

EMPERESS CHARLOTTE ONE OF HISTORY'S TRAGIC CHARACTERS

Never Recovered Reason After Execution of Emperor Maximilian in Mexico in 1867

When Charlotte, once empress of Mexico, died at her chateau near Brussels, Belgium, recently, there came to a close one of the most tragic careers in Europe's political history...

Beauty and love in more than ordinary measure and brilliant ambitions of imperial splendor and power marked the early years of Charlotte, one-time empress of Mexico...

Then rebuffed by emperor and pope, whom she beseeched to save her crumbling dreams of empire, her beloved husband dead before a firing squad, despair beat her down...

A daughter of Leopold I, king of the Belgians, she was born June 7, 1810. At the age of seventeen, when she was married to Archduke Maximilian, brother of the Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria...

It was out of this happy setting that Charlotte stepped when she became Empress of Mexico.

There are few more pitiful stories than that of the fantastic Mexican adventure, born of the brain of Napoleon III, which brought death, madness and failure.

The French emperor schemed to set up a new empire in the New World. French troops captured Mexico City; for the United States was embroiled in civil war...

He hesitated. Like a Miramar with a beautiful wife seduced him Charlotte, history declares, practically made the decision for him. She was ambitious and the title of empress fascinated her.

Maximilian was given what he considered proof that the Mexican people wanted him. He accepted and in May, 1864, he and Charlotte entered the harbor of Vera Cruz on a French cruiser...

The new monarchy went well at first. French troops supported it. French officials helped to straighten out financial problems. Maximilian and Charlotte were sincere and indefatigable in their improvements and reforms...

But the Liberal element carried on an unceasing guerilla warfare. Maximilian had been described as weak, vacillating and lacking in decision or nerve. But Charlotte was made of sturdier stuff...

The civil war in the United States ended and American statesmen, to their regret, themselves of the Monroe Doctrine. Napoleon III soon saw it advisable to withdraw French troops from Mexico...

Fiction nor history reveals no more poignant episode than Charlotte's flight to Europe for aid when she recognized that the empire was doomed. Maximilian, with the mixture of poor judgment and scrupulous honesty that seems to have been characteristic, felt he could not go.

After sleepless nights and hopeless days Charlotte confronted Napoleon III. She wanted him to reconsider and lend her emperor the support of his troops. She met a cold refusal. At the close of her interview, her pride, wounded by her abasement before one whom she considered her inferior, asserted itself...

STATE SURVEY

The following bills of state-wide interest were introduced in the house of representatives Friday morning. Repeal of the state-wide primary law, consolidation of the state franchises commission with the department of correction and a bill by Mr. Folger of Surry to equalize taxes and provide for a six months school year.

The state senate on last Friday confirmed the following board of trustees of the Appalachian Normal School: J. M. Baruhardt, W. C. Newland, Eugene Transon, G. H. G. Ithier, H. H. Sullivan, Thomas C. Bowie, T. H. Coffey and Miss Celeste Henkel.

Cranberry special to the Johnson City Chronicle: The owners of the Cranberry Iron mines, which have been closed nearly all the time for the past four years, are making extensive repairs on the buildings and machinery here, getting ready to reopen about March 1st.

North Carolina will have seven new judicial districts, a total of 27, if the bill introduced by Senator Smith of Stanley, and reported favorably by the general assembly joint committee on courts and judicial districts becomes a law.

The general assembly last Thursday received the Great Smoky National Park bill. The bill was introduced in the house by Nettles, of Buncombe, and Squires, of Caldwell, and in the senate by Ebbs, of Buncombe. It provides for three new members of the national park commission authorized by the special session of 1924 and asks a bond issue of \$2,000,000 for the purpose of acquiring land in the proposed park district...

An equalization of property values between the counties is one of the essential elements in the equitable distribution of the proposed equalization fund of \$2,000,000. State Superintendent of Public Instruction A. T. Allen and the joint appropriations committee of the general assembly last Thursday, while not charged with the responsibility for writing the distribution bill, members of the two committees on appropriations wanted some information about Mr. Allen's plans for distributing this money, before they voted on the bill which will carry a million dollars in addition to this fund. Mr. Allen suggested this equalization of values could be best secured through establishment of a state tax commission, attached to the department of revenue, which would adjust values between the different counties. He said this commission or bureau would be a full time one and would make a complete study of all factors entering into the valuation of property in all counties, so that these valuations could be used as the basis of distributing this fund. It would take at least a year to get the first adjustment made, said the state superintendent. He suggested that for the first year one million and a half dollars be distributed exactly as it has been distributed in the past. That would mean that the counties which have been getting state aid from the equalization fund would get at least as much next year as they got last year. Of the remaining million dollars, Mr. Allen suggested that \$200,000 be set aside to aid transportation of children in the different counties.

Black walnut logs suitable for cutting into veneer bring from \$150 to \$200 a thousand board feet, when from 18 to 24 inches in diameter at the small end.

Attendants later found her on the floor unconscious.

The pope had blessed the expedition to Mexico. It was to him Charlotte next turned. She got no help there.

After creating a scene in the Vatican, Charlotte, obsessed with the fear everyone was trying to poison her, was found wandering the streets of Rome, washing her hands in the fountains and babbling incoherently. She was taken to the palace at Miramar, which she had left so radiantly happy, and pronounced incurably insane. Meanwhile, with Charlotte's name the last word on his lips, Maximilian was shot to death by a firing squad in Mexico.

WE LAMBS NEEDED IN SHEEP INDUSTRY

Raleigh, Feb. 9.—The sheep industry of North Carolina needs all the good ewe lambs that are produced this year. There is a shortage of breeding ewes and since the outlook is good for both sheep and wool, the ewe lambs should be served to build up the breeding flocks.

Though sheep producers have expanded their flocks and the supply of lambs for 1927 is larger than for 1926, the market outlook for lambs and wool appears fairly good, says R. S. Curtis, animal husbandman at State College. "With this in mind, I feel that our farmers should save the best half of their ewe lambs either to increase their own flocks or to start others."

Prof. Curtis states that recent figures show that there are only 65,000 sheep in North Carolina at this time, whereas in 1900 there were 300,000. This same situation exists over the entire south. This means that breeding ewes will be scarce and high and the only way to replenish them in a practical way, under North Carolina conditions, is to save the best ewe lambs.

Some of the leading farmers of Edgecombe county have found that sheep are the most profitable farm animals. In reports made by the county agent of this county, sheep have never yet failed to pay a profit when handled with any care at all. He asserts that sheep will pay better than hogs and he has figures from a parallel demonstration in sheep raising and hog raising to prove his contention.

With the outlook rather gloomy for all kinds of crop production, Prof. Curtis believes that farmers of the state could well afford to give sheep where they are able to handle the pastures.

THE DARKEST DAY IN HISTORY

By A. B. CHAPIN

THAT VALENTINE DAY

WHEN YOU HAD SKIMPED AND SAVED AND HAD DENIED YOURSELF A LOT OF THE THINGS YOU WANTED — AND YOU HAD RAKED AND SCRAPPED ENOUGH TO BUY HER THAT SWELL BOX OF BON BONNS — AND THEN TO HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPEN !!



Curtis believes that farmers of the growing more attention, especially dog situation and to have fences and state could well afford to give sheep where they are able to handle the pastures.



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