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A Modern Pyramid

TO SAVE RECORDS OF OUR CIVILIZATION.

America is to have a pyramid, or a kind of combined pyramid and obelisk, to judge by its design, in which interesting records of our civilization will be placed for the edification of future inhabitants of the earth. Old King Tut did a somewhat similar service to the present generation, it will be recalled, by preserving art objects and other evidences of the way folks lived in his time. The American pyramid will rise 130 feet into the air from its base on a peak in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas. It will contain, among other important matters, a document telling why our American civilization fell. For American civilization, together with all other civilizations of the world, is doomed to fall, and fall soon, according to the pyramid builder, whose plans and beliefs are recorded in the Philadelphia Public Ledger. Whether or not the predicted collapse is really pulled off this time, or goes the ordinary pleasant way of world collapses that are predicted from time to time, the pyramid, its builder and his theories are attracting a good deal of attention. The builder is William H. Harvey, known as "Coin" Harvey in the days when he was the great prophet and exponent of "Free Silver," the general idea upon which William Jennings Bryan first rose to prominence. It is Mr. Harvey's belief, according to the Ledger, that:

Ten thousand years hence, when the people of a new civilization roam the earth and, more specifically, that part of it now known as Arkansas, they will come upon this massive work of twentieth-century engineering skill and will probably marvel, just as we of to-day marvel, at the engineering skill that built the pyramids of Egypt. Perhaps the erosion of centuries will have leveled the Ozarks and filled the valleys, and perhaps only the top of the obelisk will be visible, but that will be enough. For on the top of the obelisk will be a metal plate bearing this inscription:

When this can be read go below and find the cause of the death of a former civilization.

Similar plates will be placed on the exterior wall of the vaults, except that "go below" will be changed to "go within."

Most people may scoff at the idea, admits the writer, but it is likely that the good citizens of Egypt scoffed at the idea of their civilization ever becoming lost. Just the same—

It did. And "Coin" Harvey is firm in his belief that at the end of the world may not be near, we are now on the verge of another cataclysm such as

the Dark Ages, and that every vestige of civilization will be destroyed. And why? Well, you must know something about "Coin" Harvey and his history to comprehend his theory.

He is almost seventy-three now, having been born in 1851 in the little town of Buffalo, West Virginia. After living for a time in Gallipolis, Ohio, he went westward to Colorado and at the time of the cry for free silver became identified with that movement.

In 1898 he debated with Roosevelt G. Horr, of New York, on the financial question, taking the side for free silver, and his speech in this debate as well as his writings played an important part in the Presidential campaign that followed.

After the defeat of free silver he moved to Arkansas, there to bide his time until the world moved around to the point where civilization was threatened and the people ready to follow his lead. And now, he says, the time has come. Always an opponent of the moneyed interests and "money-lenders" as he calls them, he decries the banking laws of to-day as being unfair, and says they are but the tools of the Capitalists. Money, he believes, is the life-blood of commerce, and as such ought to be given free passage through the body of the country and not be hoarded by the few. The present system is the cause of growing selfishness throughout the world, he believes, and will result in the complete breakdown of our civilization within a very short time.

Work on the pyramid has already been started, reports the writer, and all knowledge on the subject of concrete will be used in making the structure one that will endure for all time. To begin with:

The pedestal of the pyramid will rest on solid limestone rock, will be forty feet square and ten feet high, containing 16,000 cubic feet of re-enforced concrete. The pyramid resting on this pedestal will be thirty-two feet square, rising perpendicularly for a height of thirty-five feet, then reduced to twenty-two feet square and rising in shaft-like formation eight feet five feet and, ending at the top six feet square. The total distance from the ground to the top of the pyramid will be 130 feet.

In the part that will be thirty-two feet square there will be a room sixteen feet square surrounded by a wall, concrete, eight feet thick. In the shaft there will be two vaults.

In the construction of the pyramid there will be used 14,000 sacks of cement, 27,000 cubic feet of sand and 54,000 cubic feet of gravel. The total cost is estimated at about \$25,000. The location of the pyramid is at Monte No, Benton County, Arkansas.

The site selected is at the end of a spur of the mountain at the edge of a valley. These mountains, according to some geologists, were once 14,000 feet above sea-level. They are said to be among the oldest in the world, and by a process of erosion have been brought down to a height of 1,400 feet above sea-level. The distance from the site of the pyramid to the top of the mountains is about 240 feet.

"The records of ancient civilizations which we have unearthed do not tell the merits and demerits of that civilization, the struggles of those people and why they fell," said Mr. Harvey in explaining his project. "The pyramid to be erected here will contain all such records. Upon opening the pyramid and reading the documents contained therein mankind ten thousand years hence will learn of the airplane, the circulation of the blood, railroads and other great discoveries and inventions. The structure will be re-enforced strongly. I have made a special study of re-enforced concrete, and all the latest devices will be used to prevent expansion or contraction and cracking."

In the large room at the base of the pyramid and in the two vaults in the shaft, covers the report, will be placed a book giving the rise and decline of this civilization and the cause of its death. At least the book will present the "free silver" advocate's ideas on the subject. According to the Ledger reporter:

The book will be a cloth-bound volume of probably 300 or 400 pages, printed on paper on which a paper expert in New York City will pass, and each page of the book will be covered with transparent paper, through which one can easily read, thus preserving the ink from fading.

When the pyramid is completed, except the closing of the entrances to

the room and two vaults, it will be given a year to dry. During that year the book will be written and three volumes printed and prepared to go therein. A recent book of Harvey's, entitled "Common Sense," which tells of his opinions of the monetary system as it is to-day, will be a part of the big book, as will such other writings as he completes before the sealing of the pyramid. Dates will be given to show the publication and what attempts have been made to save civilization and "stay the devastating flood of political and economic ruin that is now engulfing our civilization. Also, as the product of unselfish wisdom, gleaned from the experience of mankind in the attempt at the making of this civilization, it will give the organic law necessary for the making of a perfected civilization."

This book, one each, will be placed in three heavy glass containers, at a glass factory, with the lid molded thereon, the air taken out through a small hole in the glass and then sealed up hermetically. One each of these three containers will be placed in the room and two vaults of the pyramid.

"The book will be published and the proceeds of its sale will go into a trust fund to be used in trying to save this civilization," Harvey explained.

"In the room, in addition to the book, will be placed volumes on each industry and scientific attainment that has been developed by this civilization, containing pictures of all inventions and discoveries. Also of people and animals and statuettes of the former, showing styles of dress at different periods of this civilization. Also a book that will aid in their translation into the language in use when the pyramid is opened."

"The three entrances to the pyramid will then be closed with re-enforced concrete and the plates securely bolted thereon. During this process the air will be taken from the room and vaults."

"It is presumed that a new civilization rising from the ashes of this one will rise slowly, as this one has, making discoveries gradually as prompted by human reason, knowing no more of what we have discovered than we know of the stages of advancement of prehistoric civilizations, and that it must arrive at a period when steel and dynamite have been discovered by them before they can break into the pyramid. This presupposes an intelligence for deciphering the words on the plates and for appreciation of what they find in the pyramid."

Some persons, says the reporter, have suggested that the opening of the tomb of Tut-ankh-Amen prompted the erection of "Coin" Harvey's pyramid, but he denies this, saying the idea was conceived before the Egyptian's tomb was discovered. In the pyramid builder's own words:

"Nor is there any similarity," he says. "His was to contain his remains and things of and about him. The purpose of the pyramid I am building is as stated, and the person of no one will be entombed therein. There will be nothing about it that partakes of self or vanity, and no one's name will appear on the outside of it."

It was Harvey's idea to finance the building of the pyramid out of his own income, but friends suggested that others might help. "I had not thought before of this," he said, "it being my intention to meet the cost myself. But to do so the work on it must proceed periodically, as a very small income I have will permit; or, as I sell real estate here, of which I

own considerable. My will, in case of my death, puts my estate behind it as of first consideration, and my son, who will be my executor, will cheerfully comply with the will. I estimate that I can finish it myself in five years. But there is a sentiment that speaks volumes for our cause in the desire of others to join me in the building of the pyramid. And it will hasten its construction, possibly within the year."

So "Coin" has decided to let others who want to assist in the building, and has decided to include their names on a parchment which he will place as the last thing to go into the pyramid before it is sealed.

And so it is quite likely that the newspapers in the year 11924 A. D. will carry front-page stories of the finding of a strange structure in what was once the mountains of Arkansas, and later will tell of the startling disclosures that resulted when the pyramid was opened.

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Lecture at Star Hall

Last night the members of the Star of the Sea Association and their friends were treated to a most enjoyable lecture and concert. The lecturer, Rev. T. J. Flynn, taking as his subject, "A Decade of Irish History," told a most interesting story of affairs in the Emerald Isle during the past ten years. At the close a hearty vote of thanks was proposed by W. F. Graham, seconded by P. Kenny and supported by W. J. Browne. In a delightful musical, the following artists assisted—Misses Mary Ryan, Ida Howlett, Mary Harris, Madge Meany; Messrs. J. Channing and Leo Dillon. The accompanists were Prof. F. J. King and Miss Eva Harris. The President of the Society, W. H. Jackson, presided, and at the close extended a vote of thanks to all who had helped to make the affair so successful and to the C.C.C. Orchestra, who had kindly given their services. He also announced that Rev. P. J. Kennedy would lecture at a future date.

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