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Toltec Problems

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Abstract: A series of brief comments in which the author presents archaeological findings, architectural notes, and myths and legends that deal indirectly with the Book of Mormon. Dibble discusses the wheel, ancient irrigation methods, metals, Mexican and Mayan codices, Quetzalcoatl, ancient buildings, and numerous other related items. The sixth part covers the Toltecs.

"There Lies Our Hope"

By C. FRANK STEELE

SOME time ago I was driving over the pleasant southern Alberta countryside in company with an influential businessman of the city of Lethbridge. He is an observant, studious, and widely traveled man with important business and club connections.

We were talking about a number of things, among them the war and its implications. Then the problem of the American youth of today came up, and when I say American youth, I mean the youth of our North American democracies.

"When this war is over we will be living in a different world. Great changes, many of them not seen yet, are taking place in our thinking, our habits of life, our way of life we so fondly speak about. And these changes are for the good," this businessman said.

"We have built up many false, artificial standards in North America. Our cocktail lounge type of life is much to blame. And, remember this, we older folk have set the young people an example. We have given them the lead in the popular craze for a life of excess. We have sown the seeds; in thousands of night clubs, roadhouses, beer halls, yes, in many, many homes, too, we see the harvest, and the harvest is not good."

"You mean, we must get back to the simple life, to the natural life," I said.

"That's right. We must get back to an appreciation of simple things. Home life, books, clean living, high moral standards, honesty, integrity. . ."

There was a pause in the conversation. Round us lay the green, broad countryside, meadows, alfalfa fields, grain fields giving promise of the harvest. To the west were outlined the Rockies, dominant, challenging, beautiful in their strength.

Then my friend, the businessman, an average businessman of our Canadian-American world, said:

"I want to tell you a story. The other day there came to our city, as you know, a girl from Long Beach, California. She was in her late teens, a lovely, sweet girl. And clever, too, the champion drum majorette of California, and a great airline brought her to Canada as a good will gesture to assist in the launching of the Victory Loan campaign.

"All this you know—but now comes the point you may not know. This young lady was entertained in a certain home in town, elaborately entertained. The host, of course, wanted to do the appropriate thing, as we have come to think, so there were liquor, cigarettes, food, and lots of it. In the center of the gayety moved this simple, lovely girl from California. She was pleasant, buoyant, apprecia-

tive of every courtesy. But she was different.

"I noticed she didn't smoke, she declined the cocktails, and she even declined the tea and coffee. I soon found myself conversing with her. She was delightfully girlish and interesting. Finally I said: 'I have been watching you tonight, as others have, and we find you are different. You seem to be enjoying yourself thoroughly, but you



DOROTHY BRAMLEY

are not doing what these others are doing. You are part of the party, but apart from it. And I think I can guess why—you are a Mormon girl!"

"She smiled, and said: 'You are right, I am a Mormon girl, born in Salt Lake City and living now in the Long Beach Stake.'

"Well, that's the story. I cannot tell you why, but somehow you Mormons have something we haven't got. Here was a young girl surrounded by temptations and the center of the social whirl—but throughout it all she was loyal to her ideals, her standards. She exhibited a strength our youth must have if we are to build that new world we've been talking about."

And then he added:

"There lies our hope for the future. Your way of life."

Now to round out this story, I must add, of course, that the lady was Dorothy Bramley, Long Beach Gleaner Girl, who "stole the show" during the festivities in Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and other Alberta cities during the recent Victory Loan campaign festivities. She was brought north from Los Angeles by special plane, welcomed by the mayor, escorted by the Royal Mounted, and photographed with them; she led the parades, was feted by the Canadian Legion, and was honored by the Blood Indians who crowned her with a beautiful tribal headdress. She was charming in her simplicity, and was just about the best missionary we have ever had in these parts.

TOLTEC PROBLEMS

By Charles E. Dibble

WHO were the Toltecs of Central Mexico? In what epoch did their culture flourish? How far did their cultural influence diffuse? Where was their ancient capital of Tula located? Was it the Tula in the state of Hidalgo or the famous archeological site of Teotihuacan? When and why was Tula destroyed? These and related problems formed the central theme of the First Round Table Conference on Anthropological Problems of Mexico and Central America, sponsored in Mexico City, July 11 to 15, by the Mexican Society of Anthropology.

The purpose of the conference was not to solve these problems definitely but rather to present the results of recent anthropological research in relation to Tula and the Toltecs. The reports dealt with the findings of researchers in archeology, linguistics, ethnology, and historical research. The discussion was directed by Mexico's brilliant archeologist, Dr. Alfonso Caso, and the following anthropologists read reports: Dr. Paul Kirchhoff, Professor Robert Weitlaner, Edward Noguera, Enrique Juan Palacios, Miguel Othon de Mendizabal, and Wigberto Jimenez Moreno, from Mexico; and Dr. J. Eric Thompson, of the Smithsonian Institution; Dr. Gordon Ekholm, of the American Museum of Natural History; Dr. Isabel Kelley, of the University of California; and Dr. Donald D. Brand, of the University of New Mexico.

It was resolved that more anthropological research in surrounding areas is a pre-requisite to a definite solution of the problems; that elements generally identified with the Toltec culture are found, some in Tula, Hidalgo, and others in Teotihuacan.

It was also agreed that the culture designated as "Toltec" represents a flourishing which must be placed after the Archaic Culture, which disappeared about 337 A. D., and before the founding of Tenochtitlan (pre-conquest name of present-day Mexico City) in 1325 A. D.

The Carnegie Institution of Washington reports the discovery of human footprints in volcanic rock by staff members of the Institution working in Central America. The discovery was made recently near the city of Managua in Nicaragua. According to the reports the footprints were made in a layer of volcanic mud by a person fleeing from a volcanic eruption. The antiquity of the footprints is evidenced by the layers of volcanic deposit over them. According to reliable estimates the footprints were formed from 2,000 to 5,000 years ago.