

He urged the adoption of a simple equal-month calendar with months of four weeks each, quarters of thirteen weeks, and years of 52 exact weeks.

He would absorb the unavoidable extra day in common years and two such extra days in leap years.

RATTLESNAKE THRONE FOUND IN MAYA RUNIS

Carnegie Institution excavators at work on the ruins of Chichen Itza, Yucatan, have penetrated to the throne of the king, perhaps the most magnificent spot within the columns of the buried chief city of the prehistoric Maya empire.

The throne is a magnificent affair, thirteen feet wide, seven feet deep and three feet high. On the sloping sides are carved elaborately costumed warriors, weaving in and out among which are rattlesnakes, sacred to Kukulcan, principal god of the Itza. This panel is topped with a cornice composed of intertwining rattlesnakes. The throne was painted in deep red, warm yellow, brilliant blue and green.

The throne and council chamber were found in the northeast colonnade of the buried city. The excavators were guided in their work by four sculptured columns, the rest of the 48 which compose this colonnade being plain. The walls and plain columns were painted with frescoes in bright colors, now almost entirely destroyed. The floors were of hard lime plaster, painted a rich red. Around the back and side walls runs a deep, broad bench with sloping back, where perhaps the Itzan dignitaries, priests and councilors sat in solemn deliberation with the king seated on his "rattlesnake" throne.

Another very important discovery has been the outer wall of the colonnade with its sculptural decorations uninjured, in position at the southwest corner. This shows the original height of the building to have been nineteen and a quarter feet. Around the top of the building there had been a sculptured rattlesnake cornice - the head of one reptile and the tail of another still projecting at this point. Below this there were two great, grotesque human heads with square eye sockets, curling noses, filed teeth set in grinning mouths and square earrings. These are representations of none less than Kukulcan himself. Below is another cornice of intertwining rattlesnakes.

Life in Chichen Itza, however, was not entirely one of grotesque reverence to Kukulcan and his rattlesnakes.

The Carnegie Institution excavators announce the uncovering of a ball court just north of the throne location in which a game similar to the American basketball was played. This game, which was introduced by the Toltec-Aztec conquerors of the city, had for its object the driving of a solid rubber ball through a ring fastened in the side of the wall. The court just uncovered is the third to be discovered in the "New" Maya Empire.

The game was known as "tlachtli". The hole through the ring being perpendicular to the wall, it was necessary to stand very close to the wall and throw the ball practically parallel to the axis of the wall. The ball would not be thrown directly with the hand, but had to be struck with the elbow, wrist or hip. The

players wore leather pads on these parts to make the rubber ball bound from them more easily.

The winning shot was so difficult and so seldom made that, according to another rule of the game, the lucky player had forfeited to him all the clothing of the spectators.

At the court of Montezuma, where the game first was witnessed by the Spaniards high stakes were wagered on the game by the Aztec nobles - quills filled with gold dust, estates, even liberty, the betters becoming slaves if they lost.

It is notable that from the balls used in this game the Spaniards gained their first conception of rubber.

NATIVE AMERICAN ELEPHANTS ROAMED CONTINENT RECENTLY

Evidence that mastodons only recently became extinct in America was presented to the British Association for the Advancement of Science by Prof. J. W. Russell of the University of Western Ontario.

Most mastodon remains have been recovered from bogs containing peaty material which acted as a preservative; so that it has been impossible to tell how long since these big elephants lived. Prof. Russell told of finding a mastodon skeleton which had no preservative, and showed the bones and described the rapid weathering and dissolving which would have occurred had they been long exposed. The bones show that the mastodon must have died quite recently, he concluded.

COLORED GLASSES TO AID COLOR-BLIND

The possibility of at least a partial cure of color-blindness was pointed out at the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, by H. E. Roaf, M.D., professor of physiology at the Medical School of the University of London.

"As a result of the examination of color-blind individuals", reports Professor Roaf, "it has been found that some of them are sensitive to as great an extent of the spectrum and apparently with intensity equal to that of normal people. Therefore the difficulty of these persons must lie in their failure to differentiate certain wave lengths of light. Such individuals can recognize their mistakes by examination of their color matches through a colored screen. It is possible that if such a person wore a colored glass over one eye, he might learn to recognize colors like normal persons while wearing the glass."

STRANGE PREHISTORIC PEOPLE DISCOVERED IN MAINE WOODS

Discovery of remains of prehistoric people in central Maine unrelated to any known Indians of the United States, was announced to the British Association for the Advancement of Science by Warran K. Moorehead, editor of "American Archaeology". Stone implements found in graves of this extinct race show a slight similarity with