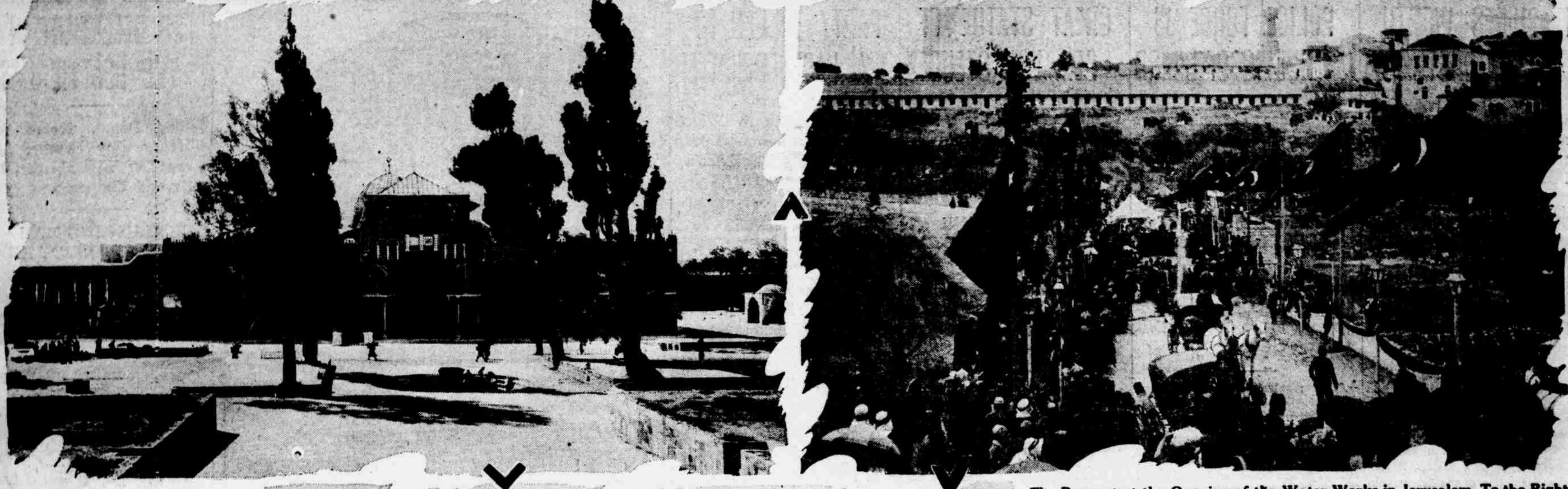


PALLADIUM SHORT STORY PAGE

Great Solomon's 3000 Year Old Pools Now Modern Waterworks



The Mosque El Esha on the Temple Area at Jerusalem. The Fountain in the Foreground is Fed by Water from Solomon's Pools.

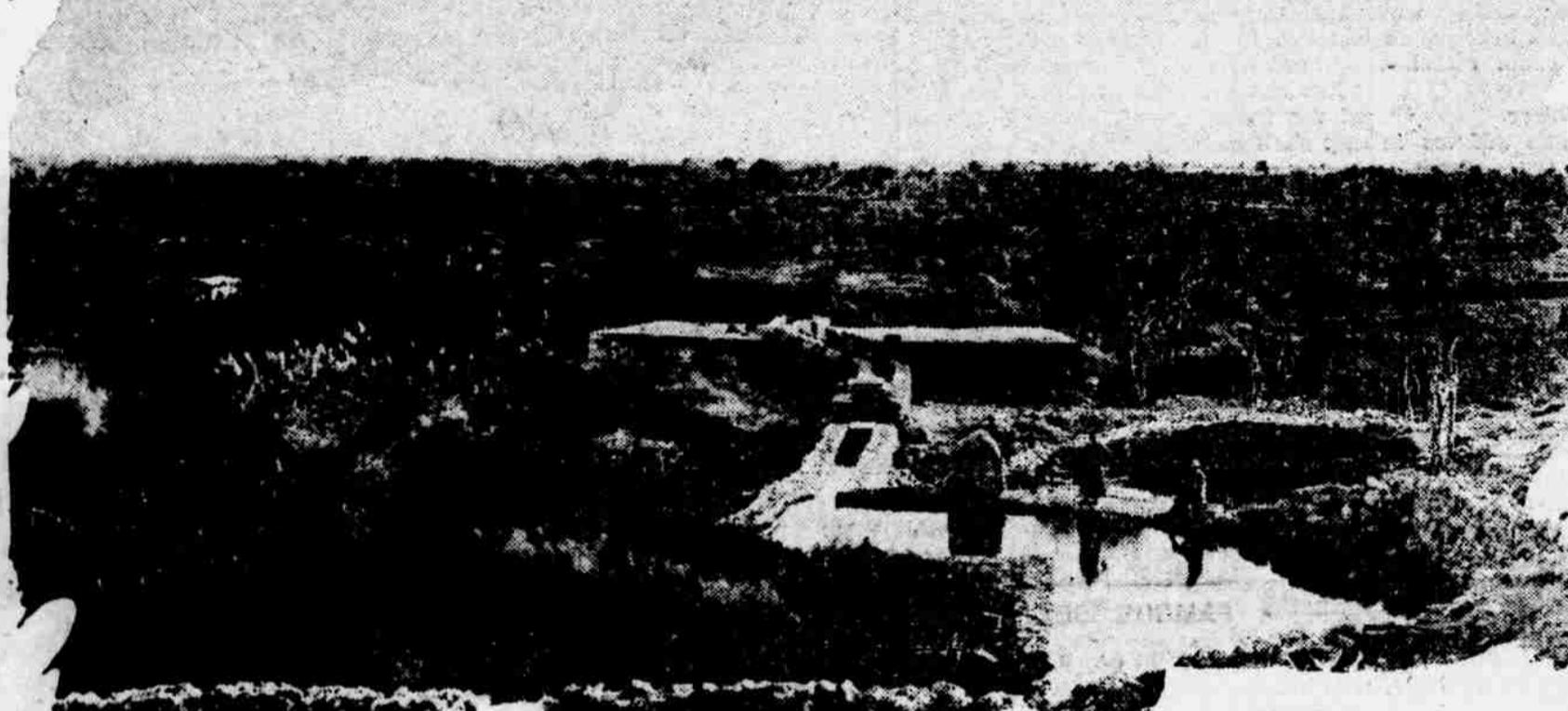
Take out a scanty water supply the authorities of Jerusalem have at last tapped the "Sealed Fountain" built by Solomon and referred to by him in his Song of Songs. A modern waterworks has been erected to distribute the water through the city, which hitherto has depended entirely upon the rainfall.

With much pomp the new waterworks erected on the viaduct beneath the Lower Pool of Gihon, not far from the railroad station, were inaugurated.

In ancient times Jerusalem had a supply of pure spring water with which the "Great Sea" and other of the vast reservoirs beneath the Temple area were filled, and which made it possible for the city to withstand long sieges and sieges. The water was brought from the south. About three miles south of Bethlehem, which is six miles south of Jerusalem, lie the three great reservoirs attributed by many to Solomon, and which are now called Solomon's Pools.

The valley, in the lower part of which the fruitful village of Artas lies, and where, according to the measurements of Josephus, lay the gardens of Solomon, was walled across and enlarged to make these spacious pools which were filled with rain water from springs in the same valley, one of which is thought to be the "Sealed Fountain" spoken of by Solomon in his

poem. The water was brought from the south, toward Hebron, contributed their flow, which was led to the vicinity of Solomon's Pools, through aqueducts that wound



Elisha's Fountain and the Plain of Jericho. The Healing Waters of the Fountain Are Now Conveyed to Jericho Through Modern Pipes.

their way long distances around the hills and through tunnels beneath them.

From Solomon's Pools and the Sealed Fountain two aqueducts led this accumulation of water to the reservoirs beneath the temple plateau. One is called the "Lower Level," being a surface channel passing near Rachel's Tomb, and up again on the other side. The circular opening in the stone blocks

was utilized, and reaching Jerusalem by long windings among the mists of the wilderness of Judea, and at one point passing through a tunnel through a hill.

The so-called "Upper Level," was an aqueduct which ran through a large stone pipe, down into the valley near Rachel's Tomb, and up again on the other side. The circular opening in the stone blocks

composing this part of the aqueduct was about eighteen inches in diameter.

Many of these blocks have been removed from their original places in the aqueduct, and are to be found preserved as antiques in different institutions in Jerusalem. Some of them bear the names of Roman officers who built or repaired the aqueduct. There is no stain or trace of

water having flowed through this stone pipe, iron which some conjecture that the "Upper Level" channel was never completed. Different theories ascribe these waterworks to Solomon and to the Roman period.

In modern times Jerusalem has been dependent upon the rainfall, which comes in the winter months, for its water supply, accumulated

from the roofs in the rock-hewn cis-

terns built generally beneath the houses. A short rainfall, a season or two ago, made it necessary for the municipal authorities to run a daily tank train from a spring at Beir, several miles down the Jaffa and Jerusalem railroad.

The authorities also propose to establish large reservoirs at springs in the valley of the Brook Cherith, some twelve miles to the northeast of the city, and tenders are now being considered for this work. In the near future, therefore, Jerusalem should be well supplied with water.

It was only a few months since

that a modern water supply was installed at Jericho and also at Beer-sheba.

It was only recently, too,

that an English company introduced

into Beirut the water of the Dog River, which is some miles to the north of the town, which now enjoys an abundant supply of pure water.

Now, therefore, travellers on route

to the Jordan and Dead Sea can

have pure drinking water in place of the fouled water that formerly came through the ditches by the roadside,

from the distant fountain. Elisha's Fountain is undoubtedly the one whose waters were healed by that

prophet on his return from the mem-

orial walk across the plain to and

beyond the Jordan, which ended in

the translation of Elijah.

pumps driven by kerosene motors, which now mingle their ill-smelling odors with the sweet fragrance of the orange blossoms of the gardens of Jaffa.

If it seems strange that one of the

most ancient sites, where stands the

newest Government post, should be

the first in Palestine to have an ade-

quate water supply, it is equally

singular that the little equally in-

habited village of Jericho, the only resi-

dent town in the neighborhood of the

city of Jerusalem, whence the crowds of

tourists, in the season, pass the

night in the hotels there, should be

the next locality favored with the

water supply.

Here a three-inch pipe has just

been laid from Elisha's Fountain

which lies to the west, near the ruins

of old Jericho, for 2,000 meters, to

near the Seraf, or Government House

of the present Jericho, whence it is

distributed by small pipes to the

hotels, convents and mosques.

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