

### TAJKISTAN, NEW REPUBLIC, LOST IN RUSSIAS VASTNESS

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 23.—Tajikistan, which has just been elevated from the status of an autonomous republic to a federated republic of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, is an area of 120,000 square miles less than that of Alabama, occupying the extreme southeastern corner of old Russian Turkestan, says a bulletin from the Washington, D. C., headquarters of the National Geographic Society.

The new republic is in a geographic position that the proverbial needle in a haystack, for it cannot be found on any but the most recent maps. The area consists of a bit of the old province of Bokhara, Samarkand and Pamir of Russian Central Asia.

**Region the Tears Forgo**  
A rough outline of Tajikistan may be drawn by placing the point of a pencil on a map of Asia about 50 miles due southeast of the city of Samarkand. A wavy line drawn due east of this point to the border of Chinese Turkestan, nearly the line of the northern boundary of the republic. The eastern boundary follows the Chinese Turkestan border southward to Afghanistan. The southern boundary follows the northern border of Afghanistan to within about 50 miles east of the city of Termez. The western boundary may be indicated by a line, slightly inclining toward the east, linking the western ends of the north and south boundaries.

During the rule of the Tsars, there was little, if any, modern development in Tajikistan. This corner of Central Asia was seldom visited by outsiders except explorers. The highways were mere camel tracks over which moved long caravans, and railroads have not penetrated the region.

**Men and Boys Wear Earrings**  
Stalinabad, until recently called Dyushanbe or Dushanbey, is the capital of the republic. Although the inhabitants of the city have not yet heard the blast of a steam engine whistle, they frequently hear the roar of airplane motors, for the capital is a stop on the air route between Termez

on the northern border of Afghanistan, and Kagan, near the city of Bokhara. A new railroad, however, now is being built from Termez to Stalinabad, and more than 300 miles of modern highways be fair to offer the caravan route serious competition in the more level regions of western Tajikistan.

There are about 800,000 inhabitants in the new republic. Both sexes wear voluminous trousers and long coats, but the traveler can distinguish the men by their skull caps and the women by their brightly-colored shawl headcoverings. At close range the women are more easily singled out by the bracelets, rings, necklaces and the other trinkets they wear. Men and boys wear earrings, not as ornaments, but as charms against evil spirits.

**Cattlemen and Farmers**  
In the summer, there is an exodus of Tajiks from the lower regions to the mountains, especially among the cattle herders who seek new pastures. Almost in the shadow of the placiers of the Pamirs, travelers find felt-covered tents, which are the temporary homes of the herdsmen. They also come upon small settlements of houses eight feet high, the walls of which are built with mud and a little mud. The houses along the dusty streets are similar except that their walls are of clay with a few cobwebs. In both regions, the Tajik roofing consists of saplings and split timbers, covered with six inches of clay and a layer of sod. If there is a courtyard, it is usually occupied by horses and camels, but now and then the traveler may peek through the gates into a flowering garden spot.

The Tajiks are efficient agriculturists, as shown by the cultivation of apricot orchards, grain fields and cotton plantations. By crude irrigation works, barren, desolate patches of land have been developed into fine producing areas.

#### TWO-ACRE TURKEY RANGE PRODUCES 1,500 BIRDS

JACKSON, Mich. (AP)—The world has beaten a path to the Lyber brothers two-acre turkey ranch. For seven years they have been raising from 500 to 1,500 turkeys successfully on the same small piece of ground. They have been able to show up the orthodox theory of wide range and fresh fields by religiously practicing sanitary measures during the first weeks of brooding.

Their success has instigated 20 other turkey ranches.

### GENIUS OF MUSIC AND THE MOVIES FELICITATE BLIND AUDITION VICTOR



Carrie Jacobs Bond, famous composer, and David Wark Griffith, movie director, tell Calvin Hendricks, blind young baritone, how happy they are he won in the National Radio Audition state finals. Flory Louise Hamlin, soprano, who also won state finals, adds her congratulations.

#### On Writing It "Xmas"

One could wish they wouldn't write it "Xmas," as one has wished, and they have written these many years. But they will. The abbreviation of a loved word will appear in letters, on cards, in show windows, in advertisements, and in the manuscripts of sermons. And it isn't even an arbitrary abbreviation for the world, which has no legitimate abbreviation, is Christmas.

As to how this unhappy usage came about, it is suggested the clergy themselves may be responsible. Certain it is that numbers of them employ the shortened, misshapen word, when they of all people should most earnestly desire to retain the name of Christ, size to retain the name of Christ, in his festival, his mass, without alteration, convenient or otherwise. The theory as to their responsibility is in the fact that many gentlemen of the cloth, when preparing their messages to the flock, employ the cross as a symbol for

Christ—the Latin cross—and write it "Xmas," as one has wished, and they have written these many years. But they will. The abbreviation of a loved word will appear in letters, on cards, in show windows, in advertisements, and in the manuscripts of sermons. And it isn't even an arbitrary abbreviation for the world, which has no legitimate abbreviation, is Christmas.

But here is, whatever may be said of the uses of the Latin cross, no upness whatever for the letter X forms not the Latin cross, but the cross of St. Andrew, so called because this saint is said to have suffered upon such a cross. And admittedly it is not St. Andrew we have in mind at the time of Christmas. It is true that our letter X is similar to the initial letter of the word Christ in Greek.

### DEVELOP FORMULA TO PREDICT SIZE OF COMING APPLE

By Frank L. Weller  
Farm Editor Associated Press Feature Service

WASHINGTON (AP)—Trading close on its own heels, the science of crop estimating promises a formula for forecasting the size of apples. It still is not always possible to correctly forecast the size of the crop, but a prediction of the size of apples would save thousands of dollars for growers and shippers.

Worked out by S. H. Newell, associate estimator in the United States division of crop and livestock estimates, the system would have worked almost 100 per cent in all except three of the last 14 years. Checked with records of actual production, it was slightly off in 1918, 1921 and 1922. Newell expects the 1929 harvest, first in which the size of apples have been forecast, to throw additional light on the reliability of his formula.

This far efforts have been confined to the Hood river valley of Oregon, where producers and shippers requested the government study. Newell believes a formula can be worked out for other apple regions if they have sufficient records of production on which to calculate the effects of moisture and temperature. In the Hood river valley moisture is held practically constant during the fruiting season by irrigation and by little variation in summer rainfall. Under those conditions summer temperatures apparently have a marked effect upon the growth and development of apples.

Extremes in temperature, either hot or cold, tend to check the growth, with consequent maturity at smaller sizes. While other factors exert some influence in certain years, Newell finds that by taking the usual production of large and small apples in a normal year as a basis he can determine by variations from the normal just about how many large apples and how many small ones will result.

A reasonably reliable forecast of size by August 1 is extremely important to producers and packers. It is then that contracts are made for the sale of apples. Losses caused by errors in judging the probable supply of large apples a firm will have for sale are two-fold. If more large sizes are sold than finally are produced, the shipper suffers a loss by having to buy insufficient apples of the contract size to fill contract obligations. A second loss is incurred because the market for the size finally produced has been neglected. A peak load develops and the organization must find a new market, and move a larger number of apples of a given size than was expected.

### TOKYO TO FOSTER CONTROL OF STORK AMONG POOR FOLK

TOKYO (AP)—The capital of Japan is making official preparations to furnish birth control information to its poor in an effort to relieve the suffering that comes from large families in poverty stricken homes. This sociological experiment, especially startling in the Orient where ancestor worship has placed a premium on large families, is hailed by proponents of birth control as opening the way for application of this remedy on a national scale to Japan's overpopulation problem.

Yukichi Shirakami, deputy mayor of Tokyo, said it was the purpose to give information only to couples that already have four children and can show that they are too poor to care for more. Information will be denied to young, newly married couples and to persons of wealth. Mr. Shirakami said that the municipality would help to control would help to lower the high infant mortality rate and eventually reduce the number of families dependent on official charity.

### Firestone Famous As Cattle Raiser



H. S. FIRESTONE

Besides being one of the greatest industrialists the world has ever known, H. S. Firestone, the rubber magnate, is one of America's most famous raisers of prize-winning cattle. No other herd of cattle is said to have such an interesting history and background of practical effort to assist the farmers of America as the 23 Guernseys and Holsteins owned by Mr. Firestone.

with modern steel conveyances. Altogether about \$15,000,000 is to be used for new rolling stock and half of that sum will be laid out for passenger cars. NASHUA, N. H. (AP)—The administration here wants a wind measuring machine that will make a true record of hurricane velocity. In the recent hurricane the instruments were blown away when they registered 164 miles an hour and the wind had not reached its peak. BELLEFONTE, Pa. (AP)—A \$150,000 memorial Irish-American Methodist church has been opened here to Barbara Heck, Philip Embrey and Robert Strawbridge, three emigrants from county Limerick who are credited with founding the Methodist Episcopal church in the United States some 150 years ago.

# Wet Weather Is Coming --- Slippery Roads Are Ahead!

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