

ETHIOPIA CAPITAL IS WHERE RULER PITCHES HIS TENT

Business of State Shifts As Emperor Moves About—Court Is Held Under Trees—New Touch Seen

By James A. Mills

ADDIS ABABA—(AP)—Where the emperor's red tent is, there is the capital of Ethiopia.

In few countries are there so many former capitals as here. Gondar, Ankerber, Aksum, Debra Dar, Magdala and Harar are a few of them.

Until half a century ago the finest palace of the grandest emperor was nothing more than a circular hut, made of narrow wood uprights, pounded into the ground and covered with a straw roof.

Seventy-five years ago several British missionaries and two consuls were arrested by Emperor Theodore. They were put in chains and dragged about from place to place so as to be kept near him. That was the capital.

Administration Simple
The capital has always followed the ruler and the system has worked fairly well because there has not been much state business to be transacted. Government was subduing. Administration was plundering. Taxes were gathered in kind and often ruthlessly.

Each high official was lord in his own domain. He had little need of communicating with the king of kings and was happy not to see him. The army was a band of retainers under feudal chiefs. They fed off the land they happened to be passing through. Their departure was welcome. There was no commissary department and no war ministry.

Whichever emperor went he was at home. He looked more regal in a red tent than in a straw hut. Persons who wanted to see him had to page him all over the empire. Sometimes they had to hunt him half a year.

Menelik Found Capital
But whether business was attended to this year or next mattered little. In fact many preferred not to have it attended to at all. That left every man master. The strong and clever dominated.

Emperor Menelik changed that system somewhat by limiting the power of local chiefs and founding Addis Ababa as a new capital. It stretches over a vast amount of land and contains from 60,000 to 100,000 inhabitants according to the season, of whom 80 per cent live in crude huts.

There are, however, two palaces, a postoffice, a telegraph station and a number of ministries where one can never find a minister. It would be all the same if one did, since they are virtually imperial office boys.

There are a few schools, courts of a kind under trees, a place where taxes are brought and where salaries are paid. Imperial orders are sent out by post, telephone and telegraph and a bit of centralization has been established.

But if the city were bombed and all of the public buildings destroyed, Ethiopia would remain just the same and the task of governing would be little affected. The principal tragedy would be that when the bank blew up the army of war correspondents here would not be able to cash checks from home. Ethiopians who do business with big silver dollars would not lose much.

Country Is Bomb Proof
At first Addis Ababa was only a group of tents clustered about the imperial marquee of Menelik. It could become that again and Haile Selassie would continue to rule Ethiopia as his predecessors have done for two millenniums.

There are no factories to close, no workers to starve, no vital communications to be cut. All the food and fuel in Ethiopia is carried on the backs of donkeys and the heads of men and they can trot to a tent as well as to a palace.

Ethiopia is bomb proof. A land as large as France and Germany can't be put under gas and a nation that has no houses can't have its homes destroyed.

Ethiopia may not be able to overcome modern weapons, but they can evade them. Ethiopia can't be conquered until the Ethiopians are killed. That's the way Menelik conquered it.

ENGLAND SEARCHES FOR NEW SERUM TO CHECK CAT EPIDEMIC
LONDON—(UP)—Research workers are trying to perfect a serum to check the epidemic which is killing thousands of cats in all parts of Britain.

The death rate is rising. The disease appears to be increasing in virulence, and death is following more rapidly upon infection.

A cat, one day in perfect condition, may be dying or dead the next. The attack may even prove fatal within 12 hours, and veterinary surgeons are helpless in the absence of a serum.

The disease has been identified as a form of gastro-enteritis due to a virus infection. This virus infection is peculiar to cats and there is no risk to any other animals or to human beings.

The research staff of one of the finest scientific laboratories in the world is now cooperating with veterinary surgeons in the search for a serum.

National Guard Head



Brig. Gen. Thomas E. Rilea of the Oregon National Guard was chosen president of the National Guard Association of the United States at the organization's convention in Santa Fe, N. M. (Associated Press Photo)

RED-SKINNED APPLES HAVE MOST VITAMINS, FOOD BOARD STATES

LONDON (UP)—Twice as many vitamins are contained in apples with rosy skins as in those with green skins.

This is one of the discoveries the food investigation board has made. Another is that the concentration of vitamin C is six times as great in apple peel as in the core.

The board's report for the year also states that some fruits and vegetables wrapped in iodized paper remain free from mould for much longer periods than those wrapped in plain paper.

Some varieties of plums and peaches, however, are adversely affected by this treatment and fail to ripen properly. It has been discovered that the degree of alkalinity of the white of eggs, which rises with age, can be kept down to that found in fresh eggs by storage in air enriched with carbon dioxide.

Carbon dioxide storage will also add many weeks to the life of bacon, it is stated.

TREE 405 YEARS OLD FELLED BY LOGGERS

CATHLAMET, Wash.—(UP)—A gigantic spruce tree, one of the largest ever cut in Washington, was felled by Jacobsen Bros., logging contractors, near here.

The tree was 11 feet in diameter where it was cut, 10 feet from the ground. The first sawing, 16 feet long, scaled 11,000 board feet. The top of the stump showed it was 405 years old. Jonas Larsen and Pat Jacobsen felled the forest giant after a day and a half of work. It took John Ashley six and one-half hours to cut the log in two the first time.

Thieves Profit in Houston
HOUSTON, Tex. (UP)—Thieves made a profit of \$7,582.30 during September, according to Houston police records. Officers recovered \$814.60 in loot.

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OH, FOR THE LIFE OF A SAILOR



In her spare moments between pictures in Hollywood pretty Joan Blondell takes an interest in ship models. Here she is perched atop a canoe looking over an early type sailing vessel before launching it on a trial run. (Associated Press Photo)

MEXICAN HIGHWAY SLATED TO BRING GAIN IN TRAFFIC

Link in Alaska-Argentina Motor Road Scheduled for December Opening—Scenic Beauty Is Noted

MEXICO CITY (UP)—The flow of auto traffic between the United States and Mexico is due to increase rapidly, reaching a climax with the official inauguration of the Laredo-Mexico City highway in December, according to indications today.

The end of the dry season is at hand, another sign that more motorists will use the "high drive." On the inaugural day 1,500 automobiles are expected to start from Dallas, Tex., to increase the vast cavalcade.

A considerable portion of the road—which is 770 miles long—is over mountains. These have been carefully graded and "terraced." These terraces were completed in September. For all practical purposes, the road has been completed, but considerable work of paving, ciling and bridge-

building will continue far into 1936.

Four Bridges Finished

Motorists at various places are now forced to use ferries. Four bridges are being built, and according to the Department of Communications and Public Works they will be completed as follows:

Bridges over the Axia and Mocetzumt rivers, November, 1935.
Bridge over the Tasquillo river, February, 1936.
Bridge over the Tampoon river, April, 1936.

Approximately 3,500 men have been working on the highway in recent months, principally in the mountainous region around Jacala and Matlapa.

The highway, which eventually will be a link of the proposed Argentina-Alaska motor-road originally was scheduled to be opened to traffic in June, 1933. Last year it was hoped to inaugurate it before the close of 1934. Various delays, however, have prolonged the work. It has been more expensive—both in the number of lives lost in work accidents and in pesos—than was estimated originally.

Offers Scenic Wonders
Now, however, the road is a reality, and affords all sorts of spectacles and scenic wonders to the motorist. From Laredo, Tex., to Monterey, it is as good as any paved highway anywhere. This stretch of 151 miles includes a 45-mile straightaway in the desert.

From the industrial city of Monterey—often called the "Pittsburgh of Mexico," the road leads over the mountains to Saltillo, capital of the state of Coahuila, through a region where loughorned cattle abound. Leaving Coahuila, the drive goes through the fruit-growing section of

Mexico to Ciudad Victoria, the capital of Tamaulipas state. Then on to Valles, in the state of San Luis Potosi, and thereafter comes the mountain-climb to the Mexican plateau. It was in this section where the work was delayed.

Rises to Tableland

Between Valles and Jacala, in the state of Hidalgo, the road winds, leaving behind the tropical part of Mexico's Gulf region, and reaching the tableland.

After Jacala the motorist arrives at the big mining center of Pachuca, and from then on it is a relatively short ride into the capital.

Experienced motorists already have made the trip from the United States border to Mexico City in two days.

The Mexican government, while showing a great interest in the highway, has at the same time maintained a candid attitude as to actual progress of construction.

True Facts Presented
In the past, when reports would arise in the United States that the highway already had been completed, the Mexican Highway Commission would be the first to deny it, and to state the true facts. Such reports, which circulated as far back as 1932, were generally attributed either to mistaken information, or to the misguided zeal of tourist seekers.

Even now the road has not yet been declared officially opened, but motorists are using it satisfactorily. Some motorists, who do not care to make the hard mountain-climb, drive down to Monterey and then ship their cars to Mexico City. Once there, roads leading in all directions will carry the tourist to places of interest. Every facility is being offered mo-

torists, but strict compliance with all regulations, posting of bond, etc., is demanded of them. Some motorists have said that they considered the "red-tape" a little more complicated than they feel would be really necessary.

BOSTON HAS SIX PRE-1775 HOUSES

BOSTON (UP)—Only six dwellings built before the Revolutionary War remain standing here.

They are: Willis House, at Sun Court and North street, built about 1680. Only overhang house left in Boston except Paul Revere's.

Old Corner Bookstore at Washington and School streets. Built in 1713. Marshall House, on Marshall Lane, off Hanover Street. Built in 1713. Langdon House, on Unity street, built in 1713.

Brick House, at Tlleston and Hanover streets. Built in 18th century. Daniel Pierce House, next to Paul Revere's House, in North Square, built in 1711. Most of them need immediate repairs if they are to be preserved for future generations.

Mexico to Mark Printing Date
MEXICO CITY (UP)—Plans are being made to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the introduction of the printing press in Mexico next spring.

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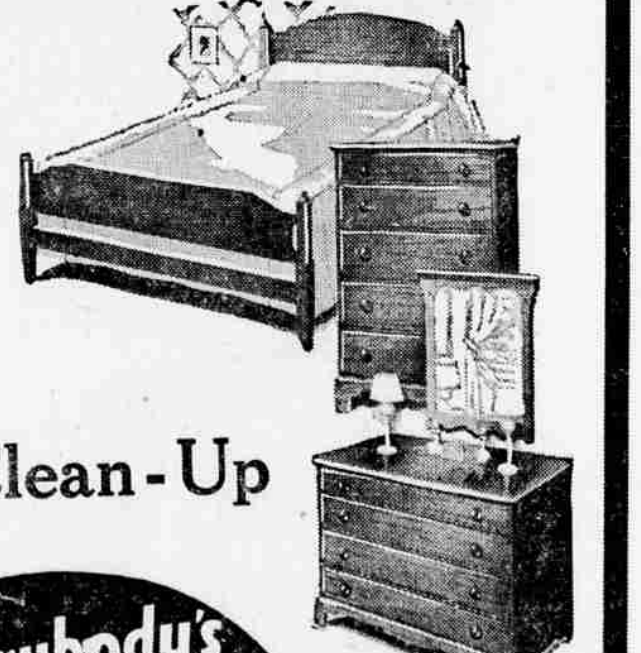
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