

COUA-YVITZIN = pluma de culebra. (crafty one (?)) TEUETZQUITITZIN = bufon (mas tarde 3er. Gobernador). (Buffoon, later the 3rd Governor.) IXEUATZIN = el de la cota de guerra; relacionado con el 2. (He of the coat of mail; related to 2.) ITZPOTONCATZIN = el que tiene pegadas cuchillas de obsidianes en vez de plumas. (He who wears obsidian knives instead of feathers.) canalillo - (small canal)-UAXTEPECATL = de uaxtepec (lugar de aclimatacion en Cuernavaca). (Resort in Cuernavaca.) PETLACALCATL = administrator de la casa de petates.

(Administrator of the poor house.)

el capataz que ordena el trabajo = (The foreman who orders the work.) UITZNAHUATL = cierto dignatario militar o religioso. (Certain leader (military or religious).) CUETLACHIVITZIN = pluma de lobo rizada. (Half caste writer with curled head dre s.) XALXAOUALTZIN = el que frota. (He who rubs.) ANAHUACATZIN = del país de la costa. (Of the coastal region.)

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# THE LAND TENURE SYSTEM OF THE AZTEC EMPIRE

by Harvey Hall

In a trip through Mexico last winter, with Colonel G.S. Andrews, Surveyor-General of British Columbia, some rather interesting data on the land tenure system of the Aztec Empire was supplied to us by Ing. Alvaro R. Montes, Director-General de Catastro de la Propiedad Federal.

One interesting item was the facsimile of part of the Aztec property plans, which formed the record of land holdings in the valley of Mexico. This was based on a regular survey system, similar to our Ontario single front (broken) system, or perhaps even more like the seigniorial system of survey in New France. The conventional sign for a road, showing the footprints, was, I thought, rather unique. Other conventional water signs, of course, are obvious. This water area to the left was probably Lake Texcoco—now drained and nearly dried up by the rapidly growing City of Mexico.

It must be remembered that the Aztec Empire was not established in the valley of Mexico until less than two hundred years before the arrival of Hernan Cortez in 1519. These Aztecs, a group of primitive nomadic tribes of Chichimeca origin, moving slowly south, probably from the southern part of the United States, finally defeated the remnants of the earlier Toltec peoples. They adopted much of their culture but never developed a

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#### WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

## Toronto News

Spring supposedly is here and another Annual Meeting is over. This year we had a record attendance at the Ladies' functions and were very pleased to see so many local wives entering into the programme. Coffee parties were very well attended and especially the morning we had the demonstration of hair pieces. Mrs. J. Daley won the door prize which was a postiche donated by the demonstrator and designed for her at the coffee party. She was able to show it off at the Banquet and dance that evening much to the envy of the ladies present. The luncheon and shopping spree at Yorkdale was also well attended in spite of miserable weather. Our thanks go to Mrs. J. W. L. Monghan and her able executive for their time and effort in making the ladies programme such a success.

The Annual Meeting of the Women's Auxiliary was held in the form of a dinner party at the Town and Country. As there were no elections to be held this year, the evening was mainly a social event. We did manage to squeeze in a few reports and business between the courses. A motion to raise our annual fees from \$1.50 to \$2.00 was passed. This was necessitated by our commitment to our foster child because in recent years we have had such poor attendance to our welfare functions. Discussion of our June picnic was held but as nothing is definite yet, more information will be circulated at a later date.

We are sorry to report that Mrs. W. Chipman has been ill but is recuperating at Kipling Acres. Cards or letters from our members would be most welcome and may be sent to Kipling Acres, 1575 Kipling Avenue North, Rexdale.

Comments or news for this column should be sent to Mrs. B.J. Haynes, 8 Dervock Crescrent, Willowdale, BA-1-9967.

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# Aztec Land Tenure System

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script, although they were able, hieroglyphically, as you may see, to establish the identity of an individual land tenant. I say "tenant," as the emperors never alienated their land in the form of a fee simple grant--thus similar, as I said before, to the French Canadian seigniorial system.

We find a parallel piece in the history of western Europe in the absorption of the Etruscan civilization by the Roman Empire, but this I do not believe was quite as rapid.

It has been said that if the Aztec emperors had fifty more years to consolidate their empire in Mexico, Hernan Cortez would have required at least fifty times the forces that he used to conquer Monctezuma.