



WHERE AMERICAN EXPEDITION WILL DIG

View of the ancient city of Van, looking towards the citadel. In the center is what was probably a public square or possibly a market-place, with surrounding shops.

PHYSICS

Rival Types of Baseballs Given Scientific Tests

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Standards, where almost every conceivable item ranging from an elevator to a clinical thermometer is put through its paces to see that it stands up and behaves, is going to bat to settle once and for all the winter stovepipe league's most bitterly contested verbal battle:

Which baseball is livelier, that of the American or the National League?

Scientific tests now being conducted can be expected to shed scientific light on the question which has consistently popped up wherever fans and ball players meet: Why has the American League consistently reported higher batting averages than the senior circuit?

While no Robot Ruth will stand up at the plate and bat out homers with measured precision, tests under the supervision of Dr. H. L. Dryden of the Bureau will accurately measure the resilience of the balls used in the American and International Leagues, and in the National League, it was stated.

A special machine devised by Bureau scientists will hurl wooden projectiles at baseballs so that the two collide at a relative speed similar to that of bat meeting horsehide coming up from a fast ball pitcher's hurling arm.

Because a fast ball probably travels the 60 feet between the box and home plate at a rate close to 120 feet a second, and because the bat is moving fast also, making a high relative speed, the scientists in charge had to drop any idea of testing the ball's resiliency by dropping it. The ball would not be travelling fast enough. "The impact of a ball dropped from the top of the Washington Monument, or higher, on to the pavement below is probably not as great as that of the bat hitting a fast ball," a statement from the Bureau says.

An air gun will fire a one-pound hardwood projectile representing the bat at speeds up to 200 feet per second against the ball. After impact, the ball and projectile will be caught in ballistic pendulums, by means of which their speeds can be determined. The resilience or "liveliness," it is explained, is measured by the ratio of the relative speed after impact to the relative speed before impact.

The machine doesn't take up the question of the raised stitches on the National League horsehide vs. the not-so-raised stitches on the ball made famous by the long-distance clouting of Joe di Maggio and the Babe.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Van, Ancient City in Turkey, To be Explored by Americans

AMERICAN archaeologists will set out for Turkey this spring in hope that an ancient city called Van will yield important secrets of history.

Ruins they plan to excavate once formed a capital and fortress of a kingdom that rose and fell between about 840 B.C. and 600 B.C. Buried records, it is believed, will explain how the kingdom dealt with its formidable neighbors, before Scythian armies destroyed the capital.

The joint expedition to Van is undertaken by Brown University and the University of Pennsylvania, with such well-known archaeologists in charge as Prof. Robert P. Casey of Brown, Prof. Kirsopp Lake, retired professor of Biblical literature at Harvard, and Horace H. F. Jayne of the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania. Three summers of excavation are planned.

Prof. Casey believes that, if enough cuneiform writings can be unearthed at Van, the kingdom's history can be traced, and this will add to understanding of the Biblical books of Genesis and Kings. Bible scholars have gained much historic background material from Babylonian and Assyrian ruins, but the region of Turkey, or Asia Minor, may also have its version of ancient international affairs to reveal.

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ANTHROPOLOGY

Arabs, Indians Related, Blood Type Shows

AMERICA'S pure-blood Indians and the purest-blood Arabs are closely related, says Dr. William M. Shanklin of the American University of Beirut.

Dr. Shanklin, who has been investigating blood types of tribes in the Syrian desert and farther east during a period of several years, has concluded that the two races have the same identical type of blood, scientifically known as blood-group O.

That almost all pure-blood Indians belong to blood-group O, rather than to other blood types found among the world's peoples, had been determined by previous researches. Dr. Shanklin has made the first studies of this kind in the Syrian desert, where the Rwala tribe of nomad Arabs has been living for centuries. Dr. Shanklin has reported his results to the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine.