

A NEW NATION FOUNDED ON ONE OF THE OLDEST — DATES BACK MANY CENTURIES

(By Frederick J. Haskin in Boston, referred to as the Seven Persians, rulers of the world, and these nobles held the privilege of entering the presence unannounced. Chief attention was given to military skill and prowess and notable palladins were richly rewarded with lands and offices. Loyalty to the king was the keystone of the state. Persian pride counted for much in maintaining the hold of the conqueror for many years and the special royal guard bore the sounding title of the Ten Thousand Immortals.

Laws and the administration of justice were simple. The Grand Vizier and the Eye of the King were the principal officials. The order of priests had a more intimate contact with the people. As the nation was kept busy with warfare so much of the time, the business of internal government was not a heavy business. Darius divided the country into 20 provinces, naming as a trap over each with minor satrapies subordinate. It is a notable fact that religious toleration was permitted in these satrapies. The Jews at Jerusalem, for example, were left alone and held their own assemblies, kept their own courts of justice, in accordance with their laws.

The heyday of the Persian empire, the greatest the world had ever seen up to that time, passed with Xehxes and the Greek star commenced to rise after Marathon. The Greek phalanx proved too much for the Persian hosts while, at sea Platea and Salamis were won. Nevertheless, the Greek states and Sparta were seldom in agreement and internecine wars kept Persia at least the nominal overlord with an occasional period of absolute supremacy during which tribute was collected. The tide was running, however, and a new power was rising in Macedonia. Philip was successful in loosening the Persian hold on the Greek states but entertained no further ambition. Not so with his son, Alexander, who succeeded him and carried the war into the enemy's country, beating back the Persian hosts in some of the greatest campaigns of all military history. Not only did he sweep across Persia but, impressing Persian troops with his own service, pressed on eastward to the banks of the Fabulosus Hydaspes.

Returning to Suca he sought permanently to joint his native Macedonia with Persia by a wedding ceremony. At what was doubtless the greatest wedding feast of all history, Alexander had 10,000 Macedonians including his chief officers, marry 10,000 Persian women. Alexander next called on his people to worship him as a god, then began outfitting for the conquest of the west, then died. Inasmuch as his death at 33 may be regarded as occurring at the start of a normal career rather than at its end, what he might have effected had he lived is one of the great riddles of history. He left no heir.

Alexander's death marked the end of the old Persian-hellenic empire, but not the end of Hellenic influence in the east. The empire was divided up, the greatest chieftain becoming Seleucus, the only one of the Greek commanders who had not, by this time, divorced his Persian wife. Attrition from all sides ultimately ended the Seleucid dynasty and Arsaces and Tirdates succeeded, erecting the Parthian empire. This was the state which came into conflict with Rome, grown great in the west.

In the long series of warfares that ensued we come upon the awe-inspiring names of Tigranes and Mithridates of Pontus and feel the irresistible force of the Roman empire. The conquests of great Pompey forced Rome to look eastward and the campaigns of Crassus the Triumvir, Trajan and Hadrian followed. It would be difficult to point to any period of history when warfare was so incessant and launched from so many quarters. Moreover, from the east were beginning to percolate those religious confusions which later were to enter Europe in so many forms and cause so much turmoil and bloodshed, Christianity among them.

The Sassanian empire rose on the ashes of the older Persian states and made almost perpetual war. By the time Sapor, the Persian king, who was crowned before he was born, acceded to the throne, Christianity had begun to grip the west and, in addition to the military and political rivalry, a religious divergence was present. Chosroes, for example, sat the Persian throne when Justinian, builder of St. Sofia and 50 other Christian churches, was emperor of Rome, and the people of the day regarded Chosroes as the king-philosopher, the mightiest teacher of his time.

Chosroes II did not follow the desires of his father, first of the name, who wanted all religions to abide in peace and toleration, but set out to fight the Romans and took Antioch, Damascus and Jerusalem, carrying off the Holy Cross of Ctesiphon. It was restored by Yazdegerd III.

Cyrus was the next great figure to rise. He subdued most of the tribes and created a United Persia, the forces of which swept westward over Greece and into Egypt. His son, Cambyes, conquered Egypt and reduced the Isles of Greece. The Persian empire was brought to its high tide in this period, an astounding rise attributed largely to the use of archers and of cavalry. Next came Darius, strong in the consciousness that his nation ruled the world—as it did so far as the world then was known.

The method of government was primitive and centred. The king was supreme. All able-bodied subjects were liable for military duty, the commonalty on foot, the great land owners were mounted. The heads of six great feudal families, with the king, were

HEROISM IS REWARDED BY GOVERNMENT

An Impressive Ceremony on Board C.P.R. Liner Montcalm

Montreal, Nov. 8—Heroism, unselfishness and devotion, not only to duty but to a more real and sublime conception, that of the universal brotherhood of the sea, were virtues commended and rewarded by the Government of the Dominion of Canada today when Edward Hawken, assistant deputy minister of marine, in a pleasant informal ceremony aboard the liner, presented Capt. Arthur Rothwell, second officer H. S. Knight and a volunteer lifeboat crew of the Canadian Pacific S. S. Montcalm with suitable awards in commemoration of their rescue last March of thirty Canadian lives when the salvage tug "Reindeer I" foundered off Sable Island, near the coast of Nova Scotia, the event constituted the full recognition by the Dominion of an act of heroism, which has already been recognized by British humane and marine institutions and by the Harbor Commissioners of Halifax as well as by the Halifax shipyards, owners of the lost salvage tug. In his speech before a gathering of marine authorities and other interesting spectators in the lounge of the Montreal, Mr. Hawken recalled the thrilling details of the rescue last March 12, when severe conditions endangered the lives of both rescuers and rescued. "High seas made it necessary for almost 50 tons of oil to be poured from the Montcalm in order to calm the water between the two vessels so that the rescue could be successfully achieved and when the lifeboat returned it was found to be so badly damaged and seas were running so high that it was abandoned, Mr. Hawken related. On behalf of Hon. Maurice Dupre, solicitor general, and Hon. Alfred Durand, Minister of Marine, Mr. Hawken presented Capt. Rothwell with a handsome silver salver and Second Officer H. S. Knight with a pair of marine binoculars, both gifts being handsomely engraved in commemoration of the rescue.

Monetary awards were then presented to the following, who were members of the lifeboat crew: W. Doyle, boatswain; J. Smythe, lamp-trimmer; R. Addicott, storekeeper; M. Hughes, quartermaster, and H. Pearce, J. Carr, L. Page and J. Lowry, able bodied seamen.

Replying, Capt. Rothwell asserted his pride in the work of his officers and men, emphasizing that the lifeboat crew was entirely volunteer and made up of men who regarded such events as part of the day's work. On behalf of the recipients, he thanked the Canadian Government for recognition of their work. Second Officer Knight and the boatswain, W. Doyle, also thanked the assistant deputy minister on behalf of the boat crew, and the ceremony was briefly concluded by W. A. Wainwright, assistant of the chairman, Canadian Pacific Steamships, who expressed the pride and gratitude of the Montcalm owners in the splendid work of its commander, officers and crew.

CHARM CLASS FOR NEBRASKA GIRLS

Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 9—A charm class has been established at the University of Nebraska.

Under the direction of a "big sister" board, 50 freshman girls are to study personality, expression, fashions and etiquette.

TURKEYS LIKE BLACKBERRIES

Toledo, Or., Nov. 9—Ed Fish learned that wild evergreen blackberries which grow in fields, and turnips provide splendid feed for turkeys. The turkeys fly into the tangled clumps of berries when turned out in the mornings, oblivious of thorns.

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