

forth, and he spent half his time digging and the other half in the courts seeing what was going to happen; and eventually the courts decided to appoint an assessor to set a fair rent which he must pay, and the fair rental was set at \$35.00 (Laughter). And he paid the \$35.00 and went on and continued his excavation. But the time lost was terrific, the waste of time and energy, because what looked like a desolation and a dry land in the wilderness was really full of people, even though you would not suspect it when you looked out over it. Palestine is a land in which the excavator has much to contend with. This one particular feature which is a nuisance to him in Palestine, does not bother him in Mesopotamia. Mesopotamia is the archeologist's paradise. You go to one of the great cities of Jeremiah's day and you find a great mound standing there in the desert. You go up there on that mound and you begin digging and you have to carry all your water 15 or 20 miles, you have to bring your workmen in a long distance, but you don't have to dicker with people for the right to dig there and have all sorts of people coming around and asking questions and making a nuisance. Away out there,- the archeologist's paradise, a dry land, a desolation, and a wilderness. How did it happen? Why is it that way? Mesopotamia had no life except from the rivers; with the water from the rivers you can irrigate the soil and make it a garden. But, far up there in the mountains, the river changed its course and came down a different direction and established a new channel. Twenty miles away is the old channel of the river, absolutely empty, no water there, no possibility of water, and over here where the river now flows there are modern cities, some of which have now gone back for many centuries, standing there full of people, much prosperity from the fertile land round about them, a great commerce on the rivers. But the river has changed its course and the old cities of Babylon are "desolate, a dry land, a wilderness, a place where