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TRIESTE: A PLUM OF THE ADRIATIC DISPUTE

Trieste is one of the major Adriatic plums in dispute between Italy and the newly-formed Jugo-Slav state, the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

Though Trieste was Austrian, except for a brief interval from the fourteenth century until the World War dissipated the Austrian empire, the city has had a marked effect upon Italian history. Its chief importance to Austria was commercial, for it was the dual monarchy's only great seaport.

Tired of a double allegiance to Venice and to Aquileia, Trieste requested that she be annexed to Austria in 1382. Leopold the pious was on the Austrian throne. He was a rival to King James of England in being "the wisest fool in all Christendom." Though he expanded his territory elsewhere, the only acquisition of consequence was that of Trieste, won through no effort on his part. Thus Austria gained what was destined to become not only a seaport of importance, but also a channel for exerting frequent influence upon the affairs of Italian towns and their rulers.

The city is situated on the Gulf of Trieste, 387 miles southwest of Vienna by rail. It lies on the seaward slope of the Karst, or Carso, a strip of limestone hills extending inland from 60 to 90 miles, furrowed with ravines and pierced by caverns, into which many small streams disappear.

Not far from Trieste, at Briscetti, is the Grotto Giganta, a stalactite cave, where tourists throng to see the "Great Dome," spreading over a subterranean cavity nearly as long as the United States capitol and a hundred feet higher than the capitol dome.

Despite its inclusion in Austrian territory, Trieste's population and architecture are Italian. It was the Terzeste of Roman history, and today the walls and pillars of a Roman temple may be seen encased in the cathedral of San Giusto, a highly composite structure which also has built into it three adjacent structures of the sixteenth century—a Christian basilica, a baptistery and a Byzantine church.

Traces of Trieste's early history were to be found before the war in the Museo Lapidaria, which contains many Roman antiquities from the vicinity.

SAN SALVADOR: DEFIER OF EARTHQUAKES

San Salvador, scene of recent earthquake shocks, is the capital of the smallest and most populous of Central American republics. The city is no stranger to the twin terrors of earthquake and volcano.

Within ten seconds an earthquake all but destroyed it in 1854, another laid it low in 1873, and that of 1917, when millions of dollars' worth of property was destroyed, is still remembered.

In spite of these fateful blows from nature, and devastating waves of man-made revolutions, San Salvador today is reckoned among the important cities of the mid-continent. It has a popu-



Where Lava Blocked a San Salvador Highway.

lation of 60,000; its manufactured products include soap, cigars, candles, cotton cloth and spirits; and its compulsory education laws, university, theaters and scientific institutions attest its regard for culture.

Izalco, perhaps the most famous volcano of the San Salvador republic, belched forth from a fine old hacienda in 1770, and ever since has tirelessly thrown aloft its mighty volume of ashes and gases. With the regularity of a mammoth natural timepiece it is said not to have missed a rumbling, luminous explosion within any half-hour for a century and a half; hence its nickname, the "Lighthouse of Salvador."

Of San Miguel, occasionally active, one writer said, after seeing the eruption of 1848: "It is difficult to conceive a grander natural object than this volcano. Its base is shrouded in the densest green, blending with the lighter hues of the grasses which succeed the forest. Above these the various

colors melt imperceptibly into each other. First comes the rich amber of the scorias, and then the silver tint of the newly-fallen ashes at the summit; and still above all, floating in heavy opalescent volumes, or rising like a plume to heaven, is the smoke, which rolls up eternally from its incandescent depths."

There is a lake in the republic, Ilopango, supposed to lie in the bed of an old volcanic crater. Out of this lake a volcanic island arose to a height of 150 odd feet 30 years ago.

Though in no single instance, perhaps, was a great city buried, the constant exhalations of Salvador volcanoes and infolding processes of its earthquakes gradually submerged remains of a pre-Columbian civilization. These traces just now are beginning to reveal to patient students fascinating facts about this ancient "New World."

Curious pyramids and ramparts be-taken a civilization known as Mayan, even before the region was settled by the Pipiles, an early Mexican speaking people. From such slender threads as the fact that steps of these pre-historic temples are higher than they are wide, must science piece out the relations of the various ancient states and cities that flourished on this continent during the halcyon days of Egypt, Phoenicia and China, on the other side of the globe.

RHODESIA: THE LAND OF MEN, WILD BEASTS AND NATURAL BEAUTY

Africa, not so long ago regarded, for the most part, as a "sepulcher of the world's most daring explorers," now engages the attention of the world because of its vast natural resources and its industrial possibilities.

Material furnished the National Geographic society by R. D. Parsons, is the basis for the following description of Rhodesia:

"Interior Rhodesia must be traversed by native carriers over mountains, through primeval forest, across rivers, through almost impenetrable jungle and underbrush, in peril from elephants, lions, leopards, hyenas, serpents, the tsetse fly, wild men as well as wild beasts. Each carrier has a small bag of 50 pounds. On an average carriers make 25 miles a day, and even on runs of 6,000 miles, from Broken Hill to Abercorn, they are seldom more than an hour behind schedule time and generally only half that. They make better time in the wet season than in the dry as, in the wet, they travel in bare feet, while in the dry the earth is baked, the ground is hot like 'The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes,' and they are compelled to wear sandals.

"There is one great drawback to the wet; no material has yet been produced that can resist African rain. It laughs at the average rubberized fabrics. One of the few partly successful materials is a peculiarly woven canvas made in England, and even when mail bags of this material are opened, the contents are simply pulp-valueless, and frequently undecipherable. Glazed paper suffers most; why, I do not know. I suppose it is the combination of heat and water.

"The plunge of Victoria Falls on the Zambezi is three times that of our Niagara; the roar is heard for 10 miles, and the column of vapor is miles high. In the dialect of Mashonaland and Matabeleland, its name means 'the water that smokes.'

"From Kasempa to Livingstone (Victoria Falls) is 580 miles, from Livingstone to Bulawayo 290, and from Kasempa to Cape Town 2,200 miles. The fauna of Rhodesia is wonderful; think of 17 kinds of antelopes!

"Although the tsetse fly is an abominable pest, it takes second place as a destroyer of property value to our American pest, the boll weevil. A singular peculiarity of the first named consists in its habit of biting human beings, horses and oxen on the feet. When animals are shipped from Cape Town to North Rhodesia, the shipping is done at night, because, unlike the mosquito, the tsetse fly works only in the daytime. It prefers to work on the legs, and in case of horses these are done up in paraffin and cloths. It should be understood that this foe to man and beast is confined to certain districts."

HOW ARMAGEDDON PROFITED PERSIA

That exceedingly ill wind, the World War, blew much good to one nation, Persia for the higher price of silver doubled her capital, made her raw materials sought after by the world, and removed her from comparative isolation to a place among commercial nations of high importance. Writing to the National Geographic society concerning this rejuvenated ancient land, Ella C. Sykes says:

"Persia is one of the oldest empires in existence. It has been a kingdom for 25 centuries—ever since Cyrus the Great, about 550 B. C., conquered Media and united the country to his under the name of Persia! It has had many glorious episodes in its long history; has produced the great teacher Zoroaster; such world-famous poets as Firdausi, Omar Khayyam, Saadi and Hafiz; and such great soldiers and rulers as Darius I, Shapur I and Shah Abbas.

"Again and again the empire has been a prey to anarchy; again and again conquering hosts have swept through the country, Alexander the Great having many a successor, the most destructive conqueror being Genghis Khan with his hordes of savage Mongols—a leader who boasted 'that he had slain thirteen millions of his fellow creatures.

"The center of the country is a great plateau, rising from 2,000 to 6,000 feet, and crossed by frequent chains of mountains, while a lofty mountain barrier bounds it on the north and south.

"In the whole Persian empire there were in 1910 only six miles of railway, and only four roads, their total length amounting to fewer than 800 miles. There is only one navigable river, the Karun, that flows into the head of the Persian Gulf, and on this sea the so-called ports are merely open roadsteads, at which cargo cannot be landed in stormy weather.

"The merchandise of Persia is practically carried on the backs of camels, mules and donkeys, a slow and expensive mode of transport.

"The Persian is of Aryan stock, and has the same words as ourselves for father, mother, brother and daughter (pitar, madar, bradar, and dukhtar), and the construction of his language is like that of English.

"Many Persians have no home life in the usual sense of the word. A Persian house is divided into the b-irooni, or men's apartments, and the anderoon, or part consecrated to the women. A strong door, set in a high blank wall, gives entrance to a narrow passage that leads into a square courtyard on which open several rooms. Here the men live, and here they usually entertain their friends, while their women dwell in rooms set round an inner courtyard, the only entrance to which is through the b-irooni.

"As a Persian is instructed from earliest youth that a woman's advice is of no account—in fact the priests tell him that he had better do the exact opposite of what a woman counsels—it can be understood that as a rule he has no exalted opinion of his wife or wives, and seldom turns to them for companionship."

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA: BORN ABOARD FREIGHT TRAINS

Amid the disorders of Central Europe one new nation affords a conspicuous exception to the chaos, strife and revolutions prevalent on all sides of her. That nation is Czecho-Slovakia.

The inception of this new nationality from a racial unit of ancient and distinguished lineage is a modern romance comparable to the crusades of the middle ages.

Early in 1918 the intrepid Czech warriors started out from the Kiev district of western Russia in railway cars, some of which were decorated with the slogan, "From War to War Around the World."

At that time it looked as though the summer of 1918 would find them in Champagne or the Argonne, joined with the thousands of their compatriots who were already fighting in the allied armies to down the Hun. But a strange combination of circumstances delayed them in Siberia through the short summer of long days and the long winter of little sunshine.

A communication follows from Maynard Owen Williams, first American correspondent with the spectacular anabasis of the Czecho-Slovaks across Siberia:

"Xenophon had a fine trip, if one is to judge from the accounts of his favorite press agent, and Napoleon and Sherman have made famous excursions, but when it comes to the world encircling vision of the tourist bureau writer, and the doggedness of death, the wonderful Czechs take the palm.

"The war found them about as enthusiastic in their friendship for William Hohenzollern and his Potsdam confederates as they were for the Hapsburg house that betrayed them centuries ago, after they magnanimously joined the Austrians in the repulse of the hordes from Asia that then threatened Europe.

"Their going over to the enemy was one of the reasons why Germany's southern neighbor failed to pick up rapidly amid the heavy traffic that resulted from the mobilization of Europe.

"Whole regiments of them went over to the foe. Other thousands were shot down by their Austrian companions in arms, and all their organizations were heavily officered by the Germans or Magyars, whose methods and aims they hated. Thousands of them escaped to Russia, where they were sent to the cold of Siberia or the malaria of the Tashkent region as prisoners of war.

"Many of them entered the Russian army under Kerensky, but with the signing of the Brest-Litovsk treaty, they lost faith in their Russian companions in arms and with a spirit of loyalty to the cause of freedom that no other group surpassed, they set out from Russia to cross Siberia, the Pacific, America, the Atlantic and France, to hurl themselves once more against their oppressors and traditional foes.

"When I met them their 78 trains were strung out from the Ukraine to Lake Balkas, all moving toward the port of Vladivostok.

"The Bolsheviks walked into the trap which they had themselves prepared, for had they lived up to their promises, the Czechs would have all been in Vladivostok by July. When the Reds attempted to disarm the Czecho-Slovak expedition, the Bohemians refused to be as meek as the anti-Bolsheviks usually were; then, and the result was a continent saved for democracy while the world was hunting through its atlas to find out who these fighting men with the strange name really were, and what they were doing so far from home."

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