

**Tourists Greet
Globe Girdlers
at Vienna Field**

Horn-Rimmed Glasses, Cameras and Guide Books betray Identity of Welcoming Crowd.

By **LOWELL THOMAS.**
(Copyright, 1925.)



"When we landed on the airfield at Vienna and the crowd surged around us, we knew at once," says Jack Harding, "that these people were mostly fellow countrymen, because the men, yes, and even many of the women had horn-rimmed glasses and cameras, do you mind if we take a couple of snapshots?" "Why we felt as much at home as if we had landed in our own backyards."

"As soon as Mrs. Ebenezzer Plunkett, from Xenia, O., would finish snapping the plane then Mrs. Dan Babcock would ask us on behalf of the Ladies' Aid society of Muskogee, Okla., to allow her to pose us in front of the tail of the plane. When this ordeal was over six of us would have six sighs of relief and start to fuel up and get ready for the next day. But before we could move around Mr. Jim Whoozles, visiting the old country to prepare a lantern slide lecture to deliver before the Lion Tamers' club of Pocatello, Idaho, would sing out:

"Say, son, do you mind if my missus takes a snapshot of you talking to me?" "Attahboy, just like that."

Surrounded by Kodaks. "And so it went. Kodaks to the left of us, Kodaks to the rear of us, Kodaks to the rear of us clicked and rumbled. Of those instruments of torture I counted fully 600.

"With the exception of when we were in Japan we had never faced so many kodaks. We liked it and wanted to oblige. But it looked as though we were not going to be able to get our planes ready for the next day's flight to Paris. So Smith finally announced to the crowd that if they would all line up with their picture machines that we would line up again, and then they could get us with one volley. But in spite of this, long after sunset, and long after it was dark, the kodaks were still firing.

"We got into Vienna shortly after 7 o'clock and were taken for a quick drive around the old imperial palace of the last great ruler of the House of Hapsburg, Franz Josef, the aged emperor of Austria and king of Hungary. Here he had reigned for 67 years, longer even than the record of Queen Victoria. On his ill-fated house had hung the curse of the Countess

Karlovi, who had blamed him for the death of his son. "May heaven and hell blast your happiness!" said she. "May your family be exterminated! May you be smitten in the persons of those you love best! May your children be brought to ruin and may your life be wrecked, and may you after that live only in lonely and horrible grief without end. So tremble when you recall the name of Karlovi!"

Terrible Curse Fulfilled.

"He lived to be 86. His beautiful wife had been assassinated. He lived to see his heir apparent, the Archduke Ferdinand, and the Princess Sophie of Hohenberg assassinated at Sarajevo. He lived to see his empire become virtually a vassal state under the control of the German kaiser. He died after drinking the cup of every disillusion. His empire exists no more, and the ashes of his heterogeneous group of kingdoms he ruled there have arisen three vigorous and ambitious young republics: Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Austria. We had just flown over the former and the latter. But Austria today is, merely a tiny state of a little more than 30,000 square miles—not even half as big as Ohio. The total population is less than 7,000,000, and a third of them live in Vienna.

"But as we motored rapidly around the Ringstrasse, the glorious circular boulevard of Vienna, and as we looked at the magnificent palaces, the famous opera house, and the attractive shops, it appeared to us as being a city of great beauty. We were taken to the imperial hotel and found it the most luxurious we had ever seen. Our rooms were about the size of the ballrooms in an American hotel. The furnishings made us think that we were Louis XIV. or some of his satellites. Instead of lieutenants from the United States of America. The food, ah, it was cooked with such exquisite taste that we are all going to include Vienna in all of our future trips.

Appalled by Splendor. "Lovell and I had a suit with a parlor whose dimensions were about 60x8 feet and with a 20-foot ceiling," remarked "Les" Arnold. "Why there was a grand piano in one corner of the room that looked as large as an ordinary room. From the ceiling hung a chandelier with 600 lights. The bed-

room was almost as large, and we had twin beds, each on a raised dais, and draped with silk canopies. If you have ever visited the bedrooms of Louis XIV. and Marie Antoinette at Versailles you will know what ours were like. The beds were so soft that we sank right down almost out of sight. We hadn't been used to such luxury as this, and we actually found the beds so comfortable that some of us couldn't sleep. "Thank" Ogden had to get up and roll himself up in a blanket on the floor before he could get any rest. But as for myself, I was not troubled in this respect. I had always thought that I would have made an excellent king of about the Louis XIV. period.

"Next morning all six of us and four guests had breakfast in our private parlor. Although there were 19 of us we only took up a bit of one corner. They served us huge bowls of raspberries and cream. It was worth flying around the world to get them.

"The windows in our suite had broad window sills. In fact you could almost call them window seats. They were covered with deep satin cushions on which one could recline and watch the passing traffic. The splendor of it took our breath away at first. It was not exactly what we had been accustomed to on the rest of the

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