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RECULL 2017

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450 anys de Monteverdi

L'arquitectura de Josep Danés a Andorra





L'obesitat, avui

El Enclau de Sant Jordi, una colonia georgista en Andorra 1916-1938

American Single Taxers Invade Tiny Andorra

Fiske Warren Carries Their Gospel to the Republic Hidden for Twelve Centuries in the Pyrenees Between France and Spain

WHEN Andorra, the republic hidden in the Pyrenees and the world's oldest republic, in or out of hiding, has a history to be written the first chapter may be headed "Charlemagne," the second "Henry George." In all of the twelve centuries intervening so little happened that the Andorran have not yet seen fit to set up the first printing press to record it.

Perhaps the historian will decide to call his second chapter "When Fiske Warren came from Tabanto," for it is Fiske Warren, founder of the single tax colony of Tabanto in Massachusetts, who has taken the land gospel according to Henry George to this queer little sovereign State wedged into the mountains between France and Spain. And already the land which he has purchased in Santa Coloma and converted into a single tax enclave is talked about by the natives as they have talked about the footprints in their mountain rocks showing where Charlemagne fought and conquered the Moors twelve hundred years ago.

It was then that the history of their republic began. The pilgrim fathers of the new union were Catalonians driven from their homes and fields in Northern Spain into the mountains, where they found shelter in Andorra, the Valley of the Valira, so inaccessible, then as now, so apparently unlivable after getting to it, that only once did the Moors try to reach them there, and then Charlemagne came to the rescue. He saved them from the invaders, recognized their one hundred and seventy-five square miles of rock as an independent State and left it to take care of itself, which it has done ever since under the joint protection of France and Spain, but never with any political interference on the part of either of those countries.

The only tribute that Charlemagne levied was a tax of two trout a year from the Valira, merely as a token of gratitude, but there is no record that the fish were ever delivered. Perhaps the Parliament of farmers, wood cutters, and miners, to prove the absolute independence of their country, made a national game law prohibiting the catching

of Andorra trout for foreign monarchs. That, like everything else pertaining to the laws and history of the republic, is a matter of conjecture, for there has never been a Government printer. Such records as there are are laboriously hand written manuscripts kept under lock in the House of the Valley, that is, the national capitol, which looks very much like a grist mill in a New England village.

The natives never care to see these documents, partly because every one can read, partly because every one knows all the simple laws by heart, and the annals must never be shown to anybody from beyond the Valley because there is a tradition that records shown to a foreigner will disappear; in some miraculous way, not as souvenirs, for Andorra has never been in the tourist track and knows nothing about such things. But the railroad is coming from France around the east end of the Pyrenees; it would be there now if the great war had not stopped the work of construction. And the changes that will come with steam may make the third

chapter of the history of Andorra not such simple reading as the Charlemagne and Henry George sections.

Up to this moment, however, there has been no change in more than a thousand years. The republic is divided into six parishes with the same names and the same boundaries that they have had since the year 819. And each parish is divided into towns or quarters. There is a council of the quarter, a council of the parish, and the Grand Council of the Valley, which is the National Parliament. The twenty-four members of it, four from each parish, acquire upon election the title of Very Illustrious, but no man can be a Very Illustrious who is not also very industrious, actually engaged in some useful labor—cattle grazing, lumbering, farming or mining, and the like.

Furthermore, being a Very Illustrious does not exempt a man from doing his personal share of work to keep the mule tracks over the mountains passable. There are no carriage roads. Other essential qualifications for a candidate for the Parliament are that he must be 30 years old, temperate, entirely free from

The New York Times, April 16, 1916



Les novel·les valencianes de Blasco Ibáñez



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Els canvis que genera la teràpia
psicològica al cervell









Jean Luc Herbert
Andorra, estudi fotogràfic



Notes

Jean Luc Herbert
Andorra, estudi fotogràfic

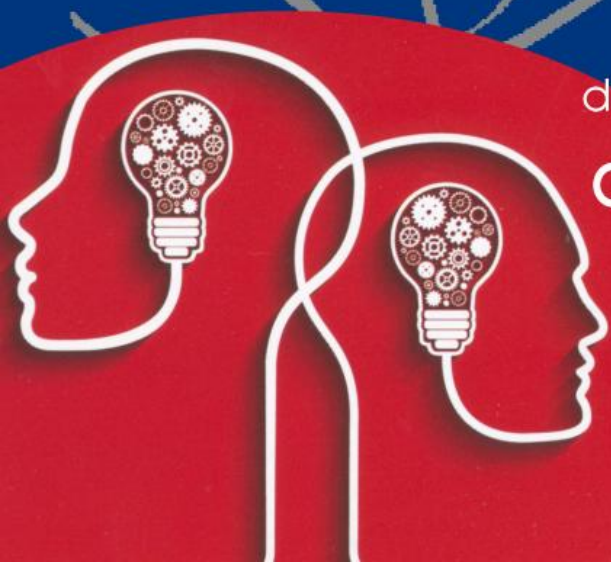
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