

a tributary to the Jordan. This station delivers 18,000 horsepower in electricity, with provisions for doubling this amount.

All three power plants will be joined together to supply the needs of every city, town, and agricultural settlement in Palestine, and while the plants are privately owned the government is to regulate the charges in a manner similar to the way public utilities are regulated in the United States.

Science News Letter, July 4, 1931

OCEANOGRAPHY

No Ice in North Atlantic; Ice Charts not Published

LACK OF BUSINESS has caused the suspension of another publication; but for once regrets are not in order. The suspended publication is the Ice Supplement to the North Atlantic Pilot Chart, usually published throughout late spring and summer, to inform transatlantic shipping regarding the number and distribution of icebergs in steamer lanes. So far this year not a single iceberg has reached the steamer tracks, so that the Ice Supplement has nothing to report, and has been suspended until conditions again justify its publication.

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Some of the swords and daggers used by Mayan Indians in Yucatan were of cholul wood, which is extremely hard.

ARCHAEOLOGY

New Type of Prehistoric Indians Found in Texas

Scientist Forced to Crawl Through Long Narrow Cave And Labor in Dust to Bring Out Relics of Tribe

A NEW TYPE of prehistoric Indian life has been discovered by F. M. Setzler, of the U. S. National Museum, as a result of an exciting adventure in Texas cave exploration.

The Museum received word of an Indian cradle remarkably different from the run of ancient American cradles. The cradle had been found within this cave in the Big Bend region of Texas. Mr. Setzler set out to explore and has returned to Washington, having succeeded in removing from the cave a collection of articles which belonged to the cavern dwellers. The objects were obtained under difficulties such as are rarely encountered even by adventurous archaeologists.

The cave opening had been almost closed by falling boulders, and more boulders still hang at precarious angles ready to crash down when some key-stone slips. To enter the cave it was necessary to crawl twenty feet down a passage no more than two feet high. Rattlesnakes, scorpions and rats were the

present-day inhabitants of the cave, the archaeologist soon found. Dust in the cavern chamber was so thick that dust masks had to be worn, and even then the dust sifted through the masks after a short time in the chamber.

No lantern could be kept lighted in this dust-laden air. Flashlights were more successful. They lighted up a small circle of the darkness, sufficiently to allow Mr. Setzler and four Mexican laborers to dig and remove dirt from the cave. The four-foot layer of earth containing the remains of the cave's ancient inhabitants was excavated and examined by the archaeologist himself, and then five feet of earth below that was dug up, on the chance that it might contain small objects or bones of animals. This dirt was transported out of the cave by a bucket brigade. As each bucket load was ready, one man passed it to the next along the low, cramped passage-way until it was finally outside, where it could be sifted, in order to salvage any remaining small relics or bones.

The articles which the cavern contained are cradles, baskets, pieces of matting, sandals. The poorly preserved bones of a child were the only human remains discovered. No trace of European objects, or anything to indicate that these people had ever encountered Europeans appeared. The articles found are different from those made by any known Indian tribe. The fact that the cave inhabitants had baskets but no pottery suggests that they may have been contemporaries of the Basket Maker Indians who lived in the Southwest about the time of Christ and perhaps for two thousand years before. Pottery was introduced at the close of the Basket Maker era, about the time the Pueblo tribes came into the Southwest.

Who the newly discovered people were, and whether they were related to the Basket Makers or to Mexican Indians or to tribes from the east, remains for science to determine. Texas prehistory is comparatively little explored as yet, Mr. Setzler pointed out.

Science News Letter, July 4, 1931



ON THE BANKS OF THE JORDAN RIVER

The new 18,000 horsepower hydro-electric plant at Jisr-el-Mujameh, one of three projects that will supply the Holy Land with abundant power for agriculture and manufacturing.