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DEAD EMPEROR HAD LONG REIGN

Francis Joseph Mounted Throne In Middle of Last Century.
LIFE FILLED WITH SORROW.

Tragedy After Tragedy Culminated In Assassination of His Nephew and Heir—Early Years Saw War With Other Nations and Loss of Territory, but Later He Averted Conflict Over Balkan Question.

FRANCIS JOSEPH (CHARLES)

Francis Joseph (Charles), emperor of Austria, apostolic king of Hungary, king of Bohemia, king of Jerusalem, grand duke of Tuscany, duke of Lorraine, etc., was born at Schoenbrunn Aug. 18, 1830, the son of the Austrian Archduke Francis Charles and the Archduchess Sophie, his wife, who was a Bavarian princess. His origin was of the highest, for in his veins flowed the blood of the Hapsburgs and Lorraines, who for a thousand years had been makers of history. His grandfather, Francis I

Joseph, succeeded in reconciling the almost irreconcilable interests of Austria and Hungary, consummated the compromise under which the dual kingdom is still governed and about which there has lately been so much talk, promulgated a most liberal constitution, and on June 8, 1867, was crowned king of Hungary at Pest-Ofen with great pomp and ceremony. From that time, though constantly the center of a political whirlpool, he ruled his eccentric empire as an animal tamer controls his menagerie, using alternately force and diplomacy.

Domestic Troubles.

His youth, so saddened by the losses of territory which his ancestors had owned for ages, was further embittered by the efforts of his political enemies to cause trouble between him and his beautiful young wife, the Princess Elizabeth of Bavaria. They did succeed finally in effecting a separation of the emperor and empress, but it was only temporary. Throughout his life the "curse of the Hapsburgs" in the form of domestic tragedy pursued the proud emperor of Austria as a hunter stalks his prey. From that terrible day when his brother Maximilian, deserted by Louis Napoleon, who had made him emperor of Mexico, was shot down like a felon by the soldiers of Juarez and the Empress Carlotta came home a maniac Francis Joseph had been a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. His cousin, the Archduke Salvator, ran off to sea, preferring the life of a common sailor to the exactions of the severest

levo, Bosnia, was the fourth time death either by suicide, assassination or military execution struck at him. Beloved by his people, with a love which at times held Europe from desperate war, the seared heart of the octogenarian ruler held strength enough to sustain still another blow.

Put in tabular form and chronological order, these were the four great tragedies of his life, the tragedies which have made the name of Hapsburg a synonym for misfortune:

Maximilian, emperor of Mexico, executed June 19, 1867, after defeat by revolutionists; brother.

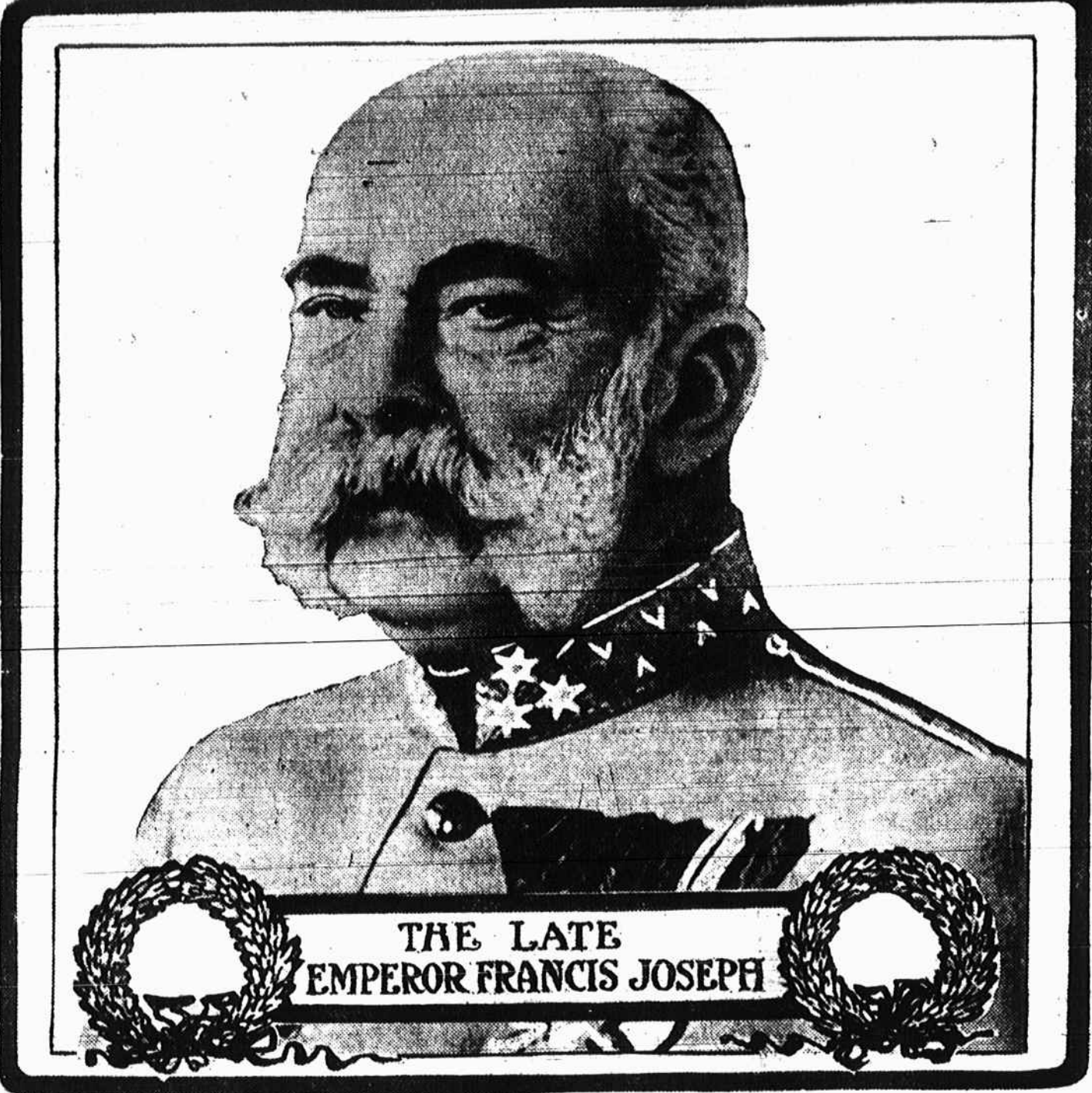
Crown Prince Rudolph, died Jan. 30, 1889, by suicide or murder at Mayerling; son.

Elizabeth, empress of Austria, assassinated Sept. 10, 1898, at Geneva by anarchist; wife.

Francis Ferdinand, crown prince, shot June 28, 1914, at Sarajevo with his wife; nephew.

Other misfortunes flowed from these almost without number, making the record of sorrow which marked the family of Francis Joseph one almost without parallel either in ancient or modern history. One chronicler likens the history of the family to that of the Julio Claudians of Rome, known for their crimes and misfortunes.

All of this train of disaster is laid by the people of Austria-Hungary to a curse laid on Francis Joseph soon after he took the throne as a youth facing the country torn with revolt. Francis Joseph, the story runs, refused par-



of Austria, was the last Holy Roman emperor. Francis Joseph was no Owen Glendower, at whose birth "the front of heaven was full of fiery shapes," but the cannon which heralded his entrance into life had but lately been trained against the great Napoleon, and his cradle was rocked by storms which shook all Europe. The spirit of liberty was abroad, and it was not a propitious hour for princes to be born.

Discontent with the government was rife in Austria, the Italian provinces were filled with insurrection, and Hungary was clamoring for freedom. The popular movement grew as Francis Joseph grew. Metternich retreated before the Austrian masses, and finally, when the expulsion of Louis Philippe from France set all the shackled people of the continent to rattling their fetters in the face of royalty, the Emperor Ferdinand abdicated, and his nephew, Francis Joseph, whose father had resigned his imperial rights, climbed upon Austria's tottering throne, an emperor at eighteen, in 1848.

Inaugurated Important Reforms.
The young monarch's first step was to promise a free and constitutional government, but in this he was beyond his time. The course of events compelled him to close the national assembly; he had enticed and assume absolute power. He centralized the governments of his heterogeneous nationalities at Vienna and inaugurated important fiscal and commercial reforms, which soon won him the favor of the Austrian middle classes. He effected a concordat with the pope which conciliated his Roman Catholic subjects. He put down the Hungarian revolt.

court in Christendom, and never was heard of again. His only son, the Crown Prince Rudolph, committed suicide in 1889 as the result of an unfortunate love affair. Then came the crowning stroke of misfortune. The Empress Elizabeth, adored by high and low as the imperial embodiment of all the virtues, was assassinated by an anarchist during a visit to Switzerland. More recently the scandalous elopement of the crown princess of Saxony, who was an Austrian archduchess, reopened the emperor's heart wounds, and the assassination of his nephew and heir, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, with the morganatic wife of the latter, the Duchess of Hohenberg, broke him down completely.

Death of Maximilian.

The tragic death of Maximilian was the one incident in his sorrowful career that the emperor was unable to forgive. Francis Joseph ever regarded Mexico as his brother's murderer. His gratitude to those who had shown mercy or pity to the ill-starred Maximilian was no less long lived. Every year—the emperor never forgot the date—a Mexican singer named Concha Mendez received a generous birthday gift from his majesty. With it went a note in the emperor's own hand expressing his grateful remembrance of the fact that when such a thing endangered her safety and almost her life she refused to ridicule the dead "emperor of Mexico." It was not long after the execution of Maximilian that Concha Mendez, the popular singer of the day, in the City of Mexico was asked to sing a song vilifying the late emperor and his unhappy spouse. Concha Mendez stopped short, and her black eyes flashed. "No," she said; "I shall not deify the dead and the unhappy," then left the stage before the audience had recovered from the surprise.

Outlined in the glare of tragedy Francis Joseph stood out as the most interesting and pathetic figure of European royalty.

Assassination of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his morganatic wife, the Duchess of Hohenberg, at Sara-

don to a son of the Countess Karolyi, who was condemned for participating in the Kossuth revolt in 1848.

At the very feet of the emperor Countess Karolyi's curse was spoken. Death, she screamed, should never come to the ruler until every one of his nearest and dearest should die by violence or in shame and disgrace, their lives forgotten unless the obloquy they gathered should keep their memory green.

The Princess Elizabeth, daughter of the unlucky Rudolf and granddaughter of Francis Joseph, insisted upon marrying Prince Otto of Windsch-Graetz, a mediocrity house. The marriage was much against the emperor's wishes, but he would not refuse his consent. After a few years of married life the princess, according to report current at the time, shot an actress to whom she found her husband paying attention.

A Democratic Ruler.

The head of one of the oldest reigning families and master of the most conventional of continental courts, Francis Joseph, while never relaxing his imperial dignity, was still the most democratic and kindest hearted of kings. Every year on Maundy Thursday the emperor showed his humility by following the example of Christ in washing the feet of his disciples. Twelve old men, paupers all, were brought to the palace on the Thursday before Easter, and the aged emperor personally served them with food and drink, then, attended by high military and church officials, proceeded to each old man in turn, wet his feet, dried them and dismissed them with gifts. Stern but kind ruler of a turbulent realm, a king made human by suffering, with all his faults he deserves the eulogy Mark Antony pronounced over the corpse of Brutus. "The elements were so mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world, This was a man."

During the Balkan war crisis the aged emperor's voice was constantly for peace, and it was no doubt due in great degree to his influence that all Europe was not plunged into war.

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