

SIAM AND ITS NEW KING



SIAM'S CORONATION CEREMONY

THE coronation ceremonies attending the ascension of the throne of his majesty, King Vajiravudh, Phra Mongkut Klao, king of Siam, which have just been completed, set another milestone in the rapid march which Siam is making, and which has astonished the nations of the world. The fact that the great powers sent members of their royal families to represent them at the coronation is an evidence of the interest and respect which they have for Siam.

Unostentatiously, without upheaval, but with amazing speed, the Siamese picked up the progressive ideas and inventions of the western powers, and today a foreigner who journeys to Bangkok, the capital of the nation, will find there railways, street cars, large electric light and gas plants, telephone service, in fact all of the best features of modern civilization.

"The new monarch, who has ascended the throne under the most favorable circumstances, takes up his reign in the year 130, according to the reckoning of the Siamese, who reckon the years from the establishment of the national capital of Bangkok. Their New Year's day falls on April 1 of the Gregorian calendar. Among the special ambassadors sent to Siam for the coronation were: His serene highness Prince Alexander of Teck, and his suite, representing Great Britain; his imperial highness the Grand Duke Boris and suite, Russia; his royal highness Prince Waldemar and his three sons, Denmark; his royal highness Prince William, duke of Suder Manie, and suite, Sweden; his highness Prince Fuhimi and suite, Japan, and his royal highness Prince Nicholas, Greece.

Much of the credit for the rapid development of Siam is due to the late king, Chulalongkorn, Phra Chula Chom Klao, who was a man of much ability and who took the lead in the adoption of the best features of the western civilization. One matter which his late majesty insisted upon was the education of the people of Siam, and the new monarch is proceeding along the same line. In consequence a system of public schools has been established throughout the kingdom and is maintained on a high plane.

The late king sent his son, who is now on the throne, to England, where he went through the military academy at Sandhurst and was attached for two years to an English regiment. He then studied at Christ's college, Oxford. For many years it has been the practice of Siam to send 30 or 40 young men to European countries and to the United States to be educated. As fast as they receive an education they are recalled to Siam and their places filled by others. Upon these men is falling a large share of the work in modernizing the kingdom according to western ideas.

The government of Siam is a benevolent despotism. The steps which have been taken for the benefit of the people and for the development of the country have all originated with the king and the nobility. The various departments of the government, such as the foreign office, the department of the interior, the war department, the department of justice, are intrusted to members of the ministry, who are selected by the king with great care.

While Siam is properly called a despotism and the authority of the king is absolute and is handed down from father to son in the royal family, the unusual social system of Siam may be said to be all born free and equal, with the exception of the members of the royal family. There is, to be sure, the nobility. But no man is born a nobleman. No title descends from father to son, except in the royal family. The son of a nobleman must prove himself worthy of nobility before he attains that rank. And nobility is won only because of merit and of good work performed. In the case of the brothers of the king their sons do not receive the same title as their fathers, but are one degree lower in rank, and their sons, in turn, are one degree lower in rank than their fathers, unless by merit they may attain the higher rank. Thus the descendants of the royal princes may ultimately become the same as the rest of the people. There are five ranks of nobility.

The population of Siam has been estimated at about 3,000,000, and the area of the country is about the same

as that of France. The Siamese are a different race from either the Chinese or the Japanese. Their straight black hair and dark eyes give the Siamese some resemblance to the Japanese, but their eyes are straight and the general expression of the Siamese countenance is more that of a European.

The capital, Bangkok, is a handsome city of some 700,000 inhabitants. The street cars, the street lighting, telephone system and modern sanitation all give the impression of a modern western city. The style of architecture is being more and more modeled after the western style and particularly the Italian. Their houses are many of them similar to the detached houses which are found in the suburbs of cities in this country. The dress adopted by the people is western to a great extent also. In the public schools the only foreign language taught is English, which is the commercial language of the far east. Although the religion of the Siamese is Buddhism, the government makes no objection to such foreign missions as are established in Siam, particularly because many of the schools established by the missions teach English. The late king, just before he died, requested his son not to spend large sums of money upon a great funeral for him, but to spend such money as he desired to devote to the memory of his father for the benefit of charitable institutions. The present king has voluntarily surrendered about \$650,000 from his civil list for the benefit of the government.

The Siamese are a peaceable people, but they are also intensely patriotic. The army system there is very similar to that of Germany, and each young man is compelled to serve his three years in the standing army and then enter the reserves. None of the Siamese shirks this duty. A splendid standing army of 30,000 men is maintained, well equipped and well drilled, and should be able to give a good account of itself.

As an evidence of the consideration which the English and other foreigners have for the Siamese extraterritorial courts, such as are maintained in China and other far eastern countries, are not maintained there. When a British subject commits an offense in Siam he is tried in a Siamese court and under the laws of that land. Not a foreign soldier is maintained in Siam by any of the nations as a guard for the legation there, but the protection of the European representatives is left entirely to the Siamese police.

The railroads in Siam are owned by the government, with the exception of a few short spurs. The government has found these roads a good investment, paying about seven per cent. Siam is remarkably free from public debt, owing only about £5,000,000, most of which was borrowed to construct railroads and other public improvements.

Siam is primarily an agricultural country, and among her principal exports are rice, tea and hides. There are rich mineral resources in the country, many of which have not yet been developed, including oil, tin and gold. The country has a stable monetary system based on a gold standard.

The quality of labor is very limited in Siam, and, in fact, many Chinese laborers are employed in the rice fields and other industries. There is no emigration from Siam.

Llamas as Carriers in Peru.
A great deal of engineering work is being carried out in the interior of Peru, and on account of the mountainous character of the roads it is necessary to transport material on pack animals generally llamas. These animals carry about one hundred pounds at a time and work in herds of about one hundred. The animals seem to have their own notions about the size of the load which they should carry and the speed with which they should cover the ground, and nothing will induce them to exceed this. The animals also look for an occasional respite from labor, and the rule is to give each animal a week's rest after two weeks of work.

His Pace.
Mary—Easy going, is he?
Alice—Goodness, yes! Half an hour from hat-rack to front door.—Harper's Bazar.

CONDIMENTS OF VALUE

SIDE DISHES THAT GIVE ZEST TO THE DINNER.

Two Ways of Preparing Stuffed Cucumbers—Approved Fashion of Serving Lettuce—To Get Most Good From Tomatoes.

Stuffed Cucumbers No. 1.—Pare six medium sized plump cucumbers, too ripe for salad. Cut off the stem down to the seeds and with an apple corer scoop out seeds. Let them stand for ten minutes in cold water, to which add a little vinegar. Then parboil for three minutes. Drain and lay in ice water to chill. Drain again and fill with chicken, veal or mutton forcemeat. Line a bake pan with very thin slices of fat pork, lay the cucumbers on these, season with salt, pepper and minced herbs; baste with melted butter and bake, covered with buttered paper, for twenty minutes. Arrange on a platter and pour a brown gravy around them; garnish with parsley and little pickled onions, browned lightly in butter.

Stuffed Cucumbers No. 2.—The cucumbers should be of good size and just turning yellow. Pare and halve them crosswise, scoop out the seeds with the handle of a teaspoon and simmer in boiling salted water for ten minutes. A filling is made with any cold meat on hand chopped fine, a spoonful of chopped ham, a spoonful of fine crumbs, salt and pepper to season and enough stewed tomatoes to moisten. Each piece is filled with this, then placed upright in a deep pan. A cup of thin brown sauce, mixed with tomato sauce, is poured round them and then they are baked for 45 minutes.

Stuffed Lettuce.—Take five lettuce heads, wash well in cold water, shake and drain. Then carefully open the leaves and put in the stuffing, which should be highly seasoned, whether cold meat, chicken or bread stuffing is used. A little tomato pulp, green peppers, onion and parsley, with bread crumbs, a sprinkling of grated cheese, cayenne or Worcestershire sauce gives a nice combination. Tie up the heads with narrow strips of muslin and place in a deep saucepan or boiler with some good gravy stock or broth and cook just long enough to make very hot through and through. Then serve with gravy which has added to it a little salt fat pork sliced and slightly browned.

Stuffed Tomatoes.—Scoop out the seeds from round solid tomatoes, place them in a saucepan containing a gill of salad oil. Chop about half a bottle of mushrooms, a handful of parsley, four shallots and put them to stew with two ounces of scraped bacon or ham. Season with pepper, salt and a little chopped thyme and fry five minutes. Then add the yolks of three eggs and at once fill the tomatoes with this mixture. Sprinkle with buttered bread crumbs over the top and bake a nice brown.

The Living Room.

In choosing chairs for the living room, the individual requirements of the members of the family should be remembered, so that when the family is gathered together there will be a comfortable spot for each member.

Curtains, too, should be chosen in accordance with the needs and desires of the family.

Since the living-room is always where the privacy of home life is enjoyed, the curtains should, if necessary, serve as protection from passersby.

On the other hand, the room will probably require all the light possible. A happy arrangement is often made by having upper and lower curtains. Such sash curtains are made in two tiers, and hung on two sets of brass rods, so that either the upper or lower half, or both, can readily be drawn aside.

Lentils.

Pick the lentils over carefully, wash thoroughly and soak over night in cold water. In the morning drain, then cover with boiling water and simmer gently for several hours until tender. After this their treatment may be varied. They may be sauted in butter, with or without a little onion, then covered with a brown sauce made by adding a tablespoonful of brown flour and a teaspoonful of vinegar. The contents of the pan may be made into croquettes by seasoning lentil pulp with salt, pepper and parsley, moistened with a little cream and shaped into croquettes. These are dipped in egg and bread crumbs and fried in deep fat. Serve them with mint or tomato sauce.

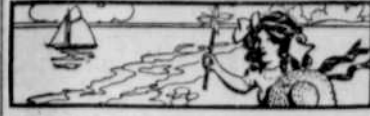
Baked Eggs.

Butter a smooth saucepan, break as many eggs as will be needed into a saucer, one by one; if found strictly fresh slip each into the saucepan. No broken yolks must be allowed, nor must they be crowded so as to risk breaking the yolk after they are in. Put a small piece of butter on each and sprinkle with pepper and salt. Set into a well heated oven, bake till the whites are set. If the oven is rightly heated, it will take but a few minutes and the cooking will be far more delicate than fried eggs.

Vegetable Salad.

Take any left-over vegetables, such as peas, beans, carrots, beets, potatoes, turnips, and cover with a good salad dressing and arrange on lettuce leaves. This will make a very appetizing salad.

THE CHILDREN



NEW ALPHABET VERY SIMPLE

Light and Dark Marks Have Different Meanings in System Just Completed by Prof. Scott.

Now a new alphabet!

Prof. Fred Newton Scott of the University of Michigan is the father of the system. He calls it simple and predicts its adoption by the English-speaking world on the theory that it will meet the modern demands of scientific management.

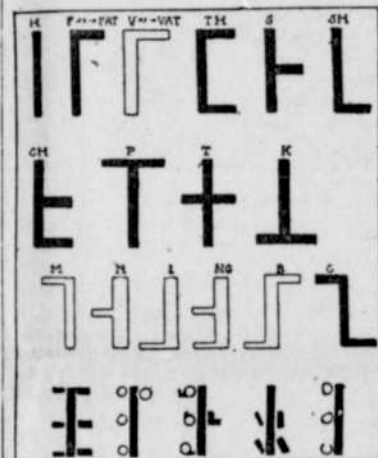
The new code of letters is intended to save time, to shorten words, and to make spelling "more rational."

Prof. Scott, a bearded, bald-headed, studious man just past middle age, after many months of patient study, has completed the system, which he outlined in detail in a lecture before the Modern Language association in Mandel hall at the University of Chicago.

He has just completed the preparation of a series of papers in which he discusses the subject from the technical standpoint. These, he promises, will be made public in a few weeks, after which he expects to get thousands of indorsements from the "thinking studios public."

"The elements of the new alphabet are so simple that a child easily can comprehend them in two hours," said Prof. Scott. "For a consonant a perpendicular stroke, stem or column will be used, to which may be added horizontal projections at the top, middle and bottom, while a dash or broken circle should represent vowels. Each of these marks will have one meaning when they are light and another when they are heavy."

"Simple vowels are presented by a dash, while rounded vowels would be marked by a circle with the open vowels heavy and closed ones light. A



New Alphabet.

horizontal dash, for instance, placed in front of the stem would mean a simple vowel, while the back position would be represented by a vertical dash and the intermediate position by an inclined dash."

The alphabet is said to have the approval of type manufacturers and typewriter houses. The system is to reduce the modern English alphabet by nine characters and do away with combinations, which, Prof. Scott contends, are "cumbersome, wasteful and complicated and do not express clearly the thought of the speaker or writer."

The design of the new alphabet is to take the place of the old code, but no attempt—at least not for a time—is to be made to adapt it to ordinary or to stenographic writing.

The professor asks this question: "Since we have devoted—and do devote—so much energy and thought to time-saving devices, why not save time in that which would benefit every man and woman, especially those in business?"

Prof. Scott argues that his new alphabet, when firmly established, would be a hundredfold more beneficial than even simplified spelling.

"What tired business man at some time of the day or other has not laid down a long letter because the long words and sentences were tiring his brain?" asks Prof. Scott. "What jurist has not at some time or other been entangled in the maze of verbiage until his eyes swim?"

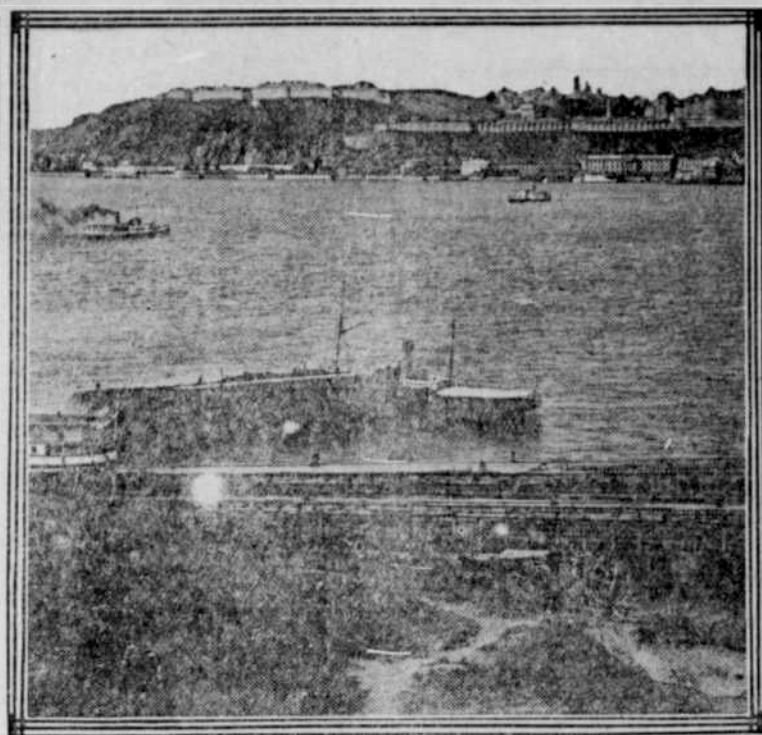
"Yet all of this could be so simplified that writing would take only half the time that it does with the old alphabet. We surely need a simplified method of writing English."

"Some will argue that the system I have obtained is too complicated for the lay mind and that it is more or less of a scientific proposition. To these critics I will answer that the elements of the system are simple—far more so than those of our present language. In the code I offer there are two kinds of sounds, a voice and a breath sound, the former being designated by a heavy stem and the latter by a light one."

"For instance, a thin perpendicular column or stem with a dash at the top of the stem stands for 'f' as in fat, which you will see is only a sound of the breath and lips."

"By widening the column and making it heavier and thicker I get the voice of 'v' as in vat, a vibration of the vocal cords and purely a voice sound. The same as in thin, the 'th' is a breath sound, while the 'th' used in 'there' becomes a vocal sound."

IN OLD QUEBEC



CITY OF QUEBEC FROM GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY TRACKS

PERCHED high on a lofty promontory 400 feet above the water, on the edge of a bluff at the junction of the St. Charles and St. Lawrence rivers, Old Quebec reminds one of the Mediterranean city of Gibraltar if you approach it by boat and of the American city of New Orleans if you enter the place by rail.

Traveling by way of the St. Lawrence takes the visitor through a beautiful harbor composed of a great tidal basin which is partially lined with docks that speak of great skill in engineering, and at one of these the visitor lands on a narrow strip with the water on one side and the steep ascent to the greater half of the city on the other.

It is here that you imagine you are scaling the rock of Gibraltar when you travel upward in search of a lodging place. Once up, however, you are suddenly transplanted into the atmosphere of New Orleans with its narrow and crooked streets and its foreign tongue. In the business section of Quebec there is one street which cramps the pedestrian into a width of only four feet, and most of it is all uphill and down.

But it is the language which first holds the visitor's attention. It was as far back as the Treaty of Paris, in 1763, that France resigned all claims to her possessions in North America, and yet three-fourths of the people speak French, though Quebec boasts of a population of over 75,000 souls. The English heard is of a decided French accent. In the churches there is French, in the theaters and public halls it is French, and the same tongue is taught in the public schools. There seems to be a natural prejudice against the English language, though none can tell you why. The people of Quebec are loyal British subjects when any one questions their nationality.

One thing, too, is very apparent—they possess that easygoing, care-free disposition of their Latin forefathers, which extends to a great extent to the English element also. Business in Quebec makes no one hustle. Down on the waterfront there is shipbuilding and a great deal of shipping, but they go easily with it. Quebec's harbor is safe and so commodious that the largest vessels can ply to the docks with perfect ease. There are several lines which run direct from there to the chief ports of the world.

Back in the province where the rivers become unnavigable for vessels the timber men float their product down toward the city in rafts of logs steered by red-shirted logmen, who turn them over to the stevedores at the docks and make for the nearest pint of ale.

There is, too, a dry and bracing air throughout the province that makes the farmer glory in his product. A rich, loamy soil responds bountifully to his tilling and his wagons and carts come into the city well loaded with cereals, hay, root crops, Indian corn, hemp, flax and tobacco, and although his season is a short one, he turns out a goodly portion of apples, plums, grapes and tomatoes.

Just below the city are the famous falls of Montmorency, which enter the St. Lawrence. They furnish all the power that could be desired and there is consequently a string of mills lining the banks. These turn the exportable crops into marketable wares, and they are shipped abroad from Quebec. What Quebec sells to its own citizens are mostly the products of its waters, but even then some of the smoked whitefish are sent into the United States for sale.

But the old town has another kind of business in which it prospers during the summer months and fairly well during the fall and winter months. Each year there is an influx of thousands of American and foreign tourists. A few years ago the structure of a great steel bridge began to creep across the St. Lawrence, and it pleased the Canadians. When it reached two-thirds of the way across and collapsed their hopes fell with it, for it was designed to run the railroads of passengers and merchandise direct from the United States into the city. Immediately after the collapse work began on the new structure, and so Quebec's hopes are again rising.

There is a reason. Those thousands of tourists spend lots of money, not solely because the goods purchased are any cheaper or better in quality than at home, but because they come from beneath a foreign flag.

Shopping in Canada nowadays is not as productive of gain as it used to be before our customs laws became so strict. We now are allowed to bring back \$100 worth of wearing apparel, and in some cases we pay more and in others less. The ladies mostly stock up with laces, furs, gloves, and handkerchiefs, while the men take advantage of the good quality of cloth to be secured. It is thus that one can get the best grades of worsteds and chevots and Scotch plaids, the product of English and Scotch mills, for a price that would be asked for the lowest grade of American cloths, but the tailors in Quebec don't seem to have yet acquired the graceful cuts practiced by their American cousins.

Quebec is a town that, like many of the ancient class, boasts of two sections, the old and the new. In the new section there is one of the greatest and finest hotels in Canada, that sits directly on the bluff and gives its guests and visitors a view up and down the wide valley of the St. Lawrence for a distance of thirty miles. It is from this point that the "rubber-neck" electric cars start every two hours and carry the thousands of sightseers over a complete circuit throughout the city and suburbs while the guide megaphones the points of interest.

The city, in fact, is divided into an upper and lower town. Down at the base of the bluff the cars run beside the river passing the docks and warehouses, big wholesale stores that abound with groceries, hams, smoked beef, and ship's stores, the manufacturing plants, and finally through the quarter of the working class.

Up on the bluff they take in the public buildings, the citadel, the many religious institutions, and finally whirl you out through the pretty little suburbs of St. John, St. Louis and St. Roch's and then on to the Plains of Abraham.

That is the historic battlefield where Wolfe and Montcalm fought for the possession of Canada, and where a granite column forty feet high now stands to the memory of the former. Both generals are also memorialized by a sixty-five-foot shaft that rises from the governor's garden, overlooking the St. Lawrence.

Everything in Quebec must have been built upon the everlasting order in the early days of the past century, for the prominent historical marks are in a good state of preservation.

Upon the bluff the city is divided into two parts, the old and the new. In the new part of the town is the Hotel Chateau Frontenac standing on the edge of the bluff and looking out upon the great promenade and driveway called Dufferin Terrace. This is a walk 1,400 feet long and 200 feet high above the St. Lawrence backed by a beautiful green bank that slopes up to the city level. This is Quebec's social rendezvous on summer evenings where the residents and visitors gather to listen to the concert given by the military band from the garrison.

Beyond the hotel stands the great citadel which is often called the Gibraltar of America. Certainly it looks impregnable. It is regarded as the most important military post in America, covering an area of about forty acres.

A Wise Plan.

"The trouble with Whingley is that he mistakes his opinions for established facts."

"I'm afraid nearly everybody has that weakness."

"Not at all, my dear fellow, I never permit an opinion of mine to interfere with my better judgment."

Supplied.

"Mr. Downanout," said the maid, "there's a man at the door with a bill—"

"Indeed?" said Downanout. "Well, Marie, just tell him that there's nothing doing. I have all I want in that line."—Judge.