

# ANCIENT CITY IN DESERT SANDS

Lone Ruins in the Gila Valley,  
Ariz., Subject of Scientific  
Investigation

BY SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE.

First Steps Taken to Protect Archaeological Relics Inaugurate New Epoch in Southwestern Field Work.

Special Correspondence.

Washington, D. C., March 25.—In the heart of the southwest, in a region formerly forsaken by whites and little frequented by Indians is the trace of an ancient city buried by desert sands. Many tumbling walls smoothed flat with the burning plain and marked, grave-like, by the still remnant of a building. In the Gila valley, Arizona, this lone ruin, christened the Casa Grande by the Spaniards of the territory, has since October been the object of investigations, under a special appropriation of Congress, by an archaeological expedition of the Smithsonian Institution.

The Casa Grande is 12 miles from the Santa Fe system of railroads and 18 miles from the Southern Pacific—an easy trip across the desert from Florence, Arizona. It has furnished material for much surprise and recently, for actual scientific investigation—surveys dating back to the gold seeking invasion of Coronado in 1540.

## UNDER NATIONAL CONTROL.

The ruin has been brought three times to the attention of our national legislative body. It lies upon public lands and is therefore under national control. Early, however, it paid the price of many valuable relics by suffering from the too devoted attention of souvenir hunters. About 15 years ago Congress recognized its importance by appropriating \$2,000 for its repair and preservation—following upon private investigations which at the time aroused much general interest. Victor Mindeff, an archaeologist, was sent to supervise the construction of a guard against the wear of elements and a road to the site. He was appointed to protect the ruin against the curious sightseers. Last year Casa Grande again brought an appropriation, this time \$2,000, and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1908, a like sum has been granted.

## DESCRIPTION OF SPOT.

A live description of the spot is given by one of the predecessors of Dr. Fewkes. He says: "The Casa Grande ruin (the single standing building) is located near the southwestern corner of the group, and the ground surface for miles around it in every direction is so flat that from the summit of the walls an immense stretch of country is brought under view. On the east is the broad valley of the Gila river, rising in a given place to a distant range of mountains. About a mile and a half to the north a fringe of cottonwood trees marks the course of the river, beyond it lies the plain, continues, broken somewhat by hills and buttes, until the river is closed by the Superstition mountains. On the northwest the valley of the Gila river runs into the horizon, with a few buttes here and there. On the west lies a range of mountains closing the valley in that direction while toward the

## WHEN YOUR BACK ACHES.

Take one teaspoonful of the following simple mixture after your meals and again before going to bed. *viz.*: Fluid Extract Dandelion one-half ounce, Compound Karger one ounce, Compound Syrup Sarsaparilla three ounces. Get the ingredients from some good prescription pharmacy and mix them yourself by shaking in a bottle.

The kidneys often become clogged up and inactive, either from overwork or change of weather, and cause the back and sides to pain and ache. This is said to readily relieve almost any lame back; also overcome the worst forms of Rheumatism, by toning up the kidneys and forcing them to filter the uric acid or Rheumatism poisons from the blood.

Cut this out and save it.

swallow and south it extends until in some places it meets the horizon, while in other places it is closed by ranges of mountains blue and misty in the distance.

The accounts of visitors to this particular ancient town on the banks of the Gila river trickle along the course of time ever since white men landed in this "desert." When the adventurous members of Coronado's expedition in 1540 braved the scorching suns of the North Mexican desert, they halted in amazement at the ruins of a long-deserted, round-topped city hiding the secrets of a people older than the Indians. Castaneda, the scribe of the invasion, wrote with appreciation of the relic of a supposed fortress which had been destroyed long before by barbarous tribes, perhaps ancestors of the Apaches. In 1884 a Jesuit father, wandering in penance, chanted a mass within its walls, recalling the spirits of departed chiefs of whom we are left no written record. While the white colonists of New England were struggling in 1776 to throw off a yoke ending them to Europe, in the distant Padre Fort, was living in a room of the Casa Grande, writing the deeds of a nation whose prestige had already waned at the approach of a mightier tribe.

## EARLY ACCOUNTS.

In 1846 an "Army of the West" of this advancing mightier tribe conquered these towering walls and the territory surrounding them. Lieutenant Emory and Lieutenant Johnston of this army saw and wrote of the ruins, and Major John Russell Bartlett later described them with admiration. Mr. A. F. A. Bandler, traveling for the Archaeological Institute of America, was the next to mention them in notes on a trip as far south as Central America. These accounts were followed by a partial report in 1886 by Mr. Frank Hamilton Cushing of the "Hemenway Southwestern Archaeological Expedition" from which the party returned laden with specimens of many carved stone implements, highly decorated pottery and burial urns, but above all, with a vivid description of the customs of the extinct people of the region. In settling up affairs of this expedition, Dr. Fewkes came into actual touch with the archaeology of Arizona. The Hemenway expedition was general. The work of Dr. Fewkes is limited to the "buried city about Casa Grande, which he firmly believes as he writes to the Smithsonian will be one of the great spectacles of the region."

## THREE WALLED COMPOUNDS.

"The Casa Grande group of mounds," he says, "is composed of three walled clusters of buildings or compounds, now the most part buried in the earth. In his reports he has labeled them compounds A, B and C. "Compound A" he is excavating. "Compound B" is close at hand. He describes it, writing from his tent upon the grounds: "It is a noble ruin and as I see it now looming among the mesquite trees, I fancy the stately building that someone, some day, will uncover there." Fewkes has already unearthed much of the first group of structures

in which stand the walls of the "great house." As the sand is dug out the mystery of its construction gradually clears. It can hardly be a massive temple of sun-worshippers, as a former traveler surmised, but is more probably a place of refuge, a stronghold in which there may have resided a powerful chieftain of by-gone days who exacted homage from his vassals. The group is slightly over four hundred feet long by two hundred feet wide, surrounded by a wall of pressed earth a yard or more thick and now from eight to fifteen feet high. On two corners have already been unearthed an eight sided bastion and a square room lookout. The great house itself rests above the center of the enclosure, flanked by plazas and groups of smaller houses arranged in an ordered plan. On one side is a large opening, probably the entrance, and about the whole, outside the wall, run traces of a ditch which connects at one corner with an adjacent depression in the ground. Beyond the walls are mounds of all sizes and shapes—mounds which prodigal has proved to be of many origins. There are mounds formed of ashes and debris. The larger ones are burial mounds—treasure houses for the archeologist—rich in mortuary offerings and human remains. There are mounds of earth left from clearing out springs. There is a fourth class of many remains of "ultra-urban single houses" which may hold the solution to the whole make-up of the city.

## ANCESTORS OF INDIANS.

What sort of people were these first Americans who have left only silent evidence of their presence? Columbus? It is established that they were little the resemblance either to Asiatics or to Africans. Wherever they came from originally, they must have been Americans for a large total of generations. Closely allied to the Pima tribe of the present day, conservative estimates would place the number well up into thousands in each city.

It has been a pet theory of ethnologists to account for these vast western ruins by a series of many occupations of the same site, by the Indians, by the construction of a "temple" or "gathering place" or a "compound," as Dr. Fewkes has termed these large blocks of buildings. One relic at one speaks of a vast population in words that are clear—the network of irrigation ditches constructed from the Gila to the Salt river, as they must have been, for the purpose of irrigation, the dirt was then laboriously carried away in baskets strung across the backs of the women. Imagination will conjure up the number of workers necessary to complete in this manner a ditch found by Mr. Cushing traceable at least calculation for 35 miles.

## ALONG SCIENTIFIC LINES.

All the Arizona investigations of the Smithsonian Institute are being conducted with scientific caution. Much of the labor is done by the Indians, who are perhaps the descendants of the very men whose homes they are unearthing. Such relics as have been discovered will be carefully shipped to the National Museum to be compared by experts with other specimens of Indian work. Dr. Fewkes has reserved his own conclusions until the completion of the excavation when whatever definite theories he may have established will be embodied in a complete report on the Casa Grande and its vicinity.

One of his most recent letters to the Smithsonian says:

"I believe the excavation and protection of the ruins on the Casa Grande reservation may be made the most important archeological work the Smithsonian has ever undertaken and if completed as begun will be a valuable contribution to the advancement of knowledge among men. Allow me to emphasize one feature of the archeological work of the Smithsonian at Casa Grande this winter. So far as I know up to the present year no museum, institution or private worker has ever done anything to protect and preserve ruins of buildings in southwestern ruins, brought to light by excavations, but have left them to be destroyed by the elements."

"By protecting the walls as well as specimens found in archeological excavations the institute has inaugurated a new epoch in southwestern field work."

## "A MARRIAGE OF REASON."

New York, April 1.—"A Marriage of Reason," a new four-act modern play, written by J. Hartley Manners and founded on the English novel, "The Second Lady DeLamby," by Mrs. Knapp, was given its first New York production tonight at Wallack's theater.

## A Sign of Beauty is a Joy Forever.

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The story deals with the possibility of happiness in the marriages of convenience.

Kyrie, Belle Impersonated Lord Delcombe, a peer by birth but almost a pauper through circumstances and his own early extravagance. He meets and becomes interested in Ella Forrest, a very attractive woman from Chicago, played by Fannie Ward. A unique proposal follows and he is accepted. There is no sentimentality on either side and from first to last it is to be a marriage of reason.

## H. G. BROWN ESTATE CASE.

Colorado Supreme Court Denies the Appellant a Supersedeas.

Denver, April 2.—The supreme court yesterday ended the litigation for the estate of Harry G. Brown, when supersedeas was denied the appellant, the mother of Brown, and confirmed the decision of the lower court awarding the estate, valued at \$100,000, to Brown's widow, now Mrs. Marie Estes of St. Louis.

## "PNEUMONIA'S DEADLY WORK."

had so seriously affected my right lung," writes Mrs. Fannie Connor, of Rural Route 1, Georgetown, Tenn., that I coughed continuously night and day and the neighbors knew of my consumption—seemed inevitable, until my husband brought home a bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery, which I began to use. It was the only real cough cure and restorer I ever used. Guaranteed by Z. C. M. I. Drug Store, druggists. 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

## POSTAL ARRANGEMENT.

Washington, April 1.—At a conference between Postmaster General Lemuel of Canada and Postmaster General Mayer of the United States in this city today an agreement was reached to amend the postal convention existing between the two countries in so far as it affects the transmission of newspapers and periodicals known as second-class matter, between the two countries. Canada accepts the tentative proposal of this country that second-class matter mailed in one country and addressed to the other might be subject to a rate of one cent for each bulk package, prepaid by stamps affixed.

It's virtues have been established for many years and thousands of people have been made happy by taking Holter's Rocky Mountain Tea. 35 cents. Tea or Tablets. Z. C. M. I. Drug department.

## GERMAN FINANCIER'S VIEW OF DECLINE IN PRICES.

New York, April 2.—Hans Schuster, a director of the Dresdener bank, one of the largest banks in Germany, and the representative of that institution in the negotiations which resulted in the formation last year of a close working alliance between that bank and J. P. Morgan & Co., in an interview published in the Times today, expressed the opinion that political conditions, including the agitation for closer government control of the railroads, really have had nothing to do with the decline in prices which has taken place in recent months in the New York stock market.

Expansion in commerce and industry beyond the ability of capital to finance it has been the fundamental cause of the disturbed condition of our market, according to Mr. Schuster. He made it clear, speaking for foreign investors, that they have to dread such a has been expressed in some quarters here, of closer government control of the railroads or even of government ownership, though he admits distrust has been created abroad by the manner in which the agitation for closer government control has been carried on in this country.

In Mr. Schuster's opinion prices in the stock market have been at a low level, though some construction in trade seems to him inevitable. Probably too, he thought, will be inclined fully to restore the equilibrium in the relations of trade and capital.

## MEDALS FOR REGIMENT.

Barcelona, April 2.—Representatives of the Kaiser have distributed gold medals to the Numancia dragoon regiment in honor of the two hundredth anniversary of the organization of the regiment. A portrait of the Kaiser has also been unveiled in the regimental barracks.

## JACOB C. BEST DEAD.

Son of Racine Millionaire Was Shot in Quarrel in Saloon.

Chicago, April 2.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Racine, Wis., says: Jacob C. Best, son of the millionaire wholesale liquor dealer of Milwaukee, who was shot in the abdomen during a quarrel in a saloon here last week, died early today. J. W. Dillon, in whose saloon Best was shot, is in jail, and though Dillon denies the deed, a dying statement of Best, together with the statements of men who were in the saloon at the time of the shooting, charge Dillon with the shooting.

## ALIENS EXCLUDED.

San Antonio, Tex., April 2.—At Laredo and Eagle Pass ports, all aliens were excluded during March. The majority were Japanese. Insufficient funds and disreputable character of their becoming public charges were the most frequent causes of exclusion.

## PROF. D. C. TAFT DEAD.

Chicago, April 2.—Don Carlos Taft, former professor of geology at the University of Illinois, died of apoplexy yesterday at his residence here. Mr. Taft was born in 1832, at Haverhill, Mass., and graduated from Amherst college in 1852. He accepted the chair of geology at the University of Illinois in 1870, and in 1874 he moved to Haverhill, Kan., where he established a bank of which he was president until 1887 when he came to Chicago. Besides a widow, his second wife, Taft leaves four children. They are Laura, Kate, Mrs. Hamilton Garland, and Mrs. Charles Francis Browne.

## Song of a Robin.

I heard a robin singing.  
When the world lay white and drear  
And never a ray of sunshine fell  
The little heart so cheery  
I listened to the gladness  
That was mingled in his song.  
And for my heart the shadows fell  
In woe, years, and long.  
I heard a robin singing.  
When the night was dark and lone  
And from the song a lesson learned  
Of hope and trust and love.  
It spoke to me of patience  
Of a spring our hearts shall know.  
Where snows of winter fall  
—Sathleen Weatherhead, in Westminster Gazette.

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