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## Mexican Money-axes

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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 fourteenth part covers Mexican "money-axes."

## New Honor Accorded

# ELDER GEORGE ALBERT SMITH

THE following interesting notes concerning the activities of Elder George Albert Smith have been received from the office of Peggy A. Guetter, Director of the Western Air Lines News Bureau.

GEORGE ALBERT SMITH, well-known and beloved throughout the nation for his Church work and outstanding record with the Boy Scouts of America, is now director of Western Air Lines, bringing to that company his wealth of experience and love for aviation.

For sixteen years George Albert Smith has supported and watched with almost parental interest the growth of the nation's first airline. His election as a director means that he will take an active part in directing the company which was founded in 1926 to bring air transportation to Salt Lake City and the West.

It was on August 3, 1927, that he took his first flight to Los Angeles, riding in the mail plane which was the crude forerunner of today's luxury transports. Since that day, George Albert Smith has flown throughout the West on every type of plane.

In his recollection of his early flights he recalls that his pilot wrote him notes, pointing out the various points of interest, and that they flew down into the canyons for a close-up view of the beauties of Zion and Bryce. From his own thorough knowledge of the country, he compiled historical data which is a standard guide for all passengers as they travel over this region.

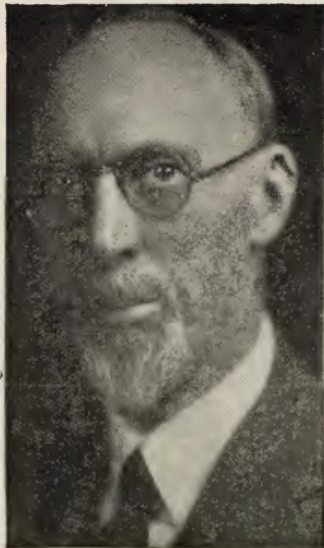
"It was my good fortune to begin flying in the day when air mail was being tried out and when few passengers had the opportunity to go by air between Salt Lake and Los Angeles, and I have enjoyed my flying experiences ever since. I am sure that the day is not far distant when nearly everyone will go by air when they have any distance to travel," was written by George Albert Smith in a recent letter. And it might be added that his very first flight was in 1920 when he flew the English channel.

Some of George Albert Smith's ancestors came to America on the Mayflower and to the valley of the Great Salt Lake with the first Pioneers. During his full life he has played a prominent part in reclamation service, being at one time vice-president and then president of the International Irrigation Congress and president of the Dry Farm Congress and president of the Farm Congress created by the merger of the other two. He was one of the first Latter-day Saints to receive a federal appointment when he was named receiver of Public Money and Special

Disbursing Agent for Utah by President McKinley and later reappointed by President Theodore Roosevelt.

In the business and financial world, he has displayed vision which will be of great service to aviation. He has been director and vice-president of Utah Savings and Trust Company; director and vice-president of Utah-Idaho Sugar Company; president of Libby Investment Company; director of Z. C. M. I.; director of Heber J. Grant and Company, and a director of Mutual Creamery Company.

His work with the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association has shown superior leadership. Then, too,



GEORGE ALBERT SMITH

almost from the beginning of Boy Scouting in Utah he has been officially and actively associated with this movement both in a local and national capacity. At the present time he belongs to the National Executive Board and is the recipient of the highest awards in Scouting, the Silver Beaver and Silver Buffalo.

He has known personally six presidents of the United States. Many United States senators, congressmen and governors are counted among his personal friends.

Educated in the public schools in Salt Lake City, Brigham Young University and the University of Utah, it is interesting to note that on leaving the university, he became a member of the party that surveyed the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad east from Green River.

Now he will take part in laying out the plans for the nation's aviation industry which has a future that needs the wisdom and experience of men like George Albert Smith.

## MEXICAN MONEY-AXES

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THE Indians of middle America were skilled in the working of metals. Copper, being more in abundance than gold and silver, was frequently used. The copper was either hammered or cast to form a variety of ornaments such as finger rings, earrings, masks, nose pendants, bells, and small figurines.

Over an extended part of Mexico's



THE SHAPE OF THIS COPPER INSTRUMENT SUGGESTS HAFTING TO A DIGGING STICK

archeological zone are found copper money-axes. They are so named because their use is not clearly defined. That they were used by the native Indian, we know, because they are found associated with a diversity of archeological objects. To some students they were used as axes; whereas others suggest their use as a medium of exchange—hence the compound name. The size and shape of still other of these objects suggest that they may have been used on the end of digging sticks.

On the basis of present archeological evidence, the technique of metallurgy reached middle America sometime after 1000 A. D. As a native art it appeared much earlier in South America—probably soon after the birth of Christ.

Much of the aboriginal metal work found its way into Spanish melting pots and from there to Spain. A sufficient number of choice specimens remain, however, to reveal a people with an evolved technique of metallurgy.



THESE COPPER MONEY-AXES FROM MEXICO ARE INSTRUMENTS OF UNCERTAIN USE