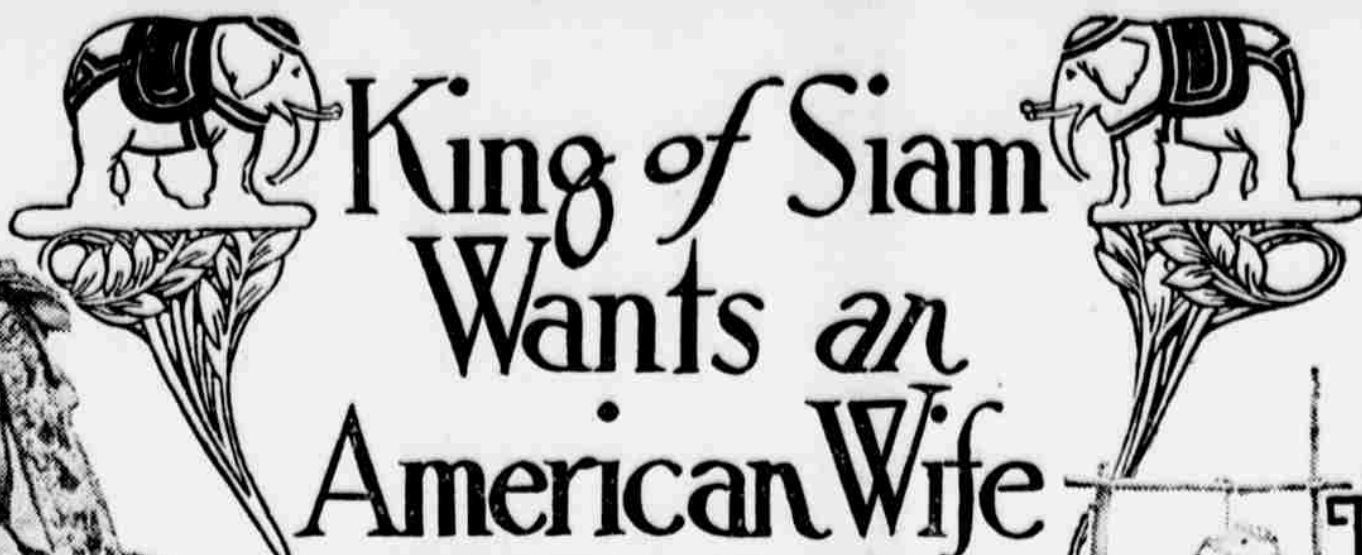




KING OF SIAM

King of Siam Wants an American Wife



A Rice Mill

SIAMESE CHILDREN



KING'S PALACE IN BANGKOK

THE recent death of his royal highness, Chao Fa Chakrabongs Phivanarth, Prince Phitsanulok, the heir presumptive to the Siamese throne, directs attention to the fact that King Rama VI is the first bachelor king of Siam in 2,500 years. And, what is more, it is international diplomatic gossip that he is waiting to win an American woman to share his throne. One reason may be that King Rama has seen American beauties in twenty states of the Union.

Rama VI, known to his own people as Semdet Phra Paramindr Maha Vajiravudh Mongkut Krao, Somdet Phra Rama Thibodi VI, is one of the most interesting monarchs, writes Frederick Dean, M. A., in the New York Tribune. The first bachelor that ever sat upon the Siamese throne, he is said to be waiting for an American girl to share his throne. The king's grandfather, Maha Mongkut, used to say that he desired—and had—a member of every family of note in his kingdom in his "household." No outsider ever knew just how many wives he did have. His son, Maha Chulalongkorn, the father of the present king, had three wives on the day before he was made crown prince. On that day he married ninety-seven more to make up the complement of one hundred, which was the proper number of wives for the crown prince to have. When he died—ten years ago—he had between 7,000 and 8,000. When his son, the then crown prince, returned from his long stay in Europe—he had spent a third of his life in England, France, Germany and Russia, and had made frequent visits to Belgium, Italy and Spain, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands—his father presented him with a collection of Siamese beauties, saying:

"My son, here are something over a hundred of the beauties of the court for you to start light housekeeping with, and to these you may add as you see fit."

But the young prince, much to the discomfort of his royal father, told the monarch that he would have none of this wholesale marriage business, and added that when he was ready he would marry "one wife, and she shall be the queen of my heart as well as the queen of my realm." His father took the decision of his son very much to heart and some have gone so far as to say that his boy's stubborn adherence to his word helped to end his royal father's life. When his majesty Maha Vajiravudh—known thereafter as Rama VI—came to the throne, as there was no queen and no heir, a crown prince, or, as they say in Siam, an heir presumptive, had to be chosen, and the lot naturally fell to the late Prince Phitsanulok, who was a brother of the king by the same mother.

Siam is a polygamous country. According to Siamese law a man may have as many wives as he can support. The households of royalty ran into almost countless numbers. Old King Mongkut, the grandfather of the present monarch, used to say:

"I like large families. I have eighty-six children."

The present king has something like twenty half-brothers and any quantity of half-sisters. In doing away with the royal harem his majesty struck a blow at one of the oldest and most fundamental customs of the country. And if he chooses to step out of the beaten track and marry a foreigner he will be carrying out but one more of his unexpected reforms, for which he has been noted ever since he came to the throne.

Rama VI is a remarkable man in many respects. At the age of twelve he was sent to England, where he fitted into the foreign school regime in less than six months. He played football at Rugby, learned to fence, ride and swim; entered into tournaments of golf and tennis, flitted and wrote love lyrics. Later he went to Heidelberg, where he crossed swords with the daredevils and drank and sang his way into the hearts of his fellow workers. Returning to England he entered Christ college, Oxford, where on graduation he took the first prize away from seven of the brainiest of Britons, and then went to Paris, where he wrote a play that was produced at the Comedie Francaise; he returned to Germany and wrote his thesis for his doctor's degree in German, and, after visiting every court in Europe, returned home by way of America, where he stopped long enough to pay the president an extended visit and

"looked over" twenty of the states of the Union. He is the only eastern monarch with a western education—the most democratic despot in the world. For Siam is an absolute monarchy; possibly the most absolute monarchy in existence today. Rama VI holds in the palm of his hand not only the property and possessions of his 9,000,000 subjects, but their very lives. A few years ago, when China was in the throes of not one, but of several revolutions, and had declared two "republics," the spirit of unrest started to trickle down into little Siam, but stopped at the border. Siam is called the kingdom of "Muang Thai" ("the People of the Free"), and nothing could enter that paradise to disturb that "freedom." The country is so prosperous, the taxes are so low, the advantages are so numerous that those living in Cochinchina on the east and in Burma on the west are clamoring to get over the Siamese fence to become partakers of the plenty that awaits all who make their home in this enchanted land.

A ruler who is so wise and so good, so generous and so far-sighted, is capable of performing many modern miracles. He is but forty years of age and has been on the throne ten years. His father ruled for forty-two; his grandfather was hale and hearty at sixty-three. With his constitution of iron and his well known temperance in all things nothing but an untoward accident should deprive Siam of her democratic ruler and the world of one of the progressives of the age.

Over a half century ago King Mongkut had in his palace what he called his "American room." Around the walls were paintings of every president of the United States. Often he has been heard to say:

"I am planning my own country on the customs and the laws of America."

His son, the late King Chulalongkorn, sent his son to the White House in Washington for a visit "that has been denied me, and which I consider to be one of the greatest of deprivations."

Ever since Siam was opened to the West America has been foremost in the minds and hearts of the Siamese rulers. And if in his best judgment this eastern monarch shall find a suitable mate among the women of America he will but cement the long friendship between the land of the "free" of Asia and that other land of the "free" of America.

Many years ago a Siamese monarch found himself among a people without a woman of high enough rank for him to make his queen. So he married his own sister. Since that time the custom has prevailed that the ruling monarch must marry at least one of his half-sisters, for the heir must be possessed of royal blood on both sides. The late queen mother was the half-sister of his majesty, Maha Chulalongkorn. Her sons, therefore, were eligible to kingship. The late prince was the next in age to the king, and, in every way, was the rightful heir to the throne. Educated in England and France and having lived for a long time in Russia, where he was captain of the guard to the czar, it was but natural that he follow in the footsteps of many of the other members of the nobility and the royal family of the Siamese court, and marry a foreigner. His choice was a Russian lady, not of royal birth, but of good lineage, who became Princess Catherine of the Siamese court. The new princess was a vivacious young woman, handsome, clever, a good linguist and an all-around wife worthy of the brilliant man she had captured.

She was quick to pick up the Siamese tongue

and spoke it fluently—so fluently that she became the go-between and interpreter for Siamese nobility and many of the other young European ladies who, like herself, had married the blue-bloods of Siam. She was the first of their number to don the Siamese costume and wore it with such grace that the others soon followed, and not long ago the queen mother was delighted to see all of the "foreign princesses" appear before her, robed in the brilliant-hued dress of her own court.

Of course, being a foreigner and not being equal in blood to her royal husband, it would be impossible to think that one of her two sons should possibly wear the Siamese crown. And so the choice may be the third son of the late King Chulalongkorn and his royal spouse the late queen mother, who before her marriage was known as Princess Sawa Pa Pongse. This third son, Prince Nakorn Rajasima, like his brother, the king, is unmarried. His younger brother, however, is married, and married to a half-sister, a daughter of King Chulalongkorn. His issue, therefore, would be in line for the throne.

What may work a great change in the policy of the king at the present crisis is the fact of the death of the queen mother, who died last November and was cremated last month. She was a woman of great character and her opinions had weight with her son, the king. As a child she was a brilliant creature—in both mind and body. Long before she was chosen to be the queen of her royal brother she was eager to learn everything that "brother" learned and nothing was too hard or too difficult for her impatient and impetuous mind.

In after life the little princess proved to be all that she had promised as a child. A lover of the beautiful, she demanded and had about her the beautiful things of life. Not only flowers and colors and jewels for the body did she demand, but flowers and colors and jewels for the mind. Never before had the young women of Siam so universal an opportunity for study. The queen mother built school after school—for the princesses—over which her own niece was placed as "school mother" and for the staff of teachers of which she searched England, Europe and America. Not content with this she instituted other schools for the others—girls who had no royal blood in their veins, but who had brains in their heads—primary schools, graded schools, high schools.

Long before the war she had become interested in hospital work and had hospitals for the women of Siam as plentifully scattered throughout her kingdom as had her royal husband planted hospitals for men. And, when Siam entered the war, it was the queen mother who started the Red Cross work and gathered around her the chief women of the nation. Not content with the hospitals already built, she built still another—larger and better equipped than any other in the kingdom, and for it she sent to the uttermost parts of the world for the best in every department.

When the young king overthrew all precedent and declared that he would not marry any of his half-sisters—that he would not tolerate the royal harem—and that rather than this he would remain single, it was the queen mother who stood by him and who assisted him in bringing out the "women of the court" and compelled them to be recognized as a part of the new scheme of things. At his majesty's coronation ceremonies the young women of the court—the king's half-sisters and others who would naturally have become members of his household—were, for the first time in Siamese history, seen at the royal ball, in the theaters, at dinners and other royal public functions. It was the young king who decreed the new order, but it was the faithful queen mother who made the new order a practical factor in the life of the Siamese court.

Siam is a tiny little kingdom, so cunningly tucked away under the eaves of greater China that the average globe trotter passes it by without so much as a backward glance. But he who does stop long enough, and, lingering, is lost in the lure of the luxury of this diminutive Asiatic paradise. For Siam is the richest country of its size in the world, and those who have lived there longest, claim that it is most fascinating.

The capital of the state, Bangkok, is situated on the Menam Chao Phya ("the Royal Mother of Waters"), a stream that, rising up in the teak forests of the North, cuts in twain both the country and its capital, and broadening its banks, flows majestically past the fishing villages, past the paddy fields and empties into the Gulf of Siam. The capital is ten miles upstream, a city of nearly nine hundred thousand persons. It is called the Venice of the East and it has more canals than its namesake in the Adriatic.

The Siamese are a soft-voiced, pleasure-loving people; the corners of their mouths turn up—they are always looking for something better.

COMING EVENTS IN FALL SUITS



SUCH essential things as suits, and other clothes for the street, are launched by their manufacturers long before the season for their wearing is at hand. This must be done so that merchants may buy them a little in advance of the time when they are needed. September finds the public interested and October finds them buying very briskly their practical clothes for general wear and there is considerable business earlier, for outfitting young women who are going away to school.

It is for the benefit of such fortunate young persons that the very attractive suit shown in the illustration is offered for consideration in August. It is one of many attractive creations that are specially well adapted to the lines of youthful figures. Drawing such conclusions as may be gathered this early in the season, skirts are to vary considerably in width, the extremely narrow ones not appealing to people of the best judgment and there are really not any models that can be called severe in line among the new coats. Skirts may be plain or plaited.

Coats are a matter for rejoicing, having those vague outlines that are called "easy" and are particularly smart. There is a great variety in them and in sleeves, which may grow less as the season grows older. It all depends upon the appeal of the several styles to the public.

One cannot go wrong in the selection of a suit like that one shown in the picture. It has a straight skirt in a conservative length and just wide enough for comfortable walking. The coat is straight with narrow belt confining it at the waist and there are very long ends at the front, finished with tassels. It reveals the persistence of embroidery and emboldered effects in styles for fall and indications are that this vogue has not reached the crest of the wave in its popularity. The collar merits special attention, being a mixture of styles and a novelty. It is so arranged that it can be thrown about the throat like a short scarf and is prettily finished with flat tassels. Buttons secure it in the position shown by the picture.

PIN MONEY PROPOSITIONS

THERE are women in every community who would like to earn pin money by some means that will not interfere with their home duties. In the larger cities there are "short hour" women employed in the shops, with hours from eleven in the morning until three or four in the afternoon, who find they can manage their household affairs and go to business too. But their homes are usually small and convenient apartments in which housework is reduced to a minimum of effort. The same opportunities do not come to women in the smaller towns and villages or on the farms. In the larger communities also there are opportunities of merchandising in a small way. Some women, familiar with millinery, do a thrifty little business in the spring and fall of the year, buying and selling hats which they display in their own homes. Waists and neckwear prove worth while for others. A business of this kind is usually conducted by women who have had experience in a store at some time.

for boys or girls can usually arrange to furnish supplies of some sort to them.

Besides these usual means of picking up pin money there are opportunities for women who own and drive cars. In summer and winter resorts they get together sightseeing parties, and take them on short motor trips that yield a pretty profit, or they establish a regular trip carrying people to and from certain points. Women have proved themselves quite equal to driving motorcars in all parts of the country. Some young women have a very happy faculty for entertaining children. They undertake to look after a number of little ones one or two afternoons in each week, releasing mothers from their care for a brief time. The children must be brought to the home of their entertainer and called for. She provides for their amusement and gives them any attention they may need, for a fee. By looking after a number of them regularly the income is worth while. Some women and girls are successful in soliciting subscriptions to periodicals and books. Some do well selling merchandise, as stockings, corsets, embroideries, among their friends. In considering the matter of making pin money it is necessary first to take stock of one's accomplishments to determine what work is easy to excel in. Women who know how to plan all the details for entertainments, luncheons, dinners and parties are in demand in thickly settled communities and many of them turn their gifts to good account.

Julia Bottomley

The Modish Overblouse.
A boon to limited incomes is the modish overblouse, which may be made in all lingerie types and, aided by a single skirt, gives the appearance of many different frocks. One of the smartest versions of a more elaborate garment was developed in heavy flannel mesh, hip length, dyed jade green. The neck line was influenced by the present oriental mode and reached in straight beaded bands from shoulder to shoulder.

An overmidgy of blue crepe de chine is embroidered in an allover design in white beads.

Women who live near the main traveled roads used by motorcar tourists often pick up considerable money during the summer months selling all sorts of eatables to the passers by. A signpost at the side of the road directs the hungry and thirsty motor party to the wayside refreshments. Sandwiches, hard-boiled eggs, bread and butter, doughnuts and cookies are conveniently handled. Women who and themselves near summer camps