

age on the Monongahela, that paragon of inland waterway freight lines."

The canal would be of great benefit to the American merchant marine, it was pointed out, because, out of a total of more than 10,000 voyages which would have been benefited by the canal in 1929, 7,610 were made by American vessels and only 2,731 by vessels of foreign register.

*Science News Letter, May 21, 1932*

## SOCIAL SCIENCE

## Depression May Mark America's Coming of Age

"BLACK THURSDAY" in October, 1929, now observed as an anniversary of a much-lamented stock market crash, may be revealed in the future as the date of America's coming of age in both an economic and an intellectual sense, Morse A. Cartwright, director of the American Association for Adult Education, has declared.

"The sudden diversion of public thought in the United States," he said, "from the all-absorbing pursuit of the dollar for the dollar's sake to the opposite extreme of the painful economic consequences of a prosperity debauch, has resulted in an increased public attention focused upon the complex problems of living. To this extent the uses of adversity have proved sweet: Americans are examining principles—economic, psychological, historical and philosophical—with a skepticism seldom exhibited during the boom days. They are also showing a disinclination to accept business, governmental, or other leadership at face value which is at once the despair and the hope of the democracy."

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## MEDICINE

## Electrically Produced Fever Relieves Asthma Sufferers

ARTIFICIAL fever produced by electrical heating gave relief to 42 sufferers from intractable asthma, Drs. Samuel M. Feinberg, Stafford L. Osborne and Meyer J. Steinberg of Chicago reported to the American Medical Association. Nineteen of the 42 patients were free of asthmatic attacks for considerable time after treatment.

The Chicago physicians based their treatment on the observation that the

## PALEONTOLOGY-ARCHAEOLOGY

## Finding of Arrow Head Near Mammoth Bone Raises Query

THE REPORTS of the finding of an arrow point in close association with the jawbone of a mammoth at Flagler Beach, Fla., write into the scientific record another chapter of the investigations to determine whether human beings lived in America contemporaneously with animals that have heretofore been considered extinct before man arrived on this continent.

The discovery was made by the Explorers' Club of Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla., a student group, with Jack H. Connery of the museum staff as leader. Excavating in a sandy muck deposit about a mile inland, the students proved the site rich in ancient animal remains. Skeletal parts of mastodons, turtles and probably camels were unearthed in addition to mammoth bones.

The discovery that particularly focussed attention of scientists on the work was made by Mr. Connery. What proved later to be the jawbone of a mammoth was encountered a few feet below the surface and as Mr. Connery explained to Science Service:

"On trying to determine identity of the object, it was necessary to follow the outline with the bare hand. On reaching under it, a cavity was discovered large enough to insert my hand. From this cavity I extracted a handful of wet loose substance which differed

from surrounding soil and which contained a hard object. The material was washed from the hard object, which made chemical analysis impossible. The object proved to be an arrow head, which J. E. Spurr, visiting professor of geology at Rollins College, determined as chert."

The circumstances of this discovery raised the question as to whether some prehistoric man might have shot the prehistoric elephant. Mr. Connery communicated word of the discovery to Dr. Carl E. Guthe, chairman of the State Archaeological Surveys Committee of the National Research Council, who in turn asked Science Service to look into the matter as a part of its archaeological and anthropological reporting plan operated in collaboration with a National Research Council committee.

Gene M. Stirling, archaeologist of the Peabody Museum, and Walter W. Holmes, paleontologist of St. Petersburg, Fla., acted as Science Service "minute men" and studied the circumstances of the discovery with Mr. Connery. They reported that the discovery was inconclusive as to whether the arrow point was actually shot into the mammoth skull. They expressed the opinion that a valuable site of promise had been explored and urged that scientists in the fields concerned cooperate in further excavations.

Dr. C. W. Stiles, the eminent zoologist who is visiting professor of zoology at Rollins College, visited the site and expressed the following opinion:

"The one point upon which I am willing to commit myself at present is that the teeth belong to the genus *Elephas*, *sensu lato*, in the broad sense of the term. The finding of an arrowhead and of a needle-like object in connection with these remains is exceedingly suggestive."

The Flagler Beach discovery promises to take its place alongside more than a hundred reports of the association of man with extinct animals in various parts of America. These discoveries, variously interpreted, provide fuel for the continuing discussion as to the antiquity of man on this continent.

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