

This will interest you! E.B.W.



Part of the rock formation near the Aha Hills in Bechuanaland which led a Northern Rhodesian Boy Scout expedition to believe that the "Lost City" of Kalahari had been discovered. The discovery was later described as a geological freak.

# "LOST CITY" NOT BUILT BY MAN

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

BULAWAYO, JAN. 12

A morse code message sent by wireless to Francistown, Bechuanaland, late on Friday night exploded the theory of the "Lost City" of Kalahari. The message was sent from Shakawe, Bechuanaland, by a troop of the Northern Rhodesian Boy Scouts Association. They claimed to have found the "Lost City" near the desolate Aha Mountains, and say that it is a geological freak.

The evidence is that their discovery resembles in many ways the description given by Mr. G. A. Farini, the American explorer, when he announced the discovery of the "Lost City" in 1885.

From Shakawe, Mr. Jack Leech, leader of the expedition, tapped out this message in morse to the Francistown police:—

"Our expedition explored the northern edge of the Aha Hills and found on the north-easterly range a great crescent-shaped wall of dolomite and conglomerate rock described by Farini. This resembled the great wall of China after an earthquake. Inside the enclosure was a gentle sloping plain of flat stone that could with imagination be called paving. We also found several squarish stones on sand-eroded rocks, again as described by Farini; an unusually red sand he mentioned was also present. The site is three days' journey from Kaai Mountain in an area roamed by Givung bushmen—another name mentioned by Farini. The scouts are in no doubt that they have found the lost city, but assert that it is a remarkable natural feature and not a city built by man."

## SEARCH FOR A LOST CITY

### KALAHARI EXPEDITION

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN, JUNE 1

An expedition intends to leave Natal later this month to search for the "lost city" of the Kalahari desert the location of which has baffled seven or eight parties of explorers since the ancient ruins were reported to have been found in 1885. Reference to the ancient site was made by G. A. Farini, an American explorer, in his book *Through the Kalahari*, and the members of the projected expedition have deduced from other evidence that the position as described by him was not accurate.

The theory is that the Kalahari "city" was one of a chain of forts, of which Zimbabwe in Northern Rhodesia was the principal one, built by a Semitic race which journeyed to the west coast of Africa.

The party of seven will be led by Major D. C. Flower, of Natal, and will include Mr. Alan Paton, the novelist.

## The age of Zimbabwe

Sir, — Mr. Ibbetson's view that Zimbabwe was established thousands of years before Christ ("Natal Expedition to Search for 'Lost City'," May 29) is an attractive and widely accepted theory, and I assume Mr. Ibbetson has given some study to the matter.

I would like to point out, however, that recent research, which comprised a radio-active carbon test on a piece of wood found in the ruin, places the date of Zimbabwe at not much earlier than about 200 A.D.

The people who built it, however, are still a mystery.

IAN A. C. LEVINGSTON.

(The argument of those who hold to the B.C. theory is that parts of Zimbabwe were additions, or re-building, by later occupants. —Editor.)