

Reduced Rates Cotton

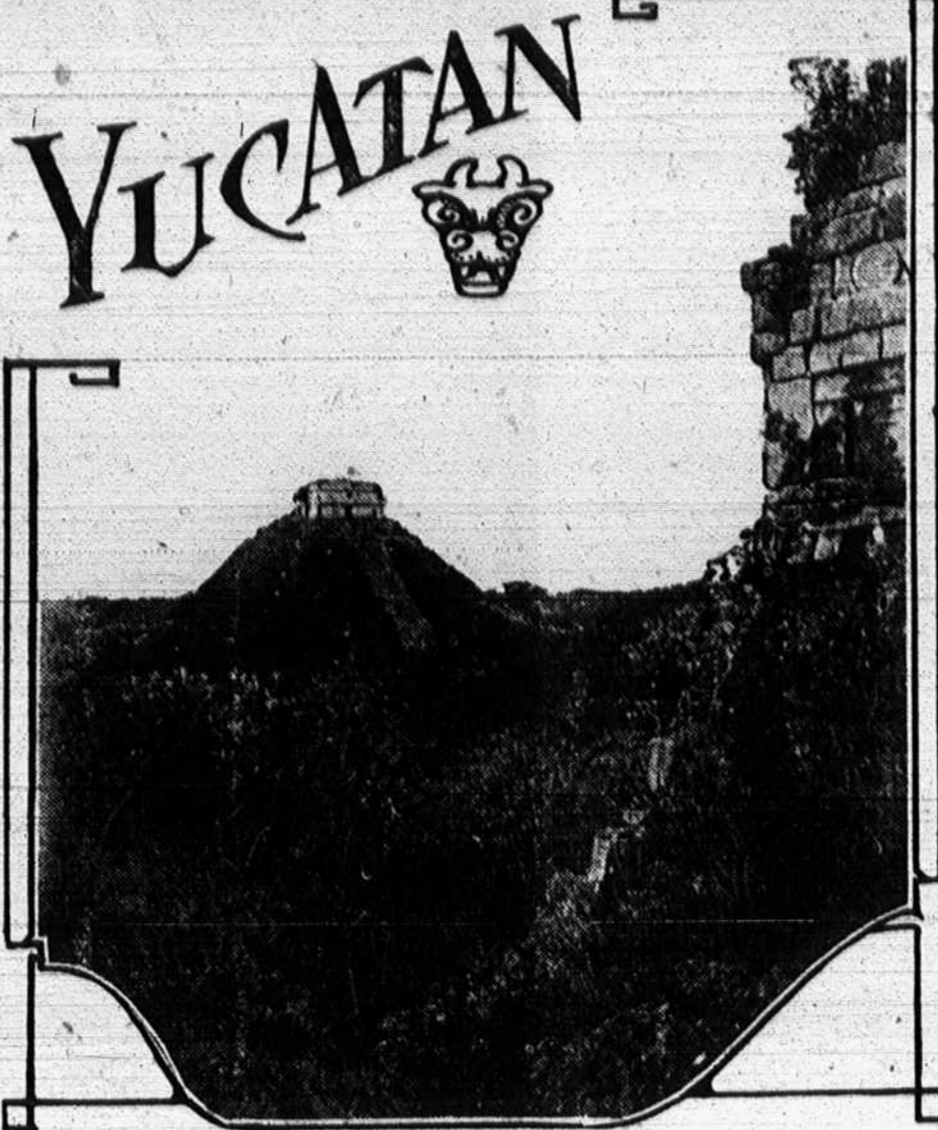
We have recently installed a sprinkler system in all our warehouses and can now offer reduced rates, beginning September 1st, as follows:

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JOHN S. LINDSAY, President.



Pyramid Temple of Chichen Itza.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

Archeology, modern transportation and radical government experiments have been made bedfellows by the opening of a new automobile road by the socialist government of the state of Yucatan, Mexico, leading from Merida, the capital, to the wonderful ruins of Chichen Itza, which might be termed America's Thebes. One of the world's most interesting remains of our ancient civilization is thus made accessible to students and tourists as a by-product to a radical government's plan to make work for laborers during an economic depression by pushing road construction.

In the hot, rather dry Yucatan peninsula, which today is little visited by outsiders, civilization reached its highest point in the years before the coming of Europeans. After the finding of savages by Columbus and his immediate followers, both on the West Indian islands and on parts of the mainland, the discovery a little later in Yucatan of structures built of stone, and built well, and of artistic carvings, came as a great surprise to the Spaniards.

While some of the structures were in use at the time of the Spanish conquest, a number of once great cities had been abandoned and swallowed up by the jungle. Some mysterious fate had overtaken this people, the Mayas, and only a somewhat degenerate remnant was clinging to the works of their more illustrious ancestors. The wholly new regime resulted in the final extinguishment of their culture.

Temples and palaces, prisons, "convents," arenas for games, astronomical observatories and monuments, all accurately built of masonry and decorated with artistic carvings and hieroglyphs, are some of the sign posts pointing to the achievements of the Mayas and their development of culture. Archeologists state that at the time of their mysterious decline they were at the threshold of a true civilization. Indeed, in some ways they had surpassed in intellectual achievements the civilization of the Egyptians and the Babylonians.

Their Writing and Architecture.

In their system of writing, the Mayas had reached a most interesting point, found among no other existing people in the world, the transition point between picture writing, which the Chinese have never passed beyond, and phonetic writing by means of an alphabet such as that we use.

The architectural types of the Mayas and their decorative designs have features so similar to some of those of the old world that the earlier students of the American ruined cities believed that their builders had been influenced by Egyptians, Babylonians or Hindus. The types of arches and certain sculptured designs were compared especially to those found in the great Hindu temple of Boro-Budur in Java. It is the more general opinion now, however, that the works of the Mayas were the result of a culture born on this continent and acquired by this people in their tollsome way upward from savagery and through barbarism.

The story of Yucatan in recent times is the story of henequen fiber. Offhand, that doesn't seem to affect the average American to any great extent. But it does affect him every time he buys a loaf of bread. The story might be framed like that of the house that Jack built. Henequen means reasonably cheap and plentiful binder twine; binder twine makes possible the use of harvesting machines; harvesters cheapen grain production; cheap grain means cheap bread; and so henequen, and arid Yucatan, play important parts in feeding America and the world.

The other side of the story—the rapid development of the henequen industry and the pouring of wealth into Yucatan—chiefly from the grain belt of North America—undoubtedly played its part in swinging the political pendulum from extreme feudalism to socialism.

Henequen, which is a sort of cactus not unlike the century plant or the "pulque cactus" in appearance, had been grown in Yucatan since prehistoric times and its fiber was used in local plantation and village industries. But there was no outside market of considerable magnitude for the fiber until the increasing use of harvesting machinery in the United States created a demand for large quantities of binder twine.

Once a Feudal State.

Before what may be called "the henequen era" in Yucatan a traveler in the country might have imagined—with a few concessions to race and climate—that he was in the heart of Europe's old feudalism. Some of the principal land owners had truly baronial estates through which one could travel for days. On the most extensive estates were scattered half a dozen or more great stone castle-like haciendas in the care of major domos. In these sumptuous dwellings members of the owner's family might not spend a night a year, for they lived for the most part in state in the capital, Merida, or spent their time traveling in Europe or the United States. In those days cattle raising was the chief industry in Yucatan and prosperity never reached below the few members of the propertied class.

Climate and physical conditions gave Yucatan its feudalism. The surface of the country consists of only the thinnest of soil, and underneath is porous limestone. The climate is dry and hot half the year, but there is a reasonable amount of rainfall during the other six months. Yucatan is one of the few areas in which there is an appreciable rainfall, but no streams or even stream beds. As fast as the rain falls during the rainy season it seeps through the thin soil and soaks into the limestone. The lack of surface water, and the fact that hardly any food crops can be grown on much of Yucatan's poor soil, made it practically impossible for the peasants to exist except under the wings of the great landholders.

The latter constructed capacious reservoirs at their haciendas, in which enough water was stored during the rainy season to supply all their retainers through the six months' dry period. The situation was helped out, too, by the cenotes, the unique water holes of Yucatan, apparently formed by a falling in of the roofs of subterranean lakes. In most cases these queer natural reservoirs were owned by the landed proprietors.

Laborers Now in Control.

Toward the close of the Nineteenth century henequen production shouldered out cattle production from the place of first importance, and before many years the fiber dominated the life of the country. The old feudal system remained largely unchanged, however, and the landowners became extremely wealthy. But some of the prosperity inevitably filtered down to a growing middle class, and even to the plantation laborers, and soon Yucatan gave indications of a political turbulence unknown in the older feudal days.

When the World war came prosperity reached its peak in Yucatan, with henequen fiber selling for as much as 19 cents a pound. The few landowners were no longer able to dominate the state government and the laborers and their friends, who gained control, reshaped the entire scheme of things. Wages of workers were fixed by legislation at \$5.25 to \$24 (in United States money) for each eight hours. After the armistice the price of henequen fell sharply, and by 1921 it had fallen to 4 cents, and in 1922 it reached its lowest point, 3½ cents. The wage laws remained unchanged and many of the plantations, carefully tended for years, were abandoned to wild growth. The country then experienced what was probably its greatest economic crisis. Henequen production was greatly reduced and conditions have improved somewhat with the fiber now at 4½ cents a pound.

Yucatan is the thumb, which, with the finger of Florida, almost encloses the Gulf of Mexico. It is for the most part a flat plain, its highest hills being measured in only hundreds of feet. It is one of the first lands to which the world-faring gulf stream gives its warmth.

Killed by a Trap Gun.

Herman Falls, of King's Mountain, died in the hospital of that town Wednesday morning as the result of injuries sustained by a trap gun while robbing the store of S. L. Kiser, in the Sunnyside section of Cherryville, in the early morning. According to the Gastonia Gazette, of Wednesday afternoon, Falls was accompanied in the robbing expedition by Will McDonald and Raymond Benfield, who remained outside in a Ford car while he went in after the goods. After Falls had passed fifteen pairs of shoes through an open window, he ran against a string that was tied to the trigger of a gun that had been set inside the store for such visitors and he was shot in the side. McDonald and Benfield ran away at the report of the gun; but afterward came back and picked Falls up at a point to which he had crawled some distance from the store. Raymond Benfield whose home is at Bessemer City was arrested at King's Mountain and committed to the Gaston county jail; but up to Wednesday afternoon McDonald was still at large. —York Enquirer.

Dr. Alette H. Jacobs is the Netherland's most ardent suffragist and women's medical pioneer.

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In England the franchise does not extend to women under thirty years of age, which means that the vast majority of the working women do not vote.

SHELBY IS BROKE.

Town's Banks, Stores and Amusement Places Closed.

Shelby, Mont., Sept. 4.—Goldsmith's "Deserted Village" has nothing on Shelby as it is today, two months after the staging here on July 4th of the Jack Dempsey-Tommy Gibbons world championship bout. Shelby is simply back where it was six months ago, when some town "wags" proposed putting Shelby on the map by holding a title bout in the town.

Since July 4th the town's two banks have closed their doors, 10 mercantile houses have failed, most of the saloons and gambling houses are closed, and the orchestras in the dozen dance halls are silent.

"The Green Life," "The Paris," "The Days of '49," "Black Cat" and other amusement places, including half a dozen roadhouses, are deserted; heavy boards are nailed over the windows, and "closed" signs hang over the doors.

Shelby still has an excess population, however. Scores of men and women, who invaded the town to make themselves rich with concessions at the big fight, are here because they haven't enough money to get out of town. The much-heralded title bout proved a "bloomer" so far as attracting a crowd, and concessionaires found themselves with thousands of dollars' worth of fight souvenirs on their hands July 5th. They are remaining here, hoping to obtain enough

money from outside friends for railway fare to the east and to the Pacific coast, where they formerly resided.

Residents of Shelby are not one whit discouraged by present conditions they say. To the north the oil fields were unaffected by the Independence day fiasco, and during July and August a large number of new wells has been brought into production in various sections of the oil country.

"Old-timers" in the town are content, they assert, to wait for Shelby's natural development through the oil business. At present, on account of the gasoline price war and the subsequent reduction in the price of crude oil, development work in the fields here is being held up, but with a change in conditions much improvement in business is expected.

No promise is held out as to when, if ever, the two Shelby banks will open their doors.

The town is now without a bank, and there is not a bank in the entire county. A petition has been circulated here asking the state superintendent of banks to issue permit to transfer the nearby Dunkirk State bank in an adjoining county, to Shelby. No action has been taken on the request by the bank superintendent.

An actress who went to Paris seeking new plays for the Theater Guild of New York returned recently without any. She stated the plays were "so dirty" she would be unwilling to reproduce them in America.

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Thanks the people of Camden for their splendid cooperation, and we have two favors to ask of our patrons; one of which is, if you have a car, please drive down to to our plant on Sundays, and get your requirements, as it is not our desire to deliver any Ice except in cases of emergencies, and this will be gladly done night or day. The other is, please arrange to have the proper change with which to pay the driver each day, as they are checked up each night, and we run no charge account with anyone. Some of our drivers are losing their jobs because of their inability to check in properly.

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