

A Tropic Wonderland

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forest. Amid such surroundings the ancient builders selected, some twenty years before King Alfred made history in Wessex, a low hill, and on it and around it they raised a structure as massive as a pyramid, but representing an infinitely finer achievement because on Boro Boedoe there are nearly two miles of sculptured bas-reliefs rising terrace by terrace and telling the story of the Buddhist faith. It is magnificently conceived and executed.

Apart from 1460 exquisitely sculptured reliefs, fully 10ft. tips, the believer sees as he turns each corner over 400 statues of the Buddha enthroned in niches. Finally he leaves the square terraces, where no longer does he find sermons in stones, but he has reached the realms of contemplation. As I have written elsewhere, Borohidur is one with the infinite; it is a spiritual conception; religion expressing itself in beauty, and there is over it the calm and contemplation that invests a Gothic cathedral.

I should like to tell you much more about native customs, arts and crafts, their music and drama, but I am afraid my time is drawing to an end. Perhaps at some future date I may be privileged to lift the veil a little on these fascinating topics. One could make an interesting story out of the Atyeh proverb illustrating woman's heaven is under the soles of her husband's feet."

If time permitted I should like to tell you about the terraced rice fields and some of the legends and superstitious ceremonial attaching to the growth and replanting of the crop. It will be easier for me to say a word or two about the tea plant and its culture. The tea plant is quite hardy and can be grown on different soils, at varying altitudes, and under all kinds of climatic conditions. It thrives best in Java at 6000 feet above sea-level. Prodigious quantities are produced, mainly in the Preangi Regencies. One fertile plantation of some 2000 acres produces 2½ million lb. per year.

The most delicate part of the work in the plantations is the plucking of the leaves, as this has to be done by hand. Only women are employed as pluckers, and their deftness is amazing. Every shrub is plucked once in ten days and it is only the youngest leaves that are picked, three on a stalk of which the top one must still be folded. The lower leaves on even

Radio Rapidly Developing in Mexico

Serious Interference Problem

RADIO, and particularly broadcasting, has begun to assume the aspect of an important industry in Mexico (states the "New York Herald Tribune"). With more than thirty stations operating south of the Rio Grande, Mexican programmes are beginning to be interspersed with programmes transmitted by United States and Canadian stations, thus giving rise to a problem of interference not contemplated at the time wavelengths for broadcasting were distributed among countries of North America.

Considerable complaint already has reached radio officials in both the United States and Canada, and there is some likelihood that within the next year there will be called a North American radio conference to discuss allocation of frequencies on the continent.

Most of the stations in Mexico are operating on either American or Canadian wavelengths, resulting in considerable interference. The country has not in the past participated in the conferences at which distribution of channels was made, and therefore is not bound by compact to the use of certain wavelengths.

Mexican Radio Interest.

IN the past Mexico has not been recognised as a country interested in radio broadcasting. While there have been several stations there, dating as far back as 1924, they were seldom heard in the United States.

young shoots are too old and hard to manufacture into tea. After being spread to wither for 24 hours, the next process is rolling in a rapidly rotating cylinder which breaks down the cells and liberates fragrant juices. Next comes what is called fermentation, but what is really oxidation. Their colour turns from green to yellow, and then to a bronze brown. After a second rolling and drying, mechanical sifters sort the tea into various grades and qualities. The London market, for example, demands a very finely broken tea; the Dutch prefer much coarser leaves.

It is certainly an arresting thought to realise that every leaf in the teapot has been plucked by hand.

Listening in the country has been confined to a few who are able to afford American-built receiving sets.

The principal cause of the increased interference from Mexican stations is the new transmitter recently constructed several miles from Mexico City. The station is popularly known by its call letters XEW, and is being heard nightly by a large number of listeners. The station operates on a wavelength of 384.7 metres, which is slightly below the channel utilised by WJZ. While signals from the station are not distinguished while WJZ is transmitting, they may be heard distinctly with the average receiving set after the latter station signs off for the evening.

The station, which designates itself as "The Voice of Latin America," is owned and operated by the Mexico Music Company, and is located within a few miles of Mexico City. Reports indicate that the company which erected the station has hopes of establishing a network of stations in Mexico along the same lines as the networks now operating in the United States.

If plans materialise, it is expected that an exchange of programmes between the United States and Mexico will eventually take place. The company which operates the new transmitter also operates station XBT, a 500-watt station.

Transmitting with a power of 5000 watts, station XEW is readily audible in the United States and Canada. The station is the most powerful in Mexico, and is believed by officials to mark the beginning of a new era of broadcasting in the country.

The transmitter itself is located about eight miles out of Mexico City, and is linked by line wire to studios within the heart of the city. Aerial towers are 300 feet high and may be seen for miles around the adjacent country.

Studios are designed similar to those used by American stations, having walls of sound-absorbing material to prevent reverberation. Equipment is of a type found in the modern American studio, and includes control apparatus and condenser-type microphones.

As a result of the new station, effort is being made to develop native talent, and a major portion of the programmes is being presented by local artists. Effort also is being made to secure commercially sponsored programmes, and already a number of the features broadcast by the station are presented by Mexican merchants.

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