

# THE RISURI RECORD

3<sup>rd</sup> of AUTUMN



500 A.O.V.

**Fair and Balanced!**

## **Pardwright Team Strikes It Lucky**

The archaeological team led by Sir William Saville, which has been digging in Agate's High Bayou since early Summer, has hit the jackpot with the exposure of an ancient ziggurat in apparently undisturbed ground. Who knows what may lie beyond? 'This could be the answer to all our dreams – a fully intact temple from a long lost civilization!' exclaimed Sir William, his eyes gleaming with that passion we all know and respect. The site will hold particular poignancy for the team's esteemed leader, as it is just a mile from where he first made his professional name as a rising young archaeological star, almost 25 years ago, with the discovery of the Eye of Dukain, the striking golden pommel thought to be from the sword of King Dukain. Sadly, the Flint Tribune recently reported that the artefact was stolen from the Pardwright University Museum in Flint. Sir William's partner on that dig was the talented Harry Flinders, tragically stuck down by scorpion bite that same day – how great a loss to archaeology he may have been, we shall never know. 'I dedicate this new find to Harry's memory,' said Sir William, wiping away a tear.

Assisting Sir William on the excavation are noted lady archaeologist Miss Ariadne Price-Evans, and students Mr Hugh Carlaw and Miss Helen Mackinnon.

## **War More Likely in the Yerasol Archipelago rather than the High Bayou, Says PM**

The Prime Minister spoke to calm the nerves of Parliament, after the recent flood of ill-informed gossip about the proximity of another war with Danor over the Axis Island incident. 'Her Majesty's Government is fully aware that our bellicose neighbours are arming themselves more capably and in greater numbers than we have seen for generations. A newly- united Drakr, keen to prove itself on the world stage, and a Danor desperate for a last chance at greatness, represent real dangers, and in response we too have commenced a military build-up.

'But the people of Risur need have no fear. If there is war, it will be a war of Empire, and will be fought in the far-flung provinces and colonies, not here in our homes. And, it need hardly be added, Risu will be victorious!'

(Shouts of 'Huzzah!' from all sides of the House.)

## **Superstitious Swamp People Restless**

The Record notes with concern that relations in Agate between the ethnic Berian community and the the Risurian government has taken an alarming trend for the worse in recent months. It seems the local folk are no longer willing to meekly kowtow to the policies the federal political powers institute on their behalf.

Rather than attempt to secure an interview with a local from Agate, from which little of value could likely be learned, we spoke to renowned expert on local affairs, Major Ray Siste.

'Your local Agate Johnny's a peaceable enough fellow six days out of seven. But prod him in a sensitive spot, and he'll be hopping up and down with rage as quick as Jack- be-nimble! And

one thing he can't abide is the idea that his precious artefacts are being smuggled out of the county! Seems he don't mind so much if they're going to local museums or universities – it's the private collectors he can't abide. Something to do with ritual significance of the items concerned, or some such stuff and nonsense – he's a superstitious chap, your basic backwoods yokle in the flea market. Forever worrying about ancient evils being raised from the swamp by careless Northerners, and such. Why, it fair makes us old folks laugh, to hear the young-uns wail about tampering with knowledgeman was not meant to wot of. What I say is, if man weren't meant to wot of it, why was he given the wherewithal to wot with, what?'

It is certainly true that the theft of artefacts from archaeological excavations in the Agate area has been sharply on the rise lately, under the nefarious influence of a smuggling ring led by a shadowy figure known only as 'Mr Big'. It is not only the natives who are irked by this gentleman's antics!

Another theory is that the local political-intellectual class is wary of their land being used as a pawn in the rivalries of other nations, Danor and Drakr specifically. Understandably perhaps, locals have no desire to see bloody battle waged along the High Bayou and peaks of the Anthras Mountains, over an affair which is no quarrel of theirs. However reasonable this belief may at first sound, though, the clear fact is that Agate is far better off under Risurian rule than a Berian proxy for Danor or Drakr. (The 'independence' some are calling for is not even worth discussing.) So any sacrifices the ethnic Berians are called upon to make for the defence of Risurian power will be well worthwhile. And we may be assured that any further attempts by rabble-rousers to foment peasant unrest will be met with firmness by the federal authorities!