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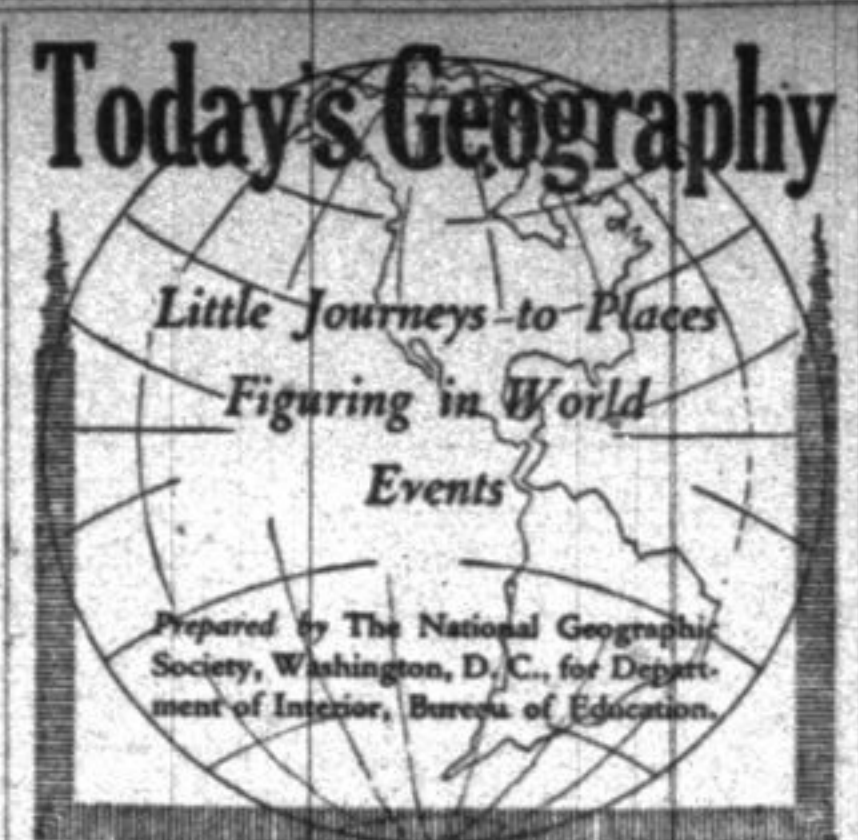
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LUXEMBURG REPRESENTED AT WASHINGTON

Luxemburg, latest and smallest of the countries of the world to send a diplomatic representative to the United States, has a ruler with a better popular title to her throne than perhaps any other reigning monarch.

Though the little grand duchy is smaller even than Rhode Island, it has a history reaching farther into the past than many of the great nations among which it now takes a place. It has been buffeted about like a shuttlecock by the countries that hem it in, and at one time or another during the past thousand years has been under the control of nearly every one of the principal nations of the western part of the continent.

While a part of the Holy Empire, Luxemburg furnished an emperor for the German throne. Count Henry IV of Luxemburg was elected to that position in 1308 as Henry VII. Luxemburg later came under the control of Burgundy and then fell successively to Spain, Austria and the first French republic. It remained under the sovereignty of the king of the Netherlands from 1815 to the accession of Queen Wilhelmina in 1890, when the existence of the Salic law—that anti-feminist outburst of the old warrior Franks—brought the grand duke of Nassau to the throne.

Even while the king of the Netherlands was sovereign of Luxemburg, it was a member of the German confederation, with the city of Luxemburg garrisoned by Prussian soldiers. Retention of this garrison in the city after the division of old Luxemburg between Holland and Belgium in 1831, and especially after the dissolution of the German confederation in 1866, almost caused the Franco-Prussian war to start three years ahead of time. The matter was compromised by an agreement for the withdrawal of the German troops, and the demolition of the fortifications of the city of Luxemburg, so strong that the fortress was known as "the Gibraltar of the North."

In addition the grand duchy was set up as an independent state with its neutrality guaranteed, like that of Belgium, by the powers. This guarantee was one of the "scraps of paper" of 1914.

During the World War Luxemburg was practically a prisoner of Germany, but because the inhabitants did not resist, the Germans treated them with a certain degree of consideration. The sympathies of the people were with France, however, and several thousand Luxemburgians served with the tricolor. This popular sympathy for France and the belief that the reigning Grand Duchess Marie Adelaide, had pro-German leanings made her unpopular. After the armistice brought about the retirement of the Germans, a bloodless revolution broke out, and Luxemburg added another to its long list of sovereignties by being a republic for a few brief hours. Conservative elements brought about the abdication of the grand duchess in favor of her sister Charlotte, the present ruler, and by liberalizing the constitution. Marie Adelaide has entered a convent and become a Carmelite nun.

BRUSSELS: CAPITAL CITY OF THE LAND OF THE LOOM

Brussels, conspicuous during the war, again became a center of world attention with the meeting there of the international financial congress.

Brussels' fame rests partly on popular misapprehensions.

Its name is linked with a carpet that is not made there, and also with a cathedral which, properly speaking, is not a cathedral at all but a church—that of St. Gudule.

But even after deducting this much from Brussels' credit, enough remains to give it a foremost place among world capitals. Were the romantic adventures of the city cast into a "movie" scenario, the title might accurately be "From Swamp Dwelling to Petit Paris."

The seventh century village on the Seine, near the center of what now is Belgium, was called Brueselle, literally "swamp dwelling," with descriptive intent. The genius of a people for making much of meager physical circumstances fully warrants the nickname often given the modern city of parks, boulevards, art galleries and a famous university.

Suffering was no new experience for Brussels. More than three centuries earlier its great square had seen Count Egmont and Count Horn walk to the scaffold, and a little later both heads were displayed to the assembled multitude on iron spikes. More gruesome still, both heads finally were boxed and sent to Philip II of Spain so that latter-day Herod might exult in another victory over his northern subjects.

Though the Brussels carpet of modern times is not made in Belgium, Brussels was paid a deserved tribute in its naming, for when it first was manufactured at Wilton, England, the

product was patterned after the tapestries for which Brussels was famous for centuries.

In addition to its weaving Brussels gained renown for its lacemaking, and its needle-made laces still find their way all over the civilized world, including a considerable quantity to the United States. The feminine culture of feudal times sought to express in the delicate designs of filmy fabric what men wrought in the lace-like architecture of its cathedrals.

MEXICO CITY: THE ROME OF THE AMERICAS

"In all the world one cannot find a more remarkable capital than Mexico City," says William Joseph Shwartz, in a communication to the National Geographic Society.

"Situated in a valley whose floor is a mile and a half above the level of the sea, and whose borders are surrounded by towering mountains; located where the beautiful volcanoes, Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl, rear snow-capped heads above the plain and stand eternal guard over it, its situation is one of rare beauty and grandeur. Its climate is mild, the temperature ranging from 35 to 70 degrees, with a mean of 65 degrees. No man sleeps without a blanket in Mexico City, nor needs an overcoat at midday.

"Prior to the conquest the lakes of the Mexican valley were extensive and the barges of the Aztecs sailed unimpeded from the gates of Chapultepec to Ixtapalapa. A large number of canals intersected the ancient metropolis of Tenochtitlan and connected with the lakes in the suburbs, making it a sort of new world Venice.

"In 1607 the celebrated Portuguese engineer Martinez undertook to drain the Valley of Mexico by cutting a canal through the mountains. The work, however, was largely a failure, since it drained only one small lake and an unimportant river, leaving lakes Texcoco and Chalco still perpetual menaces to the city.

"In 1870 a huge drainage canal 30 miles long was begun, which was completed in 1900, at a cost of about \$8,000,000, American gold. Its completion removed the danger of inundations from Mexico City and solved the problem which occupied the thoughts and engendered the fears of the Aztecs as far back as 1440.

"Mexico City is the most complete mixture of the ancient and the modern to be found in the new world. The old city might date anywhere from the tenth century, from its appearance. The new city is ultra modern, and you step from the sixteenth to the twentieth century by walking across the street.

"The parade ground of Mexico City is the Avenida de San Francisco. This short street extends from the Mexican White House to the Alameda, and is only about 24 feet from curb to curb. Here, at the approach of twilight, every smart equipage in the capital comes. Down the one side of the street and up the other side moves the procession at a slow walk, while everybody looks at everybody else.

"As Avenida de San Francisco unites the old and the new cities, so does the Cinco de Mayo (Fifth of May) unite the cathedral, stateliest of all the religious edifices on the continent, with the National theater, which was planned to be the most beautiful of all the amusement places in America. The Cinco de Mayo is the Wall street of Mexico, and the buildings which line it are modern in every respect.

"The Paseo de la Reforma, extending from Chapultepec to the Avenida de Juarez, a short avenue connecting the Paseo with Avenida de San Francisco, is one of the finest driveways of the world.

"The national pawnshop is one of the unique institutions of the capital. It was founded by Pedro Jose Romero de Terreros."

HOW GEOGRAPHY SHAPES ITALY'S DESTINY

Italy's peculiar geographic position always has been one of the chief sources of the country's remarkable individuality—an individuality marked by its political and economic course since the armistice was signed.

Arthur Stanley Riggs, writing to the National Geographic Society in this regard, says:

"From the beginning Nature set Italy apart. Every boundary is perfectly clear. The historic sea enfolds it to the south, east and west. On the north the terrific Alps sweep around it in a great semicircle from Mediterranean to Adriatic, closing the circuit.

"To be sure, from the time of Augustus the boundary of each side of northern Italy has been juggled, now to the east, now to the west, by politics; but the physical boundary is still definitely there. So thoroughly did the ancient chroniclers recognize these natural limits that long before the name of Italy had any political significance or entity the writers applied it to the country thus inclosed. The peninsula, with its tremendous Apennine backbone, makes a huge boot which thrusts out practically into the center of the great midland sea.

Necessarily, then, Italy was exposed to attack and invasion from three sides. Indeed, it was the invading, or rather colonizing, Greek who combined with the aborigine to form the population that stocked the peninsula. Taken in a smaller way, geographical site or position exercised no less distinct an effect upon some of the foremost Italian cities; and in shaping their affairs and men it also influenced the entire world.

"After forming this basin—northern Italy—the Apennines sweep southward in a rugged backbone which deter-

mines the whole internal geography of the country as definitely as the Alps do its outline northward.

"In central Italy, west of the mountains, the valleys of the Arno and the Tiber—the only streams of importance—give the keynote to any geographic study of the region. Over on the eastern coast no rivers of importance can exist, because the mountains there approach too close to the sea, though the tortuous, mostly dry beds of the 'torrent' scar every height.

"In this connection it is interesting to note that nowhere is the peninsula more than 150 miles wide, and generally not more than 100, while down in Calabria the width dwindles in two places to 35 and 20 miles respectively. One of the most inspiring views in the whole length of the country also displays this narrowness strikingly when, on a clear day, from the Gran Sasso, the highest point in the bleak Abruzzi range, central Italy, at nearly 10,000 feet, one may look not only eastward over the Adriatic to far Dalmatia's rocky shores, but also westward over the mountain and moor, city and sandy coast, to the dim and misty blue of the Tyrrhenian sea. In volcanic southern Italy, likewise barren of any great waterways, the Apennines break up into groups of hills and peaks, not usually so lofty as farther northward.

"As in the case of Japan, the surrounding sea makes a vast difference in the Italian climate. Judged by its position alone, the peninsula should be about the hottest part of Europe—it is only 90 miles from the southern shore of Sicily to Africa. But the twin seas and the ever snow-capped mountains temper the heat, and the regional peculiarities are such that we find Turin, for instance, colder in winter than Copenhagen, and Milan as warm in summer as Naples."

A VOLCANIC BARNUM AND BAILEY

Young America will drop anything to run to a fire. In some parts of the world—Hawaii, for example—one also drops everything to run to a volcano eruption, unless he already is too close for comfort. Then he runs from it.

Have you ever wondered what a volcano, in action, looks like? Here is a description, not by a scientist, but by a young Washington woman who went to Hawaii to live just before Mauna Loa's terrific eruption last year:

"It seems as if Hawaii, though small, must have just so much attention, and so ever so often she explosively projects herself into the arena of the world's happenings," wrote Mrs. Shirley Foster Allen. "Not content with her share in the 'Big Show' in Europe, she decided to stage a first-class side show all her own—and the two volcanoes, Mauna Loa and Kilauea, have certainly done their best to make it the 'biggest show on earth.'"

"Just a word about the geography of the place. In the first place so many people seem to think the word 'Honolulu' embraces all there is to the islands; and in the second place, the general conception seems to be that the volcano is located in Honolulu's back yard, as it were, and that we Honoluluans take our daily exercise by running up to the crater every morning before breakfast. Honolulu is located on the island of Oahu, third island in size in the group, while the volcano, or rather volcanoes, are located on Hawaii, the largest and youngest island, with an area of more than 4,000 square miles, which lies nearly 200 miles southeast of Oahu.

"The first indication of volcanic activity was the presence of a peculiar cauliflower-shaped cloud hanging over the mountain. Three days later, on September 29, the whole heavens were lit up with an apricot glow when, from a huge vent in the mountain's side, a flood of molten lava was belched forth. Spreading out into a great shallow stream, it came roaring down the mountain slope, burning forests, carrying huge trees and immense boulders on its surface—sweeping everything before it. With a speed varying from one to twenty miles an hour, according to the country it was passing over, it broadened out until it was nearly a mile in width. After wiping out the government belt road, razing telephone poles and destroying a vast amount of property, the red-hot lava tumbled over a high precipice and plunged hissing into the sea.

"A number of excursions were made in October from Honolulu, and, in approaching the flow from the sea in the early evening, the glow from the lava was visible for many miles before Aiea was reached.

"Drifting within 200 yards of the point where the liquid rock was rushing into the sea, the scene stretching before one was awe-inspiring. Slowly the smoky haze, from the burning forests, which hung over the source 20 miles away, lifted and the river of fire stood out in its full glory, holding one speechless and spellbound. Leaping from pall to valley, rushing uphill and roaring down, the fiery flood thundered down the mountain slope, carrying on its bosom rocks as big as houses that were tossed about as if they were mere pebbles. As the stream of blazing lava neared the coastline, it appeared to gather more speed, taking a final plunge over a 100-foot cliff at a terrific rate, and looking for all the world like a fiery Niagara for all the world like a fiery Niagara. As the red-hot lava came in contact with the water, great columns of steam and gas, like huge water-spouts, were forced hundreds of feet into the air. Huge boulders, hurled into space, exploded with thunderous reports into auras of red and green lights, while flashes of what looked like lightning added to the chaos."

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