

SMALLEST COUNTRY IS NOT EASY TO LOCATE

There Are Several Little Ones Tucked Away in Pockets of Europe

What is the smallest country in the world? That depends upon the angle from which you view the question. There are small principalities tucked under the wings of sheltering governments, republics which owe part of their suzerainty to a bishop, and grand-duchies," says a bulletin from the Washington D. C., headquarters of the National Geographic society.

Monaco, with its eight square miles of territory, perched 300 feet above the Mediterranean in the heart of the Riviera, is the smallest principality. It is the best known and the most visited, for it contains the world-noted lure of Monte Carlo.

The little country has a checked and interesting history. Its beginning goes to the days of Hercules, almost 1500 years before the birth of Christ. How paradoxical that this hero who accomplished well-nigh insurmountable obstacles by sheer physical labor should have been even the traditional founder of a state whose whole revenue is obtained from games of chance!

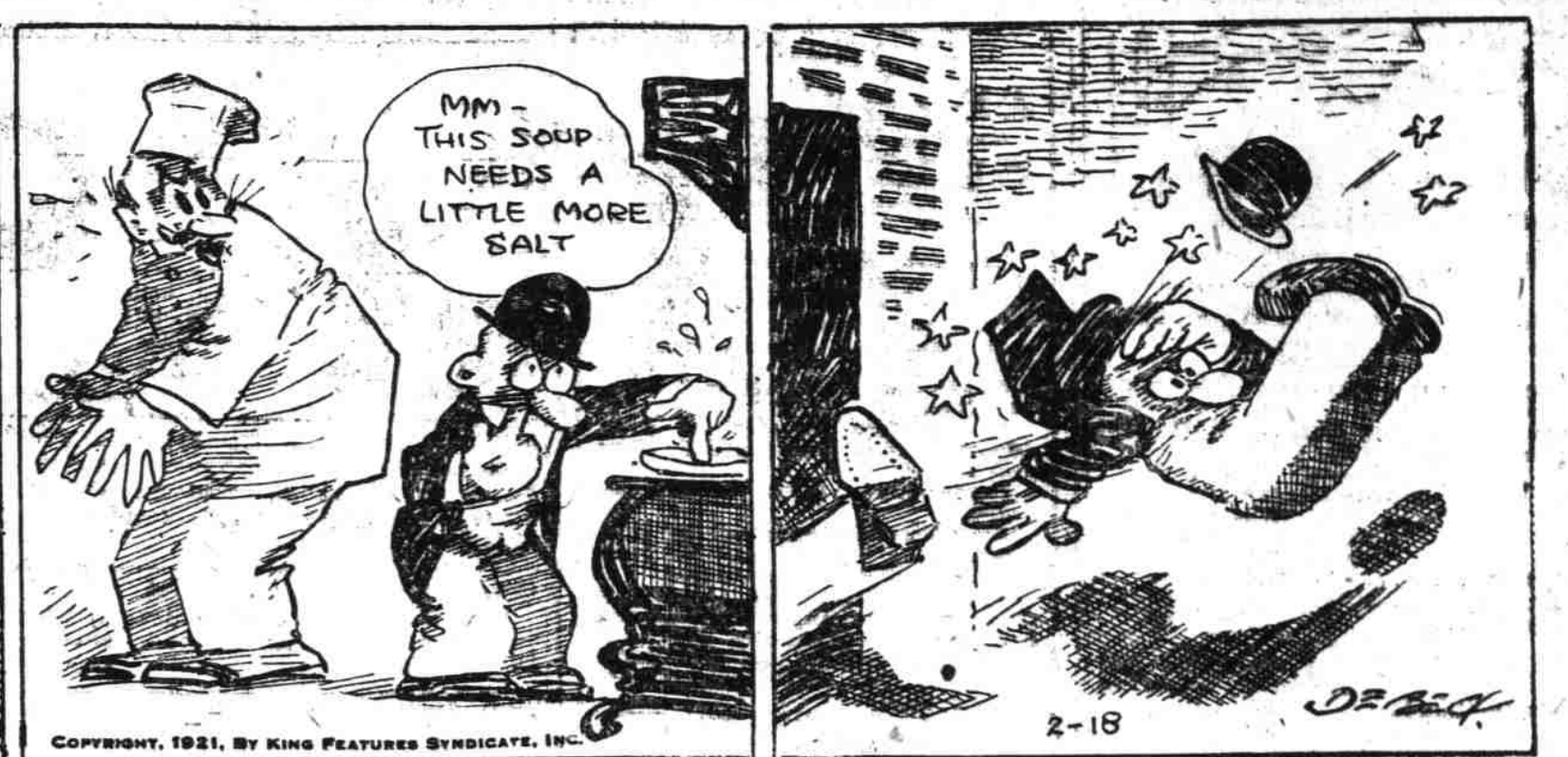
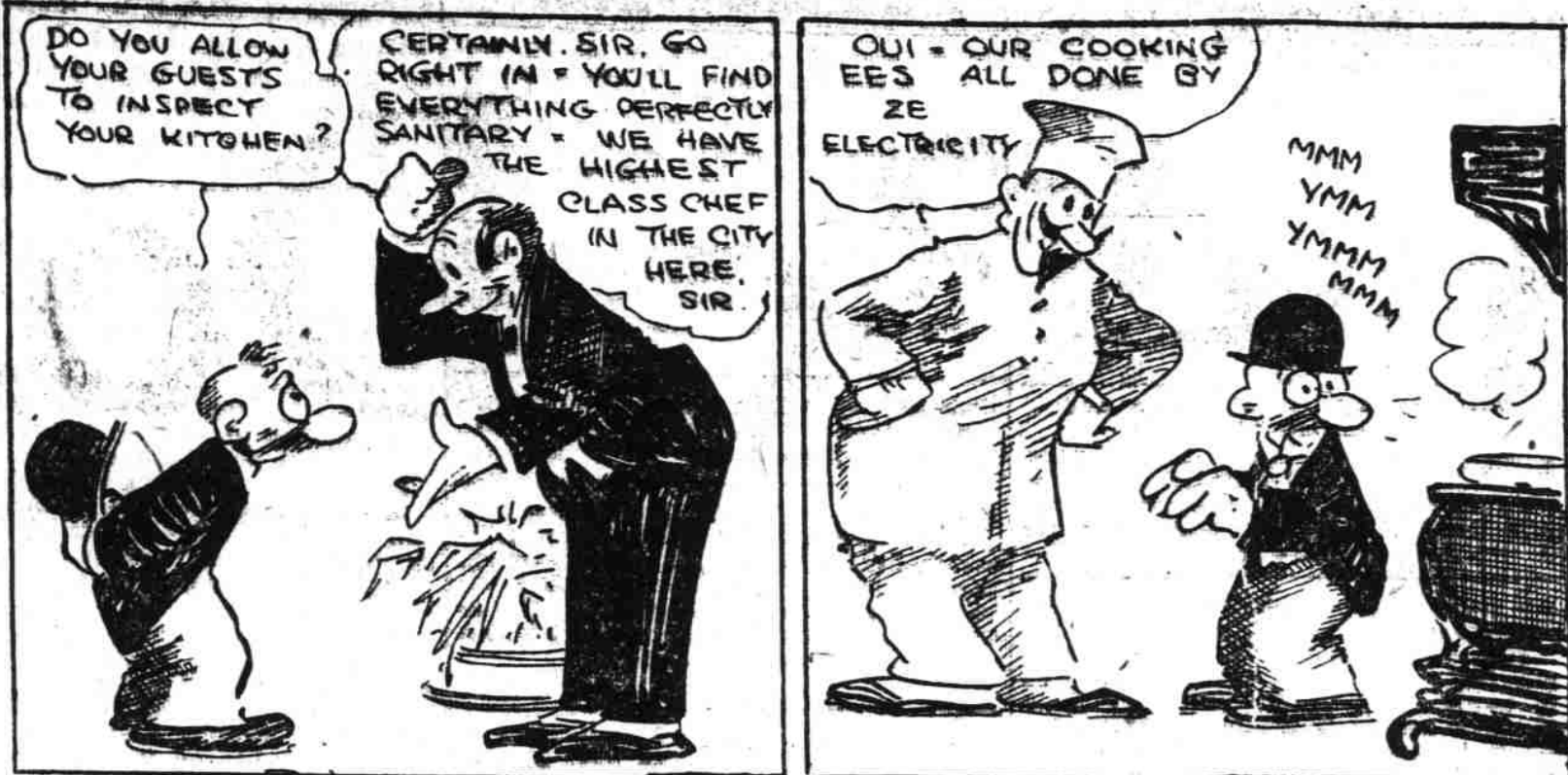
The historic the Great seems to have been the only one of the great European conquerors who gave the little country any respite from wars which continuously harassed it. And his charm as a man may have been the influence which gave the people he conquered their tolerance for those who risk their all on a gamble, for it is said of him that he had the most delightful manners at dice. If Theodoros, he laughs; he is modest and retiring if he wins!

Modern figures show that the industries and trade of Monaco are unimportant in comparison to its revenue from the gaming tables. During 1913 there were nearly two million visitors in the principality for its 28,000 population to take care of.

Until 1911 the prince of the country was an absolute ruler, but in that year he gave his subjects a constitution which provides for a national council elected by the people.

Monaco has a close second in diminutiveness, and a rival in the claim of age, in the independent republic of San Marino, which is the smallest republic in the world. Surrounded by Italy, which respects its autonomy, this republic rears its 38 square miles of territory to a point 2,500 feet above

BARNEY GOOGLE—And firing is done by foot.



sea-level. Its founder, San Marino, came from Arbo in the fourth century to aid the oppressed Christians build the stone walls of the city of Rimini. Born of his desire for peace, solitude and simplicity of living, these qualities have become thoroughly inculcated in its national character and for generations have been reflected in its history. The venerable saint taught his people that war should be resorted to only for self-defense.

"San Marino is governed by a great council of 60 members who are elected by popular vote. Two of these members are appointed every six months to act as regents, and in such capacity exercise the executive power. So tranquil is the little republic that it scarcely needs a police force—an atmosphere in contrast to that created by the frenzied and feverish players who sit at the tables in Monaco.

"The Lilliput republic under the joint suzerainty of France and the Spanish bishop of Urgel is Andorra. Its 191 square miles of valley almost 10,000 feet above the level of the sea, are tucked away in the heart of the Pyrenean mountains. It is governed by a council of 24 members elected by the heads of families in its six parishes. This council nominates a first syndicate which presides over its meetings and forms the country's executive department.

"It is said that this little portion of Spain, which is set down in the midst of French territory winks an eye at smuggling. In fact, it is claimed that

during the recent war its chief occupation was getting things across the border into France without duty. The inhabitants discussed the practice as freely as they would the weather. But when it is advisable for an Andorran to keep his own counsel, he can do it, for a proverb in the Pyrenees is 'Tell a thing to an Andorran and it is lost.'

"Another principality that jumped into public attention during the World War was Liechtenstein, whose 68 square miles of territory are surrounded by Switzerland and Austria. It declared its complete independence from the latter in November, 1918. This little country in the midst of a war-torn Europe is peacefully inclined. It has not had an army since 1886.

"There are two other diminutive political entities in Europe which still have a place on the map—the grand-duchy of Luxembourg, with its 999 square miles of territory between Belgium, France, and the allied zone of occupation on the Rhine, and Turkey-in-Europe, which is now nothing more than the environs to the west of Constantinople. Another state for many years classed among the 'smallest countries' is Montenegro which is now a part of the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. Before the Balkan war its area was 3,851 square miles."

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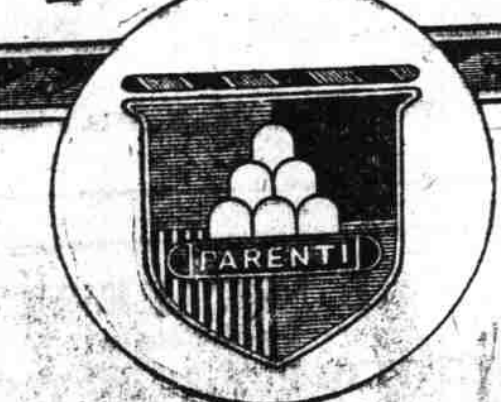
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