

SIAM KINGDOM NOW SEEKING INDEPENDENCE

Prince of Songkla in United States to Study Conditions.

Gloucester, Mass., Sept. 25.—The Kingdom of Siam, which through occasional bouts with its neighbors in the southeast corner of Asia, long has maintained its right to be known as "The Country of the Tai" (the Free), now seeks a new independence—that founded upon hygienic living. For aid in freeing itself from the diseases of the tropics it turns to the New World.

This is the mission to the United States of Mahidol, Prince of Songkla, brother of the late King of Siam of the North and South, sovereign of the Laos and Malays, who has arrived in this country and taken temporary residence at this old fishing port. The prince has a vision of a new Siam when the public health will be the serious concern of the government, the care of the body taught in the schools, sanitary living made compulsory, preventable diseases prevented, and with state control of marriages to make impossible the union of those not physically fit. In a few days the prince will begin a course leading to a certificate in public health and embracing studies at Harvard university and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The certificate presupposes knowledge of anatomy, physiology, pathology, biological chemistry, sanitary biology, preventive medicine and hygiene, demography, vital statistics, and sanitary engineering.

Just now the sixth son of his late Majesty Chulalongkorn is stopping with his suite at a cottage at Bass Rocks where he talked with youthful frankness—he is 24 years of age—but modestly, of his plans and ambitions. The prince is quite democratic and said this was in keeping with the spirit of Siam which, while in theory an absolute autocracy, was in reality more democratic than some constitutional monarchies. Siam has no written constitution. The king's word is law.

"I am not likely to reach the throne, but that does not worry me," he said by way of introduction. "My ambition is to lead a life of usefulness. I could live comfortably and honored as his majesty's brother, but I think it is very silly that I should be honored simply because I happen to be who I am. If I am honored, I wish it to be because I have earned my honors."

During ten years of study in England and Germany the prince pondered on how he could best serve his country and finally decided that the people of Siam needed more than anything else an enlightening application of the laws of hygiene. America, where he could experience a wide range of climatic conditions along with its higher institutions of learning, afforded him the opportunity he thought, the equal of which could be found in no other country.

"I am a lieutenant in the navy, now on reserve, but my real life is in the study of medicine. I believe in an efficient army and navy, sufficient only for defensive purposes and beyond that I prefer to see the public money invested in public works. I would rather build hospitals than warships. I have chosen the study of hygiene because I think it will give me the widest opportunity to be useful."

Drainage has been a serious problem in Siam because of the level character of the country. In the delta where the mouth of the river Menam Chao Phya stands the beautiful capital of Bangkok with its population of more than half a million people. The rivers and intersecting canals have been the chief sewers and flushed by the rise and fall of the tides.

The king, who as the crown prince, visited the United States, a few years ago before his coronation in 1910, has worked out a great water supply and drainage system. The Menam Chao Phya has been tapped at various points north of Bangkok and the water carried through canals to pumping stations where it is raised to two great reservoirs from which it has a natural flow to the capital. At the reservoirs the water is filtered, thus affording a pure supply. At the same time the water supply has made possible an effective sewerage system which is being gradually extended.

The killing of cattle for food is done under strict supervision and government abattoirs and other safeguards against epidemics have been taken.

"However, in recent years," said the prince, "the plague has been introduced into Siam by Chinese, while cholera, berli berli and other tropical and communicable diseases are altogether too common to infants. Mortality is distressingly great. I hope to fit myself to cope with these problems or at least to lay the foundation for the work. Perhaps in fifty years there will be a healthy Siam."

The prince has advanced ideas on the subject of social problems. He is particularly interested in the relation of the use of alcohol to disease. In Siam the manufacture and sale of spirits is a state monopoly and the national drink, rice liquor, may not contain more than 35 per cent alcohol.

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NEW PREMIER OF ITALY HAS BEEN IN POLITICS 25 YEARS



Signor Paolo Boselli.

Signor Paolo Boselli, the new Italian premier, has figured in Italian politics for more than a quarter of a century, having been first appointed minister of public instruction in 1888. Later he served as minister of agriculture and minister of finance. In 1906 he was reappointed minister of public instruction. Signor Boselli is a wearer of the collar of the Order of Annunziata, which ranks him equal to a few of the king. He was chosen to form the new cabinet after the king had consulted the retiring premier, Antonio Salandra, Baron Sonnino and other members of the old cabinet.

He would further restrict the use of intoxicants and in this reform he would begin among the noblemen. "I came here," continued the prince, "both because I believe I can learn most here and because we need American sympathy and help. We now have a few students in this country, but the fact is hardly known to you. If we did not regularly send students to London, Berlin and Paris, those governments would be highly offended. We wish Americans to pay a little attention to Siam. We want to trade with you, particularly to get your agricultural implements and we want you to take an interest in us."

King Vajiravudh is the only independent Buddhist sovereign in the world and as such is regarded as the chief champion of the religion of the Buddha. Nevertheless no foreigners are more welcome to Siam than American missionaries, according to the prince. "They have done wonderful things for us. They come not to make money, but to spend it. They do not quarrel over the manner in which the government shall be administered. They teach the hospitals and schools. The Presbyterian board has aided greatly our educational authorities. "The work of the missionaries from America is constructive. They submit cheerfully to our laws. They do a great deal of good in our country. They teach the young to be clean, honest and patriotic—not to the United States, but patriotic to Siam. We owe a great debt to the American missionaries. Their deeds are the kind that will live after them, a constant inspiration for good."

Slightly built, gentle in manner, and in speech, the prince of Songkla has the fervor of the reformer, but at the same time he impresses one as possessing the saving grace of practical common sense.

If a woman says often enough that her's is a model husband she will come to believe it—but the neighbors won't.

The man with horse sense is the one who doesn't disagree with you.

If the matches a pipe smoker uses in a week were placed end on end they would be much higher than the Soo building. But matches are average to being placed end on end, their natural position being a reclining one.

Pens do not have to be bought left-handed or right-handed like golf sticks.

Auto accidents often show the driver of a "horseless carriage" becomes horse-senseless.

HENRY FORD'S PEACE CONFERENCE IN SESSION AT STOCKHOLM



The Neutral Conference for Continuous Mediation.

Above is the first picture to reach this country of a session of the Neutral Conference for Continuous Mediation—otherwise known as the Ford Peace Conference—which has been in session at Stockholm and is now about to transfer its main headquarters to The Hague. Miss Emily Green Balch, the American delegate, was in the United States when the picture was taken.

Standing from the right and following around the table the delegates are: Burgomaster Carl Lindhagen of

MAUTHAUSEN IS REAL CITY NOW

Picturesque Village on Danube Made Greater by Soldiers.

Mauthausen, Austria, Sept. 15. (Correspondence of The Associated Press)—From a picturesque though little known village on the upper Danube, Mauthausen has become the clearing house for Austria for Italian prisoners of war.

Its peace-time population of a few hundred persons has grown to the size of a small city, and each month there pass through it, with a three weeks' stop for quarantine purposes, several thousand Italian soldiers and several hundred Italian officers.

The town consists of a group of picturesque houses, church spire and an ancient palace that clings to the edge of the Danube. What may be called the new city consists of acres of white-washed barracks, holding in all when full 42,000 soldiers.

There were only some eight or ten thousand Italian soldiers interned in the city when The Associated Press correspondent arrived to pay the camp a visit. Two days earlier there had been 25,000, but the greater part of them had been sent out along their way—to permanent camps in eastern Austria and Hungary.

Daily there arrive at Mauthausen some 8,000 bulky parcels of "love gifts" from relatives and friends in Italy. The banking and bookkeeping department of the camp has to maintain a ledger with something over 41,000 running bank accounts, the total of which far exceeds a million crowns. Each prisoner, when he enters, is permitted to possess ten crowns a week for canteen spending money. All that he receives from home over that goes into his account. The actual handling of cash devolves upon Austrian officers; the bookkeeping is done by Italian prisoners of war, who are thus in a position to know that the funds of their compatriots are honestly and accurately administered.

So long as he stays in Mauthausen, which may be for a year if his conduct is good, the Italian soldier is offered the privileges of a school in which illiterates are taught to read and write and in which the better educated may take courses in German, in English and in other useful subjects. If so inclined he may take up painting and wood carving and sculpture. He will be furnished with materials, his "product" will be sold at a price not under a minimum set by himself, and he will be given the balance between sales price and cost of materials. Or he can enter either the stringed orchestra, or the brass band.

The correspondent saw an exhibition of one of the half dozen fire companies, composed wholly of Italians, who guarded the camp from a possible conflagration, and who as a matter of fact have kept the fire loss, despite the wooden construction, down to two barracks and no loss of life. Fire prevention is further aided by a high fire tower in the center of the camp, on which two men constantly stand guard, with a horn to warn of a blaze and a flag to indicate its direction.

The colonel of the camp led the correspondent through the wash rooms—huge barracks fitted with showers and heated in winter time, or equipped with rows of faucets for washing hands and faces—and through the living barracks. The latter are large and roomy—and very clean—far better than any the correspondent had seen in the course of visits to camps in other countries.

The hospital section of the camp is one of the best in Austria, in cleanliness and equipment. It is the colonel's boast that there never has been an epidemic of any character, that only such diseases as were brought by the men have ever been encountered, and that there have been a large number of cures. Deaths occur regularly, as in any large community, but now the cause is chiefly tuberculosis of ancient standing among the prisoners.

Since the wounded as well as the well often come to Mauthausen the camp has met the need for artificial limbs by erecting a little factory for manufacturing these grim implements, and up to date has turned out about 150 and trained the war victims to use them.

The Young Men's Christian association amusement hall with its tiny stage has been equipped with scenery made by the prisoners and with a drop curtain showing the Bay of Naples. Here too are the educational classes, conducted by the intelligent and gifted Italians.

The English classes are conducted by "Tony" Tenore, who told the correspondent that a brother in New York (Frank Tenore of 300 Bridge street, Brooklyn), believed him to be because he had had no opportunity to communicate with him. The Italian, who said he had lived two years in America, begged to be remembered to the brother.

One of the chief aims of the authorities is to give the men as much opportunity to work as possible, and on the whole find them tractable and willing to do the big, airy, lighted farms or in quarters or roads they receive 6 cents a day if privates, 12 cents if corporals or sergeants, and 18 cents if higher non-commissioned officers. If they go out to work on farms or in quarters or roads they get a settled sum in addition.

Self-government, insofar as it is possible, has been introduced, and the common soldiers are commanded by their own non-coms, and merely supervised by Austrian troops. According to the number in camp they live, 150 to 250, in the big, airy, lighted barracks, with their own upper tiers laid off to keep them in order.

Their food, so far as the correspondent could judge from an examination of a week's bill of fare, appears to be ample but somewhat monotonous. They have two meatless days a week, as all the rest of Austria does, a fatless day, and the other restrictions. But the authorities find it hard to compel Italian tastes to accustom themselves to Austrian food.

The few Serbian prisoners delight in the Austrian bread but the Italians loathe it and eat it only when their families have sent them none of their favorite Italian bread—which arrives in packages of about twenty thousand packages a week.

Though the men are inclined to be moody at times, in keeping with their temperaments, none of them seem to have lost spirit so far as to the war is concerned. The colonel laughed as they told of the marked change in the camp when the prisoners read the beginning of the general offensives against the Central powers. And in the course of the walk through the camp he told the correspondent spoke with no one who did not express a firm belief in the eventual victory of his side.

Close to one of the exits from the camp lies a private cemetery, half full of prim little graves carefully marked for the benefit of relatives who after the war may wish to have the bodies of their loved ones exhumed and brought home.

ROOZE AND MACHINERY.

The liquor man says to the prohibitionist: "You have no right to interfere with my personal liberty to drink if I want to, any more than you have the right to say what I shall and shall not eat."

There was a time when a man could get drunk and not be likely to harm anyone but himself and his family. But that was before machinery became such a large part of our lives. A single soldier or night driver or horse through a street crowded with other horses and not damage himself or anyone else; but a drunken man in a street crowded with other hurrying motorists becomes a veritable death angel. A drunken man might drive a stage coach filled with passengers and all to the ruin of the stage. Or he might be at the engine throttle, or asleep in the signal tower, is a different thing. A drunken blacksmith in the old days would spoil a few brasses, and maybe give his wife a black eye. But now a drunken factory hand can ruin thousands of dollars' worth of machinery and endanger lives of fellow workmen.

HE CONFERS GOOD GOVERNMENT.

(St. Louis Globe Democrat.)

A too intimate altruism seems to be going out of fashion and people are not to be so much uplifted in spite of their screams. A New York writer says that the Goo Goo of that city and in lesser number of other parts of the United States, is becoming extinct. A Goo Goo, as described, "was the prominent and usually wealthy New York resident who, having time to spare, decided to confer good government on the masses. Selecting a group of downtrodden persons who looked good to him, he would proceed to amuse them by clumsily attempting to better their condition. Some of the Goo Goos were genuinely well meaning men. One thing that professed the Goo Goo as compared with the present day uplifter was that he remained in his exalted position and radiated joy downward. He did not join the masses—he just looked down at them and sobbed."

Russian Move on Bulgaria; May be Weeks Before Big Army on Its Way Gets Into Real Action

London, Sept. 25.—By the Treaty of Bucharest, August 10, 1913, which ended the second Balkan war of Serbia and Greece against Bulgaria, and the invasion of the latter's territory by Rumania, Bulgaria ceded to Rumania 2,969 square miles of territory lying between the Danube and the Black Sea, with a population of 273,000, mostly Turks. It was formed into two departments, Durostor and Callaera.

It is through this territory, via Silistria, that Rumania made her principal invasion of Bulgaria in July, 1913. It is a terrain that it is particularly easy to invade from Bulgaria and hard to defend from across the Danube or south from Dobrudja, of which Durostor and Callaera are practically a continuation. Only twenty miles south of the frontier, and parallel to it, runs a strategic railway from Ruzhuk on the Danube to Varna on the Black Sea, with connections with the northern Bulgarian system to Sofia. On the Rumanian side, parallel to the frontier, but 75 miles away, is the railway crossing Dobrudja from Cernavoda on the Danube to Constantza on the Black Sea, via Mejidia, and just north of Trojan's Wall.

When Rumania declared war on Austria, August 27, the main Rumanian army had been mobilized along the Transylvanian frontier, covering troops—probably two army corps, or 40,000 men—had been left in Durostor and Callaera, at Silistria, Tutra-kan, Dobric, etc., while a large Russian army, concentrated at Remi at the confluence of the Danube and Pruth, opposite Galatz, was waiting

to ascend the Danube and rescue the Rumanian covering troops. The distance and bad transportation facilities on the lower Danube and the lack of railways in Dobrudja explains why the Rumanian covering troops were not sufficient to keep back the Bulgars and Germans concentrated along the railway, only twenty miles south of the frontier, and why Tutrakan, Silistria, and Dobric, with neighboring villages, were so easily captured, with certain of the garrison, for there is no bridge across the Danube between Tutrakan and Oltienica, or between Silistria and Kalarasi. It was ten days before the first Cossacks came in contact with the invaders, and Dobric and vicinity were recovered.

The Russian army concentrated at Remi began to move up the Danube on barges on the night of August 27-28. The first leg of their journey took them to the only bridgehead across the lower Danube, that of Cernavoda, (80 miles.) They were there entrained as far as Mejidia, (15 miles), then on the Dobric, (50 miles), via the newly completed railway which runs through Karasu. It was along this railway that they first detrained and came in contact with the Bulgars.

It is likely that the main Russian army designated for the invasion of Bulgaria is proceeding in the same way, viz., along the Mejidia-Karasu-Dobric railway. The process is slow, on account of the nature of the land with few highways, and because of the distance between Remi and Cernavoda, and it may be weeks before

the force assembled will be in sufficient strength to advance through Durostor and Callaera, with its right protected by the Danube and its left by the sea, or have heavy mobile guns enough to invest Silistria or Tutrakan.

Meanwhile, however, it is reported, that Cossacks are clearing the ground between the Mejidia-Karasu-Dobric line and the sea, and have even followed the railway across the frontier and threatened Varna, which is reported to have been evacuated.

Another Russian army is believed to be already embarked at Odessa, waiting until the evacuation shall be complete in order to land at Varna. The railway from Ruzhuk to Varna, however, approaches the latter over extensive marshes, so it may be weeks before the captured towns on the Danube will be menaced from this direction, and the invasion of Bulgaria actually begun over the northern railway system.

One reason why an artist, writer or actor has a harder time matrimonially than a mortal who works for a living is that he expects the impossible—a woman with a man's sense of humor.

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