

SCIENTISTS FIND CYPRUS DATES BACK TO 3500 B.C.

New Excavations Bring to Light Pottery and Other Tangible Evidence of Civilization on Small Island

(By Frederic J. Haskin)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 31.—Authorities have been saying for time that the island of Cyprus in the Mediterranean sea first was known to history as the result of an Egyptian conquest which occurred only 1500 years B.C. Thotmes III of Egypt is said to have made a conquest there and exacted tribute of horses, chariots and other articles. The fact that there were such properties to become subject to levy is sufficient indication that an advanced civilization existed long before. Archaeologists have found out something about those earlier times but have not gone nearly so far back as recent explorers—and when one says explorers, it means explorers under the surface which, for centuries, has covered the superficial face of the land.

P. Dikaios, curator of the Cyprus Museum, recently has announced that explorations which have been going on for some time have revealed that the Cyprus civilization dates back to 3500 B.C., which places it in the neolithic period.

That famous average American, be he from central Iowa or Florida or Arkansas or any other representative part of the United States, is sometimes declared to have no interest in anything which happened later than the day before yesterday. Perhaps there are such persons. A broader view, widely shared, is that the man of today, be he American or the citizen of any other nation of the world, must be concerned with the men and civilization of the long past.

It is by examination of those early civilizations that a man may somehow hope to gain an inkling of what he himself, may come to at a later time. There is no question that the man who lived in Cyprus 3500 years B.C.—which means something like 5500 years ago—believed that he represented the last word in modern progress. He occupied the same relative position then that does the man of today who lives in a deluxe apartment or an up to the minute bungalow equipped with every modern convenience—as the real estate advertisements read.

It is probable, then, that there is a lesson in what the man of 50 cent-

uries ago did and how he lived, for his actions may constitute a sort of index to what the man of today may be doing 50 centuries hence. To be sure, the pace of life has accelerated and the advance of the next 50 centuries is likely to be faster than that of the last. But no one may be sure about that. Since the days of the early men of Cyprus, the world passed through the dark ages, during which culture declined from the glory that was Greece and the grandeur that was Rome.

Long years were required to recapture new cultural glimmerings. There may be a new period of dark ages, no more anticipated now than were those other dark ages in the age of Pericles. It is not unthinkable, in terms of long history, that the civilization of Cyprus 3500 years B.C., some day, will seem marvellous to a new and raw world, belittled and crippled beyond recognition by warfare.

Archaeologists had discovered only ten years ago that there had been remarkable settlements on Cyprus around 3000 B.C., even though recorded history made no mention of such a place. Apparently the other early peoples of the Mediterranean had not found the island and its people or, at the time, lacked historians to record the fact. Nevertheless these excavations had brought to light evidences of an early culture. Its chief characteristics consisted of circular huts of stone, red and white pottery of quite wonderful workmanship and decorated with patterns of geometric and naturalistic design, and a few other more than half-obliterated traces. Stone axes and stone idols were found. This was near Limassol.

The latest excavation carries the story back at least 500 years farther. Some American families trace their forebears on this soil back for three centuries, or a little more, and that often seems a long time. Five centuries seems a longer time, especially since no European then dwelt in America. But here is a question of pushing back the story of the dwellers in Cyprus a full 500 years and discovering something about them.

These newest excavations were

made at the ancient settlement of Khirokitia on the centuries-old road from Limassol to Nicosia. Fragments on the surface or near it suggested excavation which soon was rewarded with the unearthing of stone axes of unquestioned early date. Then came finds of pottery declared by experts to be the earliest ever found on Cyprus. It is regarded as being of special interest that the finds link the civilization of this earlier period with that of the later. There had been some thought that the things of 3000 B.C. might have been imported, but to find things of the same general type 500 years older on the same island is regarded as indicating that the culture was original.

There is one marked difference in one respect. The period 500 years earlier shows a stronger leaning to vases carved out of stone, very pleasing forms and shapes. There is less of clay pottery. Five hundred years later, there was more clay pottery, red decorated with white figures or the reverse.

Perhaps the most fascinating find so far at the older site is an obviously sacred enclosure. There is abundant stone on Cyprus and it seems to have been the chief building material as well as the chief material, at this period, for the making of utensils. This sacred enclosure is circular in form, more than 20 feet in diameter. The stones do not appear to have been laid in mortar, but are carefully fitted and piled to form the walls which are some four feet thick.

Within the enclosure were found two rectangular piers of pylons of hier-like shape, and being seven feet long and three feet wide, suggesting such a use. But they seem not to have been so used, for such skeletons as were found were not reposing there but rather upon the floor of the enclosure. However, on top of each of the seeming biers, was a depression which seems to have been designed to contain something—perhaps a sacrifice or a libation of wine to the gods.

An interesting fact is that such a structure seems almost certainly to have been designed as a tomb of a chief or a presiding priest for, although the excavation work has proceeded farther, there have been no others found. In some other regions excavated about the world—and at the later Cyprus villages—it has been found that circular structures were erected as dwelling places but, so far it is not indicated that any village of such buildings existed. The dwelling places of the living must have been of slighter construction and possibly not of stone at all, but here, apparently, was a place of rest for great

INCREASE SHOWN IN WORLD TRADE

World trade appears to have definitely turned the corner and for the first nine months of 1936 was showing increases over the previous year. Recovery in world trade, however, has not kept pace with recovery in individual countries. This fact indicates that many of the forces which have impeded international trade in recent years are still far from being removed. It is encouraging to Canadians to notice that the trade of both Great Britain and the United States has been increasing, as these two countries for the principal market for Canadian export sales. The question of International Trade conditions is carefully analyzed in the fourth annual Agricultural Situation and Outlook, which has been published by the Dominion Departments of Agriculture and Trade and Commerce.

Trade in agricultural foodstuffs has not recovered to the same extent as has been shown for some other products. This fact is attributed to the shift in production which has taken place in the countries normally considered as importers of agricultural produce. These countries, chiefly in Western Europe, have for economic, political, military and social reasons, encouraged the production of more home grown foodstuffs. This has been accomplished by the erection of high tariff barriers and the use of many new barriers to trade. In recent months there has been evidence of some relaxation of these trade barriers. This change of attitude gives a somewhat brighter outlook to the world trade picture. Another feature which is tending to relieve the situation is the trade agreement policies being effected, chiefly by the United States and Canada.

The uncertainty of currency exchange has been a factor impeding world trade in recent years and the decision of France to devalue the franc, in co-operation with Great Britain and the United States, has had a settling effect on foreign exchanges.

For the fiscal year ended March 31 1936, Canada exported agricultural produce valued at \$290,488,000. This was an increase of 10.7 per cent. over the previous year. Approximately 64 per cent. of the farm materials exported go to Great Britain and 21 per cent. to the United States.

lords or priests who quite possibly were laid there 6000 years ago.

"NEW DEAL" NULLIFICATION SEQUEL IN DOUBT

Ruling on Constitutional References Certain to Be Discussed Soon in House.

OTTAWA, Jan. 31.—A Parliamentary discussion sooner or later will be the sequel to the judgments in London on the constitutional references. It is unlikely that the Government will even tentatively decide upon any action in the matter without consulting Parliament, now that it is in session, and in view of the fact that the statutes in question were Parliament's own creation.

The most probable course however, is for one more conference with the Provinces bearing upon the subject, even if conferences held in the last few years have been characterized by a large degree of futility. Interviews with the different Provincial authorities have, among other things, brought the suggestion that the Provinces might supply the deficiency in Federal authority, revealed in yesterday's judgments, by the enactment of enabling legislation. That is to say, a province which really has the right to deal with these questions itself would delegate its authority to the Dominion, or co-operate with the Federal powers. This is done in the case of old age pensions, where the money is provided by the Dominion largely, but the administration is Provincial. In regard to social insurance, however, the whole idea was that it should be nationwide in its scope and Federal in its administration.

An objection which is seen to be enabing legislation by the Provinces is that it might not be vested with permanence. Such an act, passed by one government, might be repealed by another, and the operation of the system, in that particular province thus be nullified.

It is especially in regard to the social insurance question that the Federal authority is desirable, inasmuch as there can scarcely be nine different insurance systems for as many Provinces. The Dominion Government is not particularly concerned about the administration of minimum wage and hours of labor regulations which have always been pro-

PRE-REFORMATION PAINTING FOUND

In Westminster Abbey-- Works of Art Long Hidden Date Back to Early Days.

LONDON, England, Jan. 31.—During the cleaning operations that have been recently proceeding at Westminster Abbey some Pre-Reformation wall-paintings have come to light which must rank among the most important discoveries made in recent years. They were disclosed as the Abbey is being prepared for the Coronation in May. A considerable amount of colour and gilding was found about three years ago on the figures of censuring angels and of St. Edward and the Pilgrim which are carved high up on the south wall of the south transept. On the south wall, outside the chapel of St. Faith, two subjects were uncovered, monumental in scale, and undoubtedly outstanding examples of the work of the Westminister School in the latter part of the thirteenth century. Traces of color in other bays, and gold and colour on the arch mouldings, provide evidence which shows that these subjects were part only of a scheme of painting which at that time embraced at least a considerable part of this transept.

One of these two paintings depicts St. Christopher a standing figure over nine feet high, clothed in a tunic and mantle, the colour scheme being of purple, blue and yellow, on a bright green background. On the shoulder of the saint is the Christ Child, holding

vincial affairs, so long as there is assurance that in these respects proper schedules and standards are maintained in the individual provinces.

The text of the judgments will be awaited and studied, but what seems to be the only feasible course will be to confer with the provinces, though it is doubtful if this can be done before next autumn. No disposition is indicated simply to let the matter stand without action. A conference might discuss the question of enabling legislation, or it might go further and if possible, agree on such an amendment to the constitution as would clothe the Dominion with the authority in which the Privy Council finds it to be lacking.

C. P. Railway Has Voting Control

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—The C. P. R. owns 61 per cent of the voting control of the Associated Screen News, Ltd., it was shown today in a report to the United Securities and Exchange Commission. Other information showed the railway owns 68.3 per cent. control of the Vancouver Island Transportation Company, Ltd.

an apple. In a partly mutilated description, the following words are decipherable: "Xpoforum quia . . . quem portat hinc facit omnipotens." The other subject, the incredulity of St. Thomas, is executed in purple and greens, on a vermillion background, diapered with crimson fleur-de-lis. Christ, bearing the vexillum, places the hand on the kneeling figure of St. Thomas against the wound in His side. The figure of Christ is of a monumental size, being like that of St. Christopher, nine feet in height. Even after the lapse of six and a half centuries the paintings are well preserved, especially in the case of the incredulity of St. Thomas, which is in a remarkable state of preservation. Its colours are still rich and luminous, and originally must have been brilliant in hue.

At the period when the work was executed, about 1280, the painter of greatest importance was Master Walter of Durham. It is known that he worked in the Painted Chamber of Westminster Palace from about the year 1262, and that he decorated the Coronation Chair about 1300-1301. He is also said to have painted the test-er above the tomb of Queen Eleanor, and it is probable that the subject on the base of the tomb, of which some traces of colour remain, was from his brush. There are grounds for the supposition that he painted the fine figures of Virtues which formerly existed on the plays of the windows in the famous Painted Chamber. Faithful records of these were, fortunately, preserved and reconstructions of them may be seen in the House of Commons. Resemblance not only in general style, but in certain details, between these paintings and those recently found, lend considerable force to the supposition that these new discoveries in the Abbey Church are examples of the handwork of Master Walter, who held the office of King's Painter, and was one of the most famous of English craftsmen in the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries.

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