and on excavating a large house was found, with walls three feet thick and many chambers in it.

IS A WORK OF YEARS.

"To uncover the whole city will be a work of years. When it is finally done, America will have a dead city to compare to Pompeii, and the fact that this new world has a really ancient history will receive decidedly a new endorse-

ment."

The evidence of these pyramids in throwing light on the ancient Mexican civilization may be more important than anyone at present realizes. One of the crimes against civilization committed by the Spaniard conquerors of Mexico was the destruction of every one of the ancient churches that could be located, and the throwing down of all monuments and structures that the Spanish priests thought could in any way have to do with idolatrous worship.

AZTEC CALENDAR STONE.

Of pyramids like these now being un-

earthed there were many when the conquerors first came. None but a very few remain. They were the first thing that startled Europeans, and made antiquarians look for an Asiatic source for the Mexican peoples. Then came the wonderful Aztec calendar stone, carved out with the skill of finished mechanical education, and carrying the four cycles into which many ancient Asiatic peoples divided their periods of time.

EMBLEM OF THE CROSS.

Catholic priests were startled to find the cross, emblem of their Christianity, present in America, and from the hieroglyphics where it had been carved,

comes the present "Swastika" jewelry to be worn for good luck. Also there was a startling realization that baptism was practiced here, and among the choice collections of ancient documents the testimony of priests describing the Aztec baptisms are still preserved. With them have been preserved stories of the hood, legends of the "snake woman," and narratives of the Tower of Babel.

So far the remains of ancient civilization to be found in Mexico have been very scanty, but they have multiplied on the southeastern slope of the Cordilleras, in the rich valley of the Oaxaca, and in the forests of Chiapa and Yucatan.

In those regions the remains of a number of cities including Mitla, Palenque, and Itzamal have been found, all arguing a higher state of civilization than any other remains.

WHENCE DID THEY COME?

To readers of the "Book of Mormon" the following paragraph from Prescott's third volume of the Conquest, will present an immediate analogy with familiar data:

"The real difficulty is to explain not how man could have reached America, but from what quarter he actually did reach it. In surveying the whole extent of the 'New World' it is found

to contain two great families, one in the lowest stage of civilization, composed of hunters, and the other nearly as far advanced in refinement as the semi-civilized empires of Asia. The more polished races were probably acquainted with the existence of each other on the different continents of America, and had little intercourse with the barbarian tribes by whom they were surrounded.

"Whence did the refinement of these polished races come? Was it only a higher development of the same Indian character, which we see in the more northern latitudes defying every attempt at permanent civilization? Or was it an indigenous civilization? Or was it borrowed in some degree from the nations of the eastern world? If indigenous, how shall we explain the singular coincidence with the east in institutions and opinions?"

OPINION OF CHURCHMAN.

From E. H. Roberts comes an opinion that, according to Book of Mormon history, these remains should be not those of the Nephites, or the Lamanites—the barbarous nation of hunters—but from a still older people, the Jaredites.

From Prescott a bit of testimony is given in the statement that the Aztecs have no traditions or memories accounting for the great pyramids of Central America, but that these people think they were the work of a race of giants who tried to build to the sun.

"The Jaredite colony," according to the Book of Mormon, was the first of three great migrations from Europe. This colony departed from the tower of Babel about the time of the confounding of the people's languages, which was 2241 B. C. They landed on the west coast of North America, probably south of the Gulf of California, and made their first capital at Moron, probably near the city of Mexico, and in that section at least. For 1,500 years this civilization maintained itself, and was finally completely destroyed.

WHAT BOOK OF MORMON SAYS.

"In the reign of the sixteenth monarch," reads the Book of Mormon, "they occupied the whole face of the land to the northward, and they built a great city by the narrow neck of land by the place where the sea divides the land, by which the ancient land of the isthmus connecting North America. And they were industrious and they did work in all manner of ore, and they did make gold and silver and iron and brass, and all manner of metals, and they did dig it out of the earth, wherefore they did cast up mighty heaps of earth to get ore. And they did wear all manner of fine work. And they did have silks and fine twined linen; and they did work a manner of cloth that they might clothe themselves from their nakedness. And they did not all manner of tools to till the earth, both to plow and to sow, to reap, and to hoe, and also to thresh. And never could be a people more blessed than they and more prospered by the hand of the Lord."

The pyramids now being unearthed are by no means the only ones found in the Mexican and Central America section, but they promise to be a portion of a larger city and seat of civilization than has yet been proven to exist.

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