



The World's Great Rivers,—The Danube

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roses and other perfume bearing plants has led to the building of extensive perfume factories there. The fruitless attempts to produce Vuelta Abaja tobacco or the Sumatra wrapper in regions other than those in which they have earned their celebrity all point to the presence of certain soil and climatic conditions to which the plant varieties are particularly susceptible, but which are not yet perfectly understood."

China, Japan, and lastly Europe have been driven by the pressure of an increasing population to develop systems of intensive agriculture that take advantage of every natural peculiarity. Their methods have been developed under pressure, by costly trial and error, by the survival of the fittest.

The tide is rising in this country. Today there are five mouths to feed where ten years ago there were four. The land available for agriculture is nearly all occupied. It is now a question of improving the methods of agriculture if our population is to be fed, clothed, and housed. It will be most economical to do this intelligently by applying known principles to the study of our farms, and the adaptation of plants and animals to them to the end that the greatest efficiency of production may be secured.

THE WORLD'S GREAT RIVERS,—THE DANUBE

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THE rivers of Europe cannot compare in size or volume with the great streams of America, of Asia or of Africa; they have less space in which to develop. The larger European rivers are, in a certain sense, side tracked, in that they do not communicate at all, or only indirectly, with the Atlantic, and hence are remote from the great lines of trade. What the European river systems lack in magnitude is somewhat made up for by their number and diversity. The rivers flow in all directions from the heart of the continent or drain its eastern plain. The divides are, in many cases, of such character that canals may be and are constructed to connect the systems, and, as a rule, shipping is not obstructed by cataracts.

The main drainage channel of central Europe and the second river of the continent is the Danube. Of its tributaries, the Inn, the Theiss, the chief river of Hungary, and the Pruth, forming the boundary between Russia and Roumania near the mouth, deserve mention.

In the upper course the volume of its waters does not vary much, for like the Rhine and the Rhone it is fed by glaciers; but in the lower reaches it is low in early fall just at the time when the crops must be moved. Another disadvantage is the long ice blockade, a consequence of the continental climate; the "dead period" at Galatz, in the same latitude as Venice, often

lasts as long as 39 days. The consequent dullness is not the only loss; the breaking up and movement of the ice is the cause of much damage. But with all its drawbacks, the Danube is the great artery of commerce for all the lands which it reaches, especially since its improvement by the establishment of canal communication with German rivers, by regulation of the rapids, and by the construction of jetties at its mouth.

Where is there another river so international as the Danube? It rises in Baden and flows through Württemberg and Bavaria; nearly half its length lies in Austria-Hungary; then it separates the latter country and Servia. At Orsova three nationalities meet,—Hungarians, Servians and Roumanians; after that it serves as a boundary between Roumania and Bulgaria; and its mouth lies in Roumanian territory. As one passes from source to mouth, strange sounds greet the ear: first High German dialects, as Alemanic, Suabian and Bavarian; then the language of the proud sons of Arpad, the Magyars; then the Servian and Roumanian and Bulgarian tongues. The management of the river improvement shows the number and variety of the interests. An international commission undertook the deepening of one of the delta channels, and a joint commission of the riparian states removed the dangers of the rapids.

The scenery along the Danube is as varied as the people that dwell on its banks. There are stretches whose beauty rivals that of the picturesque parts of the castled Rhine; then comes the monotony of the wide plain; then it breaks once more through mountain chains and again the scene is wild and beautiful.

A careful study of the course of the Danube shows how independent it is of the surface of the country. The trough between the Alps and the Carpathians causes the infant stream to head for the East; but it flows in a deep, narrow valley through part of the Bohemian highlands. There is a water-gap through the Alpine foot-hills above Vienna, another through the Little Carpathians at Pressburg, still another at Waitzen, cutting the central ridge of Hungary, and the most celebrated of all at the Iron Gate where it flows athwart the South Carpathians. The conclusion is forced upon us that it is an antecedent water course, i. e., the stream is older than the present topography. To maintain its early direction, it cut deeper and deeper into the rising ridges, and thus the gaps were formed. Between the gaps and beyond the Iron Gate where the current slackens, the river has its accompaniment of distributaries, lakes and swamps; but in many places the current is so strong that most of the transportation is down stream.

There is more of the beautiful blue Danube connected with Austria-Hungary than with any other state; and this river and its tributaries cement the heterogeneous parts of that composite country more naturally and more firmly than laws and treaties can. Far more freight is moved on the Danube than in and out of the Austrian Adriatic ports; so that in

spite of the possession of a strip of coast, the monarchy may be called an inland state. Unfortunately for this government, the all-important Danube slips from it by flowing far beyond the borders of the land, yet it has even in politics a directing influence. The eyes of Austrian statesmen are turned eastward. Economically and politically the Danube is of such dominating significance to Austria-Hungary, that it has been suggested that this conglomerate state be called not the Dual Monarchy but the Danubian Monarchy.

The Danube was the scene of Roman colonization, of the fierce inroads of the migration of the Huns, the Avars, and the Magyars, of the advance of the Crusaders to the East, of that of the Turks toward the west, and more recently of the growth of the House of Hapsburg and of the disintegration of the Ottoman realm. What causes this frequent reference in history to the Danube and its valley? A glance at the map will account for it: stretching from the head-waters of the Rhine, the Rhone, the Elbe and the Oder to the Black Sea, the Danube forms and for ages has formed the connecting link between the Orient and the Occident.

TRADE OF THE UNITED STATES WITH SOUTH AMERICA, 1911

TRADE between the United States and South America in the calendar year just ended was practically 300 million dollars in value, a total in excess of that of any earlier year. In 1900 the trade between the United States and that continent aggregated 144 million dollars; in 1905, 211 million; in 1910, 290 million; and in the first eleven months of 1911 for which details are available, 273 million, of which over 29 million represented the month of November, thus indicating for the complete calendar year a total of fully 300 million dollars.

Our imports from South America still exceed our exports to that continent, though the latter are rapidly gaining in the proportion which they form of the total trade. In 1900 imports were valued at 103 million, exports at 41 million, exports thus being 29 per cent of the total trade. In the 11 months of 1911 imports were 165 million and exports 109 million, the latter being 40 per cent of the total trade.

The imports into the United States from South America are chiefly drawn from the following countries, in the order named, the totals being estimates for the full calendar year based upon 11 months figures already compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, Department of Commerce and Labor. From Brazil the total is likely to be 100 million dollars, compared with 104 million last year; from Argentina, 28 million, compared with 32 million in 1910; from Chile, 19 million, against 20 million in the preceding year; from Colombia, 10 million, against 7¾ million in 1910; from Peru, 9 million, against 8½ million in 1910; and from Venezuela, 8½ million,