

BANGKOK ONLY 152 YEARS OLD

Siamese Capital Has a Large Chinese Population—Is Picturesque.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 14—The possibility that King Prajadhipok of Siam, now in England, will abdicate his throne owing to unrest in Bangkok the Siamese capital, centers international interest on that city of South-eastern Asia.

"As a capital city, Bangkok is not old", writes W. Robert Moore in a communication to the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic Society. "The new Rama I bridge, its enormous spans etched sharply against a background of colorful temples and waterfront shops, gives the city its date line. This 475-foot structure first to link the two portions of the city, was dedicated in April, 1932, in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of Bangkok, and the reign of the present Chakkri dynasty.

Only 152 Years Old

"In the 152 years, Bangkok, has seen many changes. Up and down beyond the palaces and across the river the city has expanded today, it domiciles approximately 550,000 people. Well, within the last half century however, the Me Nam River, the leading commercial artery of the country, was still Bangkok's main street, and a system of canals formed its cross streets.

"Venice of the Orient", people called them. Many of the older buildings continue to face the river, rather than the network of roads that has been cut through the ever-growing city. Most of the floating houses, once a feature along the river banks and canals, now have disappeared and in their stead are numerous two—and three story buildings lining the streets and alleys.

"New Road, the city's main thoroughfare, is an inelegant thing by day. All manner of buildings, from sun—and rain-washed, open-front wooden

shops to modern concrete structures, cluster along this narrow avenue of commerce. For miles the road seems to wander aimlessly on, bending first one way and then the other, paralleling the sinuous course of the river. Far too narrow now for all the jinrikishas, trucks, automobiles hand-drawn carts and tides of humanity that surge into it, the street is congested even more by tramcar lines.

Chinese Population

"One is impressed by the number of Chinese shops and the throngs of these people that are everywhere in the Siamese capital. On side streets one can step into veritable Chinatowns. Elsewhere one finds miniature Indias centered about the silk goods, gem and curio trade. As the visitor becomes more intimately acquainted with Siam the answer to this foreign population becomes obvious. For centuries the Siamese have shown little inclination toward business, and have left it in the hands of outland people. More than 80 per cent. of the Siamese are agriculturists, and the majority of the others are directly or indirectly connected with the government service. Only slightly more than two per cent. are engaged in industrial pursuits.

"Several European business houses, marketing an incredible variety of goods, do a thriving trade in cosmopolitan Bangkok. Of course there are many Siamese stores, a few large, many small. Of the latter, the womenfolk often act as proprietors. It is sheer joy to go to a morning market to watch groups of Siamese women bargaining over pieces of household commodities. "If Bangkok's business thoroughfares seem too narrow and congested, the same cannot be said of her outlying residential roads, for they are wide avenues of asphalt or crushed rock, bordered with delightful canals. "Flame of the forest" trees, ablaze with red blossoms from April to June, or majestic rain trees canopied overhead, form stately Gothic arches for mile after mile.

"What the capital's main street lacks in interest beyond the ebb and flow of its contrasting traffic, is more than recompensed for by its gorgeous wats or temples. Within the

NEW VERSION OF OLD BIBLE STORY FROM LONDON

(Special to Daily Mail)

LONDON, February 13—Greek scholars and Biblical students are flocking to the British Museum to see the fragments of papyri that are believed to be part of a Fifth Gospel—fragments which give a new version of the old Bible story of the healing of the leper.

The savants are trying to decipher the few lines of Greek written on the torn fragments, which are so blown with age that they look as if they had been rescued from a fire. They were discovered in a "job lot" of papyri bought in Egypt.

The exact source whence the "job lot" came, and the exact price paid for it, the British Museum authorities will not reveal. All they will say is that it was "bought from a dealer at quite a small price."

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all tell the story of the healing of the leper, which is amplified in the Fifth Gospel fragments.

Matthews says the leper came "and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if Thou wilt Thou canst make me clean." Mark says the leper came and knelt, "beseeching Him" to make him clean. Luke says the leper fell on his face "and besought Him."

The writer of the newly discovered manuscript records a new point. He says: "And behold there, cometh unto Him a leper and saith: 'Master Jesus journeying with lepers and eating with them in the inn, I myself also became a leper. If therefore Thou wilt I am made clean.'"

Thus the leper here confesses that he has been associating with lepers

walled-in enclosures of the temple areas the Siamese have poured out the abundance of their artistic skill and found, expression for their love of colors.

and is suffering the penalty. Either he was associating wilfully and negligently—for the leper law made it incumbent on the leper to proclaim his leprosy and warn everybody—or he was associating in ignorance, in which case the blame attached to the lepers.

The most tantalizing thing about the "New Gospel" fragment is an indication of a question put by Jesus on the banks of the Jordan—a "strange question" that astonished everybody.

What was that "strange question," The context is too obscure to decipher.

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The salesman tried again, and again. But nobody bought—and finally he had to admit that he'd lost his bet.

All of which suggests that people like to know who the seller is before they buy. You can trust the merchants who advertise their products in this newspaper. The advertisements offer useful, dependable information about things you need, and want. Read and heed the advertisements carefully and you will reap savings and satisfaction.

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Sixty-fourth Annual Report—1934

ASSURANCES IN FORCE, December 31, 1934	\$2,748,725,403
NEW ASSURANCES PAID FOR	236,215,901
INCOME	159,251,028
DISBURSEMENTS	115,661,302
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER DISBURSEMENTS	43,589,726
PAYMENTS TO POLICYHOLDERS AND BENEFICIARIES	
During the year 1934	88,160,206
Since Organization	888,330,239
ASSETS	665,378,716
LIABILITIES	651,115,551
PAID-UP CAPITAL (\$2,000,000) and balance at credit of shareholders' account	\$3,299,728
RESERVE for depreciation in mortgages and real estate	5,012,619
SURPLUS	5,950,818
	\$14,263,165

The valuation of bonds and stocks has been made in accordance with the basis authorized by the Insurance Department of the Dominion of Canada, and in conformity with the bases authorized by the Departments of Insurance of the various Provinces of Canada, and the National Convention of Insurance Commissioners of the United States. Policy liabilities have been valued by the full net level premium method, a standard more exacting than is required under the provisions of the Dominion Insurance Act.

Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada