

**The Holy Land**

**Viscount James Bryce Writes of Geography of Palestine**

Washington, April 4.—Of peculiar timeliness, because of widespread American interest in the future of Palestine, is a communication to the National Geographic Society from Viscount James Bryce, former British Ambassador to the United States. The "historic Holy Land, released from deadly Moslem domination, may take its place among the "prosperous and even populous" civilized states of today, he states, if administered by "a government which should give honest administration, repress brigandage, diffuse education, irrigate the now desolate, because sun-scorched, valley of the lower Jordan by water drawn from the upper course of the river."

"A part of Viscount Bryce's communication follows: "Palestine is a tiny little country. Though the traveler's handbooks prepare him to find it small, it surprises him by being smaller than he expected. Taking it as the region between the Mediterranean on the west and the Jordan and Dead Sea on the east, from the spurs of Lebanon and Hermon on the north to the desert at Beersheba on the south, it is only 119 miles long and from 50 to 60 broad—that is to say, it is smaller than New Jersey.

"Of this region large parts did not really belong to ancient Israel. Their hold on the southern and northern districts was but slight, while in the southwest a wide and rich plain along the Mediterranean was occupied by the warlike Philistines, who were sometimes more than a match for the Hebrew armies. Israel had, in fact, little more than the hill country, which lay between the Jordan on the east and the maritime plain on the west. King David, in the days of his power, looked down from the hill cities of Benjamin, just north of Jerusalem, upon Philistine enemies only 25 miles off, on the one side, and looked across the Jordan to Moabite enemies about as far off, on the other.

"Nearly all the events in the history of Israel that are recorded in the Old Testament happened within a territory no bigger than the State of Connecticut whose area is 4,800 square miles, and into hardly any other country has there been crowded from the days of Abraham till our own so much history—that is to say, so many events that have been recorded and deserve to be recorded in the annals of mankind.

"Nor is it only that Palestine is really a small country. The traveler constantly feels as he moves about that it is a small country. From the heights a few miles north of Jerusalem he sees, looking northward, a far-off summit carrying snow for 8 months in the year. It is Hermon, nearly 10,000 feet high—Hermon, whose fountains feed the rivers of Damascus.

"But Hermon is outside the territory of Israel altogether, standing in the land of the Syrians; so, too, it is of Lebanon. We are apt to think of that mountain mass as within the country, because it is also frequently mentioned in the Psalms and the Prophets; but the two ranges of Lebanon also rise beyond the frontiers of Israel, lying between the Syrians of Damascus and the Phoenicians of the West.

"Perhaps it is because the maps from which children used to learn Bible geography were on a large scale that most of us have failed to realize how narrow were the limits within which took place all those great doings that fill the books of Samuel and Kings. Just in the same way the classical scholar who visits Greece is surprised to find that so small a territory sufficed for so many striking incidents and for the careers of so many famous men."

**Soviets Capture Odessa**

**Recent News Intimated City Was Untenable For Allies**

Paris, April 8. (By the Associated Press).—The Ukrainian Soviet troops have captured Odessa, according to advices from Kiev, transmitted by wireless from Moscow, under date of April 7. The news has not been officially confirmed.

Late dispatches indicate that Bolshevik pressure against Odessa, the great Russian port on the Black sea, was increasing, and intimated the imminent evacuation of the city by the Allied troops. The Paris Matin said that the Allies probably would be withdrawn ultimately to the Dniester in order to protect Bessarabia and Rumania and that the Isthmus of Perekop had been fortified to protect Sebastopol.

**Greatest Year For Road Construction**

Washington, April 3.—Adoption of plans to expedite highway construction under the enlarged program recently authorized by congress are expected to result in more miles of road being constructed this year than in any previous year in the nation's history. Secretary of Agriculture Houston announces. It all States take advantage of the opportunity offered and make available for road building sums equal to those apportioned by federal road officials a total of \$242,500,000 may be expended.

As a result of a conference March 1 between the secretary and highway commissioner of eastern and middle-western States the department of agriculture, through the bureau of public roads, has taken up with the railroad administration the question of freight rates which are represented as being one of the principal obstacles in the way of active resumption of highway building. The matter is under consideration by the government railway officials and a decision is expected soon. Secretary Houston also has taken up with Secretary of War Baker the question of releasing from the army highway engineers in order that their services may be utilized.

**Koenigsberg**

**Facts of Polish and Prussian History**

Washington, April 4.—Koenigsberg, where homebound Polish troops from France may land, rather than risk disturbances with the Germans at Danzig, is described in the following bulletin from the National Geographic Society:

"Koenigsberg is a strongly fortified city lying on both sides of the Pregel River, less than five miles from the Frische Hoff, and more than 300 miles northeast of Berlin. This separation from the center of the empire influenced the history of the city and of East Prussia of which it is the capital.

"The oldest of the three towns which were merged to form Koenigsberg, Altstadt, was built around the castle of the Order of Teutonic Knights during the thirteenth century. Two hundred years later the Grand Duke of that order took up his abode there, and for a hundred years the Dukes of Prussia lived there.

"This Teutonic Order is worthy of study for the light it throws on Poland's present claim of East Prussian territory to furnish her an outlet on the Baltic. The order was founded during the Third Crusade, led by Barbarossa. By the fourteenth century it held sway over half a hundred cities, thousands of smaller places and embraced about 2,000,000 persons. All virtually were German colonists upon Polish territory. Marienburg, just out of Danzig, was the capital. In that century the Poles and Lithuanians united against the order and defeated its army of a million men, inflicting a loss of 40,000. Thus Poland recovered some territory and exacted tribute from the rest.

"Cities remaining within the order soon revolted, and paid Frederick III 54,000 gold florins for a 'scrap of paper' containing guarantees which were cancelled when the order paid over twice as much. Thereupon the cities appealed to Poland for aid. West Prussia was conquered and East Prussia was left a German island surrounded by Slavs, and by the peace of Thorn became subject to Poland.

"Efforts like that Poland now is making to find an outlet to the sea are as old as nations, nor are they peculiar to Europe. American colonies experienced similar ambitions. Erie is the Danzig or Koenigsberg of Pennsylvania, and, if you examine a map of that State you will note, in the far northwest corner a triangle which forms Pennsylvania's 'corridor' to the Great Lakes.

"To get that concession the Keystone State had a vigorous, though bloodless, struggle with Massachusetts and Connecticut, with the native Indians, and finally purchased it through the newly created Federal government at 75 cents an acre—\$150,040.25 in all, a fair price for a good business corner in Erie of today.

"To return to Koenigsberg—the first site of Altstadt, having been destroyed by the Prussians, the town was rebuilt on its present location to the west of the Pregel; Loebenich grew up along the east bank and the third part of the city, Kneiphof, developed on an island. The three towns were united in 1724, by Frederick William I.

"In Frederick William, father of Frederick the Great, are to be found some early manifestations of Prussian traits. Coarse, cruel, and miserly, Frederic openly avowed his hatred of all things French and preached that Germany must have a culture all her own. He flouted all science that did not have a practical use. He forbade Germans to wear any but "made in Germany" clothes, and he imposed heavy duties on imports to aid other German industries.

"Under the pseudo-simplicity of the 'tobacco parliament,' a nickname for the group of officers, statesmen and diplomats who gathered evenings to smoke, drink and harangue about politics, Frederic developed a conception of absolutism which was to be more fully exemplified in his son's reign. He ostentatiously discharged all but one of his Queen's ladies in waiting, and carried a heavy stick, when he walked through the streets, with which he belabored those who seemed to be idling.

"Frederick I and William I were crowned kings of Prussia at Koenigsberg. Kant, the philosopher, who was born and spent his life here, is buried in the cathedral. The city was both a naval and military fort. Before the war it was industrially important and had a population about equal to that of Providence, R. I. It was famous for the manufacture of the sweetmeat marzipan."

**Business at Copenhagen**

**American Commercial Houses Establishing Branches**

Copenhagen, Feb. 23. (Correspondence of The Associated Press).—Representatives of many American banking and commercial institutions recently have arrived here because of the growing interest in Copenhagen as the center of business between Scandinavian countries and the United States.

A number of important American exporting companies are establishing their chief European office in Copenhagen, and the greatest interest is being taken by press and people in their enterprises.

"The free port of Copenhagen is of the greatest interest to the United States," said E. B. Fitzgerald, of St. Lawrence county, N. Y., "not only because it is important in the export trade to Scandinavia, but because it is going to be virtually the gateway to Russia, Germany, Poland and other countries. Copenhagen, I believe, will be able to compete with Hamburg, if indeed Hamburg will ever again be as important as it was before the war. We Americans want intimate connection with the Scandinavian market, and if we can conquer that market we will be able to compete with any other exporters."

**Child Welfare**

**The Children's Bureau Working For the Betterment of Children**

Washington, April 7.—Weighing of more than 2,000,000 babies, establishment of many new health centers to advise mothers on the care of their children, and stimulation of the movement to keep children in school and provide them adequate recreation, were reported today by the Children's Bureau as some of the results of its children's year campaign.

More than 11,000,000 women participated in the activities of the year, which was inaugurated last April 6, the first anniversary of America's declaration of war. It was planned to save at least 100,000 of the 300,000 children who die annually of preventable diseases.

The first activity of the year was a test of children under six to see whether they were up to the standards of weight and height for their ages. Nearly 7,000,000 record cards were issued, of which more than 2,000,000 have been tabulated, with others yet to be turned in. A number of communities have undertaken a second test this spring to include children missed in the first and also to note improvement in those previously registered.

Need for preventive work on behalf of children was said to have been emphasized by the information obtained in the test. According to reports received from State Child Welfare Chairmen of the Council of National Defense, communities in 24 States have employed new public health nurses during the year. From ten of these States a total of 137 new nurses has been reported. One hundred and thirty-four children's health centers to which mothers may go for expert advice concerning the best means of caring for their children have been established during Children's Year in communities in 15 States.

Swimming pools, playgrounds, and new leisure-time activities have become a part of the play life of boys and girls in many communities as a result of the year. From sixteen States the establishment of new playgrounds has been reported.

Forty-three States, New York City and the District of Columbia are engaged in a campaign to prevent boys and girls from going to work before they have the training they need for successful and happy lives. "Back to School," and "Stay in School" are the slogans of this drive. A number of communities have provided scholarship funds to enable children of needy parents to continue their education after they reach the legal working age. At least one such scholarship for each of the 231,000 school houses in the United States is the goal that has been set.

Although Children's Year is officially over, plans are under way in several States to make every year a Children's Year. A new consciousness of the value of the child and his need for good health, wholesome play, adequate schooling and protection from premature work is said to be indicated by laws contemplated by the States. These include many bills for the protection of children.

The Children's Bureau has planned a conference with foreign experts who have had a part in the work done by European countries for the protection of children during the stress of war. The conference will consist of two distinct parts: First, a small working committee of American authorities to be invited by the secretary of labor, and members of the Bureau staff who will meet informally with the foreign guests at Washington during the week of May 6; second, a series of regional conferences in various parts of the country at which the discussion of minimum standards can be continued under local auspices and with references to local conditions.

**W. C. T. U. Celebration**

**Big Prohibition Meeting in Hillsboro, Ohio**

Hillsboro, Ohio, April 8.—This town, the home of "Mother" Thompson, credited with being the founder of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, is arranging for a big national celebration when America goes dry on July 1. Leaders of various temperance societies will attend the celebration.

Those planning the events claim that Hillsboro is the birthplace of the national prohibition movement. They say that on December 21, 1873, a number of women joined forces and set out to rid the district of its saloons.

The story of how these pioneers, headed by "Mother" Thompson, sallied forth day after day and, kneeling before the saloons, "prayed and sang them out of existence," is a matter of history, the celebration managers say.

Some of the members of "Mother" Thompson's little band are still living and will participate in the celebration.

**The Price of Cotton**

(Anderson Mail). The farmer in South Carolina who has horses or cows or hogs or chickens or corn or oats to sell can fix his own price and get it, but if he has nothing but cotton to sell he must accept the price fixed by the buyer. And as long as farmers grow nothing but cotton they must take whatever is offered for it. They will not be able to fix the price, no matter how many conventions they hold and no matter what kind of agreements they enter into. The farmer who has nothing but cotton to sell must of necessity have many obligations to meet. He must pay cash for his supplies or buy them on credit, and in either event he must have money and the only way he can get money is to sell his cotton. Being forced to sell, he cannot fix the price. The buyers know he is forced to sell and they will fix the price. These are the facts, and it would be useless to deny them.

**Wilhelm Loses Arrogance**

**Manners of Former Emperor of Germany Improved by Adversity**

Amerongen, Netherlands, March 5. (Correspondence of The Associated Press).—All who come into close connection with the former German emperor these days are astonished at the change which has come over his behavior in relation to people with whom he is brought into contact. His haughty manner has disappeared, he no longer takes it for granted that he is the supreme lord to whom all must bow. Any service given to him, even by the humblest of gardeners in the employ of Count Bentinck, is rewarded with apparently sincere thanks and sometimes even with a genuine handshake—a thing not looked for by the highest of his courtiers when he was still at the height of his power.

Virtually without exception, he passes three hours every morning between breakfast and lunch at his voluntary task of sawing logs in the grounds of the castle. The last ten minutes of each hour is given up to a spell of rest, during which the lumberman, once so imperious, smokes a light cigarette. In the course of this interval—heartily welcomed by his attendant who assists at the other end of the double-handled saw now used—William Hohenzollern starts smoking for the attendants still retain enough of their subjectivity not to dare to take the lead. Then one of the attendants discreetly draws a cigarette case from his pocket, on seeing which the former emperor often says, offering his burning cigarette: "Here you are. Take a light."

Soon all about him are smoking and continue doing so until the ten minute interval is over and work begins again. Offices in these short rests the former emperor who, during the work walks about in the castle grounds when the weather is favorable, comes up to the place where the wood sawing is done and a little general chat ensues, both Herr Hohenzollern and his wife putting questions on all sorts of subjects to those in attendance.

As a rule, the former emperor is extremely talkative. He dwells greatly on happenings in Germany, both past and present. Often he is in a complaining mood, when he blames all and sundry for what has occurred. It does not seem to enter his mind that any of the fault lies with him. At these times he expresses sorrow for the asperity of his utterances. On other occasions—these are more rare—he closes up like a clam and not a word can be drawn from him. He has everything he can possibly require in the way of creature comforts, but without actually being imprisoned he is confined to a very small area, for he has not dared since before Christmas to put a foot outside of the castle grounds, as he fears contact with the outside world.

**Good Chance Ahead**

**American Shipyards May Compete With Others**

Washington, April 8.—Construction of the latest type oil burning cargo steamers at a price which will enable American shipyards to compete with the foreign nations was declared to be "highly probable" by Chairman Hurley of the shipping board tonight in a statement announcing that the Submarine Boat Corporation of Newark, N. J., had made an offer to build eight 12,000 ton freighters at

\$149 a deadweight ton without any guarantee from the government on either labor or material.

In making the offer to the shipping board, Henry N. Carse, president of the corporation, wrote that the experience gained in duplicating steel cargo ships in quantity demonstrated beyond all question that the procedure the company was following would enable it to continue shipbuilding successfully at the marked reduction in cost even though it was "the lowest price quoted today in the world."

"Most prices mentioned and talked about for 1919 have been from \$185 to \$225 a ton," Mr. Hurley said, replying to Mr. Carse. "Your proposal most effectively answers the questions as to whether our steamship builders can compete in prices with foreign shipyards."

"Such a reduction also will give us an opportunity to firmly establish our shipbuilding industry and will allow us to obtain ships at prices reasonable enough to compete with foreign ship operators."

Plans for the type of vessel which the Submarine Boat Corporation offers to build were drawn up by Theodore E. Ferris, a naval architect and marine engineer, and are said to provide for a great degree of economy in operation, efficiency and comfort for the crews, besides having many advantages not found in vessels under foreign flags.

Describing the ships, Mr. Carse asserted that by utilizing oil for fuel, a steaming radius of 13,000 knots would be obtained without refueling. "Auxiliary machinery will be of the latest and most approved types with large hatches permitting the most efficient handling of cargo," he said. "Quarters and other equipment will be of the approved American requirements, affording thereby the maximum comforts for the crew."

The first ships, Mr. Carse said, could be delivered six months after the ways were completed. Eight of the present launching ways at the corporation's yards would be taken as soon as available, he said, and remodeled to permit the construction at one time of four of the ships.

**Murder of Czar**

**Effort Will Be Made to Establish Fact of Assassination**

Omsk, Feb. 12. (Correspondence of The Associated Press).—Serious effort will be made to determine the exact details of the assassination of the Russian imperial family which occurred in a house at Ekaterinburg. Various accounts of the affair are still current at Omsk where at present reside two tutors, one English, the other French, who were attached to the family of Czar Nicholas, and who were with unhappy monarchs until they were removed from Tobolsk to the house at Ekaterinburg where they were subsequently murdered.

Official personages who visited this house and who had some opportunity of gleaming details accept the story that the former Emperor Nicholas, his wife and their children were thrown into a pit or cellar and there suffocated, wounded and finally killed under a hail of missiles, including bombs. They believe that the bodies were secretly transferred to the forest and buried. Special investigation is being made of the tale that one of the jewels of the former empress, a diamond, was found in a forest recess.

A story that Nicholas was stabbed with a poignard by sailor while being transferred from one place to another, and that, kissing the hem of the sailor's garment, he pleaded for mercy, is not accepted as vouched for by any historical data of a serious nature.

**Stimulate Building Activities**

The next congress will be asked to enact legislation necessary to the establishment of a system of federal home loan banks, according to a statement by the Information and Education Service of the United States Department of Labor. A tentative bill has been prepared and has been mailed to all officers and committees of the United States League of Building Associations, and copies can be obtained from the Division of Public Works and Construction Developments of the United States Department of Labor.

In its campaign to stimulate building activities the United States Department of Labor, in January, invited representatives of the United States League of Building Associations to a conference in Washington for a discussion of ways and means of increasing the usefulness of the building and loan associations. It was realized that these associations played an important part in the homebuilding activities of the nation, and it was the hope of the Department of Labor that their field of usefulness might be enlarged. Out of this conference came the movement in favor of a national system of home loan banks through which these associations might rediscount their securities and make available for further loans a greater portion of their assets.

The chief work of the building and loan associations is lending money to home builders. Association representatives, in the Washington conference, suggested that congress enact a law permitting these associations to organize regional banks, capitalized by them under government supervision. The purpose of this was to provide a regional bank which would perform for building associations a service similar to that performed by the Federal Bank for the commercial banks, and by the Federal Land Bank for the National Farm Loan Association.

Owing to the congestion in important legislative matters in the last congress, it was impossible to obtain consideration for the Federal Home Loan Bank project. The building and loan associations, working in harmony with the aims of the Department of Labor in its campaigns for the revival of building and construction activities, now have drafted a tentative bill which, with such revisions as may be considered prudent, will be introduced in the next congress. With the influence of the national and State organizations of building and loan associations behind it.—Manufacturers Record.

**Oklahoma Oil Production.**

Oklahoma City, April 3.—Oil production in Oklahoma in 1918 averaged 204,550 barrels a day with a daily commercial value of \$500,000 based on present prices according to the report of the State Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. The report gives the first oil production total announced by any state for 1918. The Tulsa district still leads in oil production, with a daily average for the year of 66,000 barrels, the report states.

The report says the state also produced for commercial purposes 56,377,645.561 cubic ft. of natural gas in 1918 and "muddled in" or conserved for future use, 32,780,536,000 cubic feet. In natural gas production the Blackwell-Garber district led with a total of more than 27,000,000 feet in 1918.

There are now 23,561 wells in Oklahoma producing oil or gas, the commission reported.

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