

managed to plant secretly some cheap and modern Chinese snuff bottles in the tombs.

Archaeologists who found them were amazed. They knew they were working in tombs undisturbed since about the fourteenth century B. C. They did not suspect a fake.

So, they drew the romantic conclusion that ancient Egypt got trade goods from China, thousands of miles away. And they marveled at the enterprise of business men in those distant times. They also pointed with awe to the scrawled writing on the tiny bottles, and whispered that Chinese writing had scarcely changed in 3,000 years.

Meanwhile, Arabs were cashing in on the situation by selling additional Chinese snuff bottles of the same kind to collectors, at fine profit.

It took years for experts on Chinese antiquities to clear up the confusion. Eventually, some one firmly declared the style of writing on the bottles was never used in China before the second century A. D. Moreover, the flowery sentiments scrawled on the porcelain were by poets even later than second century. In time, the truth was known.

The whole story is revived by Elizabeth Riefstahl, who reports that a number of the controversial bottles have come to the Brooklyn Museum, along with a fine collection of real Egyptian antiquities.

The Arab trick has been completely unmasked since 1915. Yet writers are found still taking the Chinese bottle story in good faith.

As Miss Riefstahl points out, the moral is plain. In scholarly work, judgments should not be hasty. A false statement launched into the world may go on almost forever.

*Science News Letter, July 30, 1938*

#### POPULATION

### Japanese Win Place In Brazilian Agriculture

**J**APANESE have penetrated into Brazil in the last decade until in the state of Sao Paulo they comprise nearly one-fifth of the population, Prof. Preston E. James, of the University of Michigan, reported to the American Geographical Society (*Geographical Review*, July).

The Japanese immigrants are engaged in market gardening and cotton growing. On only 1.77% of the agricultural land, they raised 46% of the cotton crop and 29.5% of the agricultural products.

*Science News Letter, July 30, 1938*



#### PLANTED

*About a hundred years ago, wily Arabs planted such pretty little snuff jars as these in the tombs of Egypt to fool archaeologists. The hoax was exposed in 1915, but writers are still found taking the "finds" in good faith.*

#### ENGINEERING

## Steam-Electric Locomotive Ordered For Union Pacific

### Civil Engineers' Meeting Hears of Need for Maps; Flood Control Methods in China Are Explained

**A** NEW, giant steam turbine-electric locomotive, of a design different from any locomotive now in operation, will soon be placed in service on the Union Pacific R. R., it was reported to the meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers at Salt Lake City.

The huge unit, creating at least 5,000 horsepower, will virtually be a steam generating electric plant on wheels. The locomotive, now under construction, will generate 45,000 pounds of steam an hour at a pressure of 1,500 pounds to the square inch, said Charles P. Kahler, system electrical engineer of the Union Pacific.

This high pressure steam will drive a main turbine spinning at 12,500 revolutions

per minute. The turbine, in turn, will drive an electrical generator at 1,250 revolutions per minute. This electric power will drive the locomotive.

The steam circulates through a closed circuit. After leaving the turbine it goes to an air-cooled condenser, is there turned back into water, and sent back to the boiler.

#### Planning Ahead on Roads

No more will the nation be caught napping on its highway construction, Dr. L. I. Howes, deputy chief engineer, U. S. Bureau of Public Roads, told the meeting.

During the past ten years the use of America's highways has increased 73