

In Abyssinia



A Noble of Abyssinia and His Wife.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

THE status of Abyssinia, supposedly settled a score of years ago when England, France, and Italy guaranteed her independence, is up for consideration again among the guarantors. The country is practically the last bit of Africa unappropriated by European powers, and some of the powers are wondering whether it would not be better after all to bring western civilization—and control—into this corner of the Dark Continent.

Although the people of Abyssinia may be immersed in medievalism, their rulers have managed to keep pretty well up with the times. One of the most famous women rulers in the history of the world sat upon the throne of Abyssinia nearly 3,000 years ago, but the present empress of that country, a daughter of Menelik II, is not allowed to govern her people. Waiseru Zauditu is merely the nominal head of this country, which was noted as the home of the Queen of Sheba in the days of Solomon. The actual ruler of Abyssinia, or Ethiopia, as its natives prefer to call it, is Ras Taffari, the regent and heir apparent, son of Ras Makonnen of Harar, and cousin to the empress.

There has been an increasing sentiment on the part of Ras Taffari and others to widen Abyssinia's contact with the outside world. At the end of the World War, Ras Nado, governor of the province of Gore, was sent to congratulate the allies on their victory. In the course of his tour he visited the United States.

Ras Taffari upset convention when, in October, 1922, he visited Aden, and a few hours after his arrival was viewing the city from the first airplane he had ever seen. In 1924 he did a still more astounding thing. In the early summer he made an extensive visit to Europe, thus breaking a century-old precedent.

Unfortunately, the United States has no resident agent in Ethiopia. Although the ruler is very favorably disposed toward Americans, and is willing to extend unusual courtesies to them, he first makes very sure of their mission and satisfies himself that they are as they represent themselves. A would-be traveler may have to cool his heels in Addis Ababa, the capital, for many weeks before he receives permission to go about the country.

What Addis Ababa is Like. Addis Ababa is a straggling city. The principal streets are "paved" with round, water-worn boulders from 6 to 10 inches in diameter, and the two main suburban roads along the base of the hill are surfaced with a thin macadam. Wheeled traffic is uncommon, most residents going from place to place on horseback. It is a journey of an hour and a half from the American mission, on one edge of town, to the British legation, on the other.

A fairly good road runs from the residence of Ras Taffari to that of the empress, and several streets are passable to the half-dozen automobiles, which are limited to the city and to one road which is improved for some distance westward. Over the country as a whole there is no possibility of wheeled traffic of any kind. To ride in an automobile in the city is more or less of an adventure. The streets are always filled with pedestrians, each one of whom is obsessed with the idea that he must discover how long he can keep in front of the machine by running. The native pack ponies coming to market are unused to autos and gallop wildly along the road, causing their packs, when loaded with hay, to slip sidewise and finally beneath them.

The store buildings are one or two-story adobe and stone structures covered with galvanized-iron roofing. The stocks of goods are small and inferior, although at one store, run by a Parsee, a considerable assortment of articles is for sale. Besides the stores, there are the thousands of grass-roofed huts scattered about the hills, where the native population lives.

There is no electricity, no gas, no water or sewerage system, but there is a "movie."

All the town goes to the station in the evening when the train arrives from Jibuti. The coaches of the train are filled with all kinds and classes of people, who arrive weary and dirty.

It is only 500 miles from the coast, but the toy train has labored heavily for three days to accomplish the journey. It runs only in daylight hours—a practice due in part to danger from the Somalis and Danakils, nomadic peoples of the semidesert, for it would not be difficult to remove a rail, plunder the wreck, and disappear in the darkness.

Needs of Travelers.

When traveling in Abyssinia there are a few details of organization to which particular attention should be paid. The first is to be well supplied with interpreters. There should be at least two, preferably men who do not like each other, for there are several hazards in having but one interpreter. In the first place, you are at his mercy, and are told only the things that he is willing that you should know. If he wishes to go a certain route, he tells you that there is but one road. Again, he may fall ill and thus leave you without means of communication.

A second end to be secured in organization is dissension in camp. There can be no concerted action and little individual sabotage in the way of delaying the marches, if there are factions among the servants. To this end it is wise to hire both Mohammedans and Christians. The Mohammedans prove especially useful in tying up the Christians when the latter get drunk.

The plateau of western Abyssinia slopes upward from the low plains of the Sudan. It rises gradually higher and higher until the extreme eastern edge is reached.

Here it breaks abruptly into a great escarpment, the first drop being one of 5,000 feet. Its surface is cut by streams, the larger of which have eroded canyons of great extent and of forbidding depths. The aspect of the country is extremely mountainous, but for the most part this appearance is due to erosion.

The canyons interpose great difficulties in traveling. They necessitate either very hazardous descents and climbs or time-taking detours of many miles. The trails, as far as possible, follow the high ground.

At the greater elevations there are often comparatively level areas over which caravans wander with ease. In such places marches can be made with little hardship to the mules. The villages on the higher plateaus are often tucked away in the small canyons, which protect them from the fierce wind that blows over the eastern escarpment toward the Sahara. Seventy-five miles northeast of Addis Ababa (but six days by horseback) lies Ankober, situated on a thin macadam. Wheeled traffic is uncommon, most residents going from place to place on horseback. It is a journey of an hour and a half from the American mission, on one edge of town, to the British legation, on the other.

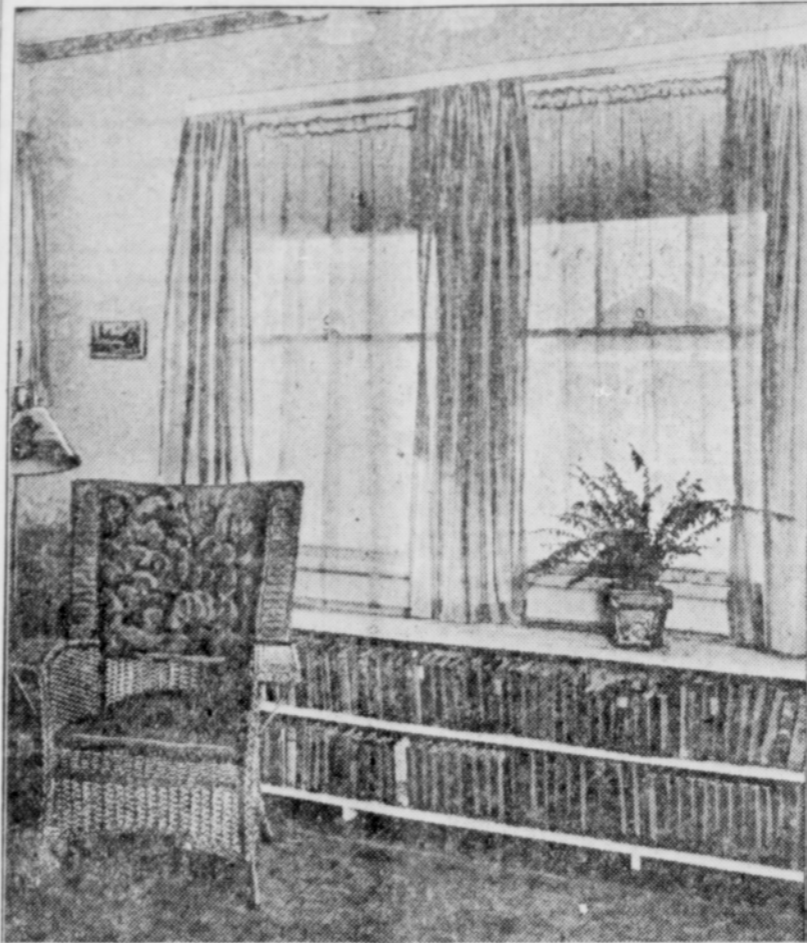
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The view from the peak at the corner of the plateau is magnificent. To the north and west are lines of crags, rocky pinnacles and forbidding chasms eroded from the escarpment. To the northwest the escarpment rises like a wall. From the southwest to northeast the plain of the Hatash river sweeps in a great curve—miles and miles of blue-black acacia grasslands that fade away in the lower levels to intangible streaks of white.

There are two churches at Ankober, one quite new. The typical church building of Abyssinia is circular, but this one is a many-sided affair.

The Amharas belong to the Coptic church, a branch of the Christian faith. In their services the priests often encircle the church dancing, or dance before it, as was the custom of the Jews in Biblical times.

HANGING NEW CURTAINS FOR LIVING ROOM



The Vertical Lines of the Curtains Contrast Agreeably With the Horizontal Lines of the Bookcase.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Curtains like clothes are growing simpler. Gone are the days of swaddling ourselves and our windows with many layers of heavy fabrics. Sunshine and fresh air are getting their chance at us in the house as well as out-of-doors.

Curtains Follow Clothes.

In design, too, curtains have followed clothes. Straight lines are proving as good for windows as for figures, say the home economics specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. Straight lines also help to increase height or breadth, depending on whether they run up and down or crosswise in curtains as well as dresses. It behooves the woman who wants artistic curtains in her house to look at the shape and size of her windows and think whether the ceiling should be made to appear higher or brought down to a less lofty level. For color she needs to study whether the room gets plenty of sunshine or none at all, and then look at the colors in the walls, floor covering, and furniture.

Must Be Curtained Simply.

Take this picture of a moderate-sized living room in a house of the bungalow type set rather close to the

street. The two large windows are the main source of light. They must therefore be curtained simply, but so as to insure some privacy. The wall paper is soft gray, the rug dark gray with mulberry and blue in the border. These same colors appear again in the upholstery on the chair and in brighter shades in the picture over the fireplace. The books in the low shelves under the windows have these same colors and many more. The long horizontal lines of the bookcases have the effect, too, of broadening the windows. Bearing all these things in mind, figured cream madras was chosen for glass curtains to cover the windows. The delicate pattern helps to shut out the gaze of the curious from the street, but the fabric is itself so thin that it is an aid in diffusing light. The overdraperies, also of translucent material, are dull blue that serves to emphasize this color in the other furnishings. These draperies are made and hung in the simplest way possible. Their straight vertical lines contrast agreeably with the horizontal lines of the bookcase. They also make the ceiling appear higher and add dignity to the room. Such draperies should always reach to the bottom of the "apron" or window casing, but glass curtains should end at the sill.

GOOD RECIPE FOR A SUNSHINE CAKE

Most Delicate and Delicious of All Confections.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

One of the most delicate and delicious of all cakes is sunshine cake, which is one of the sponge cake group containing a large proportion of eggs and no butter or other fat, says the United States Department of Agriculture. For a good-sized cake you will need six egg whites and three yolks; one cupful of sifted soft wheat or pastry flour; one cupful of sugar; one-half teaspoonful of salt; one teaspoonful of cream of tartar, and one teaspoonful of vanilla. Beat the yolks and whites of the eggs separately, adding half of the salt to the egg whites so that they will beat up very stiff. Add the sugar to the beaten egg yolks and begin adding the flour,



Test the Oven With a Thermometer to Make Sure It is Not Too Hot.

to which the cream of tartar has been added. This mixture will be so stiff that you will have to add some of the beaten egg whites for moisture before all of the flour is added. Fold in the egg whites very carefully so as not to release any of the air which you have been so careful to beat in. This air is the only leavening in this kind of cake. Last of all add the flavoring. Pour the batter as soon as it is mixed into a smooth, ungreased tube pan. A tube pan is best for baking a cake.

LEMON MERINGUE PIE EASILY MADE

Start Should Be Made by Making Undercrust.

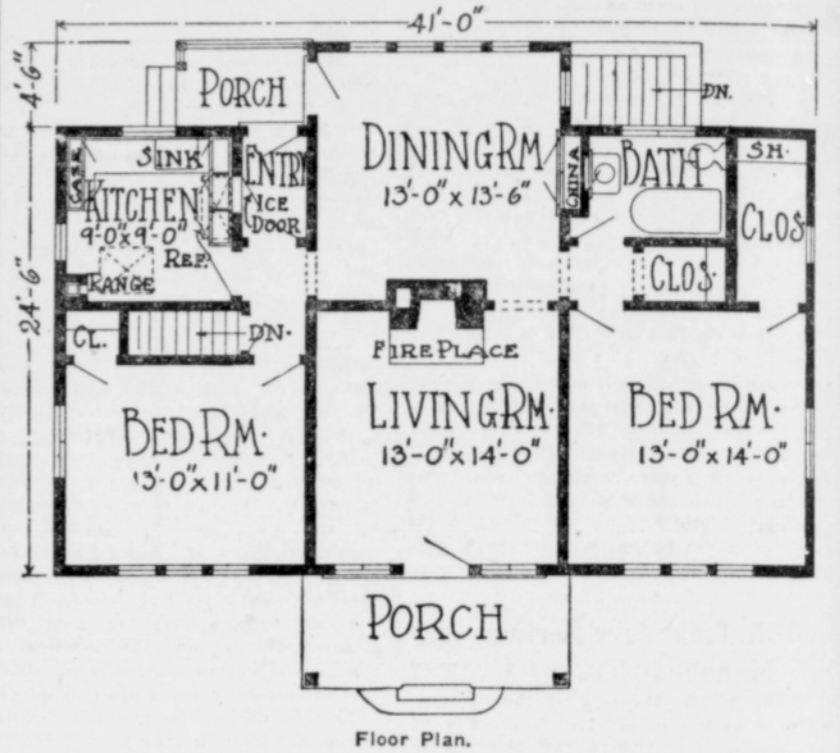
(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Start your lemon meringue pie by making an undercrust. Use your own recipe, or the following one which makes enough for two crusts, one of which may be saved for another day: Sift 1½ cupfuls of soft-wheat or pastry flour with 1 teaspoonful of salt. Work into this about 5½ to 7 tablespoonfuls of fat with the tips of the fingers. Add about 2½ tablespoonfuls of water, or just enough to make the dough correct for rolling. Roll it very lightly. Prebake a single crust at about 450 degrees Fahrenheit until it barely begins to color. Now make the filling separately. You will need 4 tablespoonfuls of lemon juice, 2 tablespoonfuls of cornstarch, 1 cupful of boiling water, a pinch of salt, ¼ cupful of sugar, 1 tablespoonful of butter, 2 egg yolks, the grated rind of half a lemon. Mix the sugar, salt and cornstarch together and add it to the boiling water, stirring constantly until the cornstarch is cooked. This will take about 5 or 10 minutes. Now add the lemon juice, grated lemon rind and well-beaten yolks and butter. Cook all together for not more than a minute. Pour into the crust and spread over the top a meringue made by thoroughly beating the 2 egg whites, with 2 tablespoonfuls of sugar added when the egg whites are stiff. Use a wire whisk and beat the whites on a platter to make them light and fluffy. Bake at a low temperature, or about 250 degrees Fahrenheit for 20 minutes, and then raise the temperature until the meringue browns.

Excellent Recipe Given to Make Salmon Loaf

Get a pound of good grade salmon with flaky meat and few small bones. Prepare it by draining off the oil, unless you like its flavor, and picking out all bones and pieces of skin. Break the meat up into fairly small pieces with a fork. Add an equal quantity of soft bread crumbs taken from the center of the loaf. Then add two well-beaten eggs, salt, pepper, chopped parsley, and sufficient milk to moisten (about ½ cupful). Place in a greased baking dish, mold into a loaf, and bake in a moderate oven until brown. Or, if you wish, you may increase the liquid to 1 cupful, place in greased timbale molds, and bake surrounded by water until firm.

Small House With Individuality and Unusual Interior Arrangement



Floor Plan.

By W. A. RADFORD

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give ADVICE FREE OF COST on all problems pertaining to the subject of building, for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as editor, author and manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on the subject. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 1827 Prairie avenue, Chicago, Ill., and only inclose two-cent stamp for reply.

Individuality, all too rarely achieved in the small, single-story home, is an especially appealing feature of the house illustrated here. A strict adherence to simplicity of design together with well treated roof lines are responsible for this desired effect, and the whole is greatly enhanced by the well selected and careful planting of vines, shrubbery and flowers.

No less individual is the interior of this home. The front entrance, which is from a porch and placed exactly in the center of the house, is directly into the living room. The only outside exposure of this room is that at the front, three of the walls being interior ones. Opposite the front entrance is an open fireplace and beside it is an arched doorway giving access to the other rooms.

This doorway leads directly into a dining room of practically the same size as the living room. This room also would have windows on but one side were it not for a slight projection at the rear which makes possible one side window and a door onto the

rear porch. From the dining room, and also from the rear porch, one may reach the kitchen through an entry way in which provision is made for supplying ice to the refrigerator without entering the kitchen.

The kitchen is of the small compact type, nine feet square, with windows at two sides giving an abundance of light. It is equipped with the usual features including built-in cabinets. In a passage leading from the rear entry are two doors which admit to the basement stair and to a front, corner bedroom. The placing of this bedroom is perhaps the poorest feature of this house as, from it, the bathroom can be reached only by passing through the dining room. Because of the compact arrangement of the house, however, this cannot be considered a serious fault.

The other bedroom is placed on the other front corner of the house. In this way both bedrooms are provided with windows at two sides, giving excellent cross ventilation. Both have ample closet space, the closet for the second bedroom being of unusual size. The bathroom is placed to the rear of this bedroom with a facing door.

This house is of frame construction with shingled roof and brick chimneys. The front porch is of concrete and is approached by three steps. The house, as this would indicate, sits low upon its foundations and gives the effect of being a very part of the site on which it stands.

Give Careful Thought to Finish of Woodwork

In any decorative scheme, don't forget to consider the color of the woodwork. When the wood used for window and door trim is oak, cypress, maple or birch or any wood with a beautiful grain, a waterproof varnish will give luster and bring out the grain. Woods vary in shade from light to dark brown or red. The color scheme of the room should be kept in similar tones or warm colors. Contrasting colors can then be used in some of the furnishings to give the room animation.

Light woodwork is very fashionable. And there are excellent varnish stains and enamels on the market that will give just the shade or tint in the woodwork that the color scheme of the room demands. Varnish stains color the wood and let the grain show through. Enamels give a solid coat of color that is rich and satiny in its texture. The range of colors is wide and manufacturers give explicit directions for securing any tint or shade desired. Of course, the most satisfactory finishes are absolutely waterproof and can be washed without injury to gloss or color.

Varnished Floors Need Attention Every Year

When a varnished floor begins to show the effects of hard wear, once a year or oftener, if necessary, sandpaper it lightly and put on a new coat. The habit of doing this every spring in city and country houses and in office buildings preserves the fresh, elegant appearance of good floors.

Experts recommend such regular treatment as well for its ultimate beautifying value.

Financing Home

Most families who buy a home must pay for it out of their own savings. Usually it is desirable for them to possess, free from obligation, at least one-fifth or 20 per cent, of the value of the house and lot in cash.

Sewing Room Welcome in Any Size House

In planning your new house don't forget the sewing room.

There is such a satisfaction in being able to make for yourself those new curtains for the guest room, or the dainty house dress for fall that you have wanted so long. Many women are able to work wonders with their sewing machine and needle, and these are the ones who appreciate a little room where they may keep their work as it progresses—a place for sewing table and electric machine, a sunny window that floods the little workshop with light and air, and pleasant, colorful, yet easily kept clean furnishings.

Wall paper is almost a necessity in the sewing room. Plain, bare walls would be dull and monotonous since there is little decorative furniture to relieve them. The curtains must be most simple and easily washed, and the floor must have rugs that can be often swept and scrubbed. So on the walls rests the responsibility for gay color and interesting design.

A brief chintz paper, on a warm cream ground, makes a splendid sewing room paper, and it transforms the small room immediately into a cheery, sunny place to work. Don't neglect the sewing room, when planning your decorations—that is, if you are one of the women who spends much time fashioning dainty things for yourself and for your home.

Construction Gravel Comes From Streams

Much gravel that goes into concrete construction and road building comes out of stream channels. At Syracuse, Ind., an electric pump mounted on a big float sucks up 4,000 gallons per minute—25 per cent of which is solid matter—and discharges it through big pipes to screens where the gravel is separated from the flow and hauled away. The cost of procuring it is low.