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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIP TO TOLUCA

(Reported in EL UNIVERSAL, Mexico, July 29th)

TOLUCA, July 27—At 3:30 P. M. of the 26th there arrived in this city an archaeological excursion with the object of studying the pueblo of Calixtlahuaca, in this jurisdiction, where certain ruins were recently discovered, which it is understood may be valuable archaeological prizes and which may elucidate certain obscure points as to the ancient civilization.

In charge of the excursion is Dr. E. Hewett, with his assistant, Mr. R. Fisher, the other members who form the party being Mrs. Hewett, Mrs. Grace Fisher, Misses Florence Dillon, Betty Holloman, Edith Conrad, Anita Ayala, Ann Kent, Susie Kent, Kay Harwood, ~~Florence~~<sup>ce</sup> Hawley, Sophie P. Casey, Miss Emma R. Stevenson, correspondent of *Sunset*; Professor Watson, E. S. Kellogg, director of *Social Survey*; Messrs. Darlington, L. Bloom, F. Scholes, and Mr. Frank Tannebaum, author of "The Agrarian Revolution in Mexico."

Upon its arrival the party was received by the citizen governor of the state, Colonel Filiberto Gomez. They brought with them a letter to our governor from the governor of New Mexico, the latter's daughter, Miss Dillon, coming as his representative, and they were quartered in the residence of the governor, where a banquet was served, the speech of welcome being made by Sr. Juan M. Patino and response of appreciation being made on behalf of the party by Miss Dillon.

Upon being interviewed by one of our reporters, Miss Ayala showed herself to be deeply moved, and left to this daily the difficult task of expressing their appreciation of the courtesy with which the party had been received. The members of the party show themselves to be very much interested in the work which is being started at Calixtlahuaca.

Toluca, July 27.—A very important archaeological zone is being uncovered between the pueblos of Calixtlahuaca and Tecaxic, to the north of Toluca. This is nothing less than eleven temples (teocalis) of the old city of Calixtlahuaca, which, towards the close of its pagan existence, was tributary to the great Aztec Empire.

By investigations which have been made in this zone by Dr. Manuel Gamio and Sr. José García Payón (the latter being director of the excavations), it is known that in Calixtlahuaca flourished the archaic culture before the days of Teotihuacan (on the ruins of which later rose the city of Mexico.—Editor). Very few evidences of the Aztec culture have been encountered, all of them being reduced to characteristic pottery sherds on which fine black lines are drawn over the base of natural clay color.

A limited number of sculptures, low-relief and utensils have been found in those important excavations, but they throw light upon the theory that in Calixtlahuaca the archaeological zone represents various aboriginal cultures from the Toltec down to the Aztec. All these valuable finds have been removed to Toluca, for the museum which is being organized.

At present one of the principal pyramids, which is situated on the north slope of Mount Tenismo, is being uncovered, and one of its ample steps, marvelously preserved, has been cleared. In parts even the very fine plastering which covered the walls of the teocali has been encountered, with drawings in bright colors of black, green, red, yellow and blue. All these fragments of the mural frescoes are being carefully gathered up to serve, as Sr. García Payón says, for the making of interesting studies.

The pyramid now being uncovered communicates with another smaller one to the east, on which side exploration has been begun in the expectation of there finding the stairway to the larger teocali. Search will be made also for the remains of walls on the summit of the pyramid, although it is to be expected that these may be completely destroyed;

but if the contrary is the case, the value of the archaeological find will be immensely increased, since in Mexico only three temples have been discovered with part of their topmost buildings.

From the summit of the small mountain (which is nothing more than the pyramid which is being uncovered) the observer finds himself in the center of the buried sacred city of Calixtlahuaca. Ten hills of various dimensions indicate as many more temples, buried centuries ago and enclosing who knows how many historical riches.

And from the foot of the pyramid itself extend four terraced milpas in the form of very large parallelograms which it is easy to see constituted the wide terrace which the Indians constructed to give access to the teocali. And towards the east another milpa of the same geometrical form, with elevated borders, leads the archaeologists to believe that there was the game of pelota. But this will be ascertained towards the end of the year when the country folk of Calixtlahuaca have gathered their harvests.

It is an extremely interesting and beautiful landscape which is dominated from the summit of the pyramid. The view spreads over a vast expanse which presents all shades of green. Here and there are lakes surrounded by trees which in the distance appear to be dwarfs. To the east lie two or three little towns which have preserved the poetic aspect which the Indians before the conquest knew how to give them, made up of little isolated houses surrounded by their grounds. And in the background of this magnificent scenery rise the mountain ranges with their varied colorings.

Profiting by the beauty of the region as well as by the great importance of the archaeological zone of Calixtlahuaca, the local government proposes to construct a park which may serve for the recreation of tourists, who will be able to come by automobile over the highway to Toluca from Alomoloya de Juarez, which is being rapidly rebuilt.