

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N.B., FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1923

VILLAS BUILT UPON SITE OF OLD CARTHAGE

Foundations Not Dug Deep
Enough to Interfere with
Explorers' Work at Ancient
City—Tombs Cut
Into Rock.

London, April 19.—(By Mail).—A party of American excavators who have obtained permission to explore the site of ancient Carthage in collaboration with the Department of Antiquities in Tunisia, have now begun operations in earnest, and already certain discoveries of interest have been made. "The London Times" correspondent, The Tunisian government has been able to devote only modest grants for the purpose of research, but American help promises to assure to the patient labors of Pere Delatre and other French archaeologists the rich reward they deserve.

From the point of view both of history and of architecture the possibility of revealing something of the lost splendor of the Punic city of Carthage excites the keenest interest. The story of its destruction by the Romans in 146 B. C. has hitherto discouraged exploration, but the truth is that nobody knows what treasures may be found within the great old sea wall whose ruins being built scattered along the coast.

Villas Being Built.
The site of the city not only has not been investigated with any completeness, but it threatens to become a modern suburb of Tunis. Land is being dug to provide the foundations for new houses, but not necessarily deep enough to reveal whatever remains of the ancient city may lie lower down. The sea wall itself, with its pillars, many of them fallen but unbroken, might contain lessons in the history of military architecture.

Within the city, in spite of limited means, the explorers have already unearthed sixty-five buildings, sufficient to preserve to be of interest. Among them are the remains of two sanctuaries. Fine stones bearing Punic inscriptions, which formed part of the monuments of the old Carthage, have been collected. The pottery quarter has yielded specimens of ceramic urns, still almost intact, as well as numerous specimens of pottery.

Tombs Cut in Rock.
One of the most striking discoveries—that of the "Punic House of the Thousand Vases"—shows a style of underground Punic architecture which is particularly characteristic. The water feeding the reservoir (whence the Carthaginian hostesses got their supplies) flows down a corridor with vaulted arches, which recall the grottoes of building in the underground tombs discovered by Pere Delatre. Some of these tombs cut in the solid rock are thirty yards deep.

Fine statues have been taken out of these tombs, which are of interest in showing how much Carthaginian art borrowed from Greece and Egypt. Two of these statues, recumbent on the tops of stone coffins, are Greek work. But the most perfect specimen of a Punic statue is a three-story tower sixty-six feet high with a pyramidal roof. The Libyan-Punic inscription which it formerly bore is now in the British Museum; it was not replaced on the monument when it was restored in 1910.

Surprises Expected.
Whatever the archaeological value of the Punic remains of Carthage—and there are persons who doubt whether

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much of value is left—the excavations now going on may furnish surprises. It must be remembered that successive cities have risen on the same site. Ruins of Roman buildings stand on Punic foundations, and the city flourished in the early centuries of the Christian era. Pere Delatre has uncovered much of what remains of the early Christian basilica of St. Cyprian, and has found bas-reliefs and capitals of pillars ornamented with animals which show an evolution similar to that which took place in Europe. This church, like the Arab mosques which succeeded the Christian basilicas, bears evidence of having been built of materials taken from older Pagan buildings. In the theater of Carthage, though the site has not yet been completely explored, twenty statues have been unearthed, including a fine Apollo. Roman villas with mosaic floors have been found. But the baths of Antonine

still lie buried beneath the sand of centuries.

**FRENCH TREATY
BILL PASSES ITS
SECOND READING**

Ottawa, April 27.—Following another day of spirited debate, the House of Commons last night passed second reading of the bill to give effect to the new trade treaty between Canada and France. The division gave a majority for the treaty of 109, namely: For 134, against 25. A feature, unusual in the recent parliament, was the solid party vote. All Liberals and all progressives present voted for the treaty; all Conservatives voted against.

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No. 130 9.05 p.m.—

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BANK MEN FIND ERROR IN CITY HALL BOOKS AT SYDNEY

Sydney, N. S., April 27.—G. T. Morley of the Bank of Montreal and H. W. Peacock of the Bank of Commerce have succeeded in tracing an alleged \$5,888 shortage in city funds, it was announced at City Hall yesterday afternoon. A reported discrepancy of \$5,888 in sinking fund accounts, occurring prior to 1922, is also to be traced.

Abbe P. H. de P. Casgrain, one of the port chaplains here, has been awarded the Medal Pro Pontifice et Pro Ecclesia by Pope Pius XI in recognition of his good work, according to word received by His Lordship Bishop LeBlanc.

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Spool Hard Wood for kitchen range is better than coal.

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