

was established by 925, and it survived for two hundred years, finally uniting with the Hapsburgs. The Serbian kingdom was founded in the eleventh century. It fell to the Turks in 1771, and it was not until 1878 that Serbia was again recognised as a separate kingdom.

The vicissitudes of the South Slav states are reflected in the town and villages and the customs, cultures and appearance of the peoples. The capital city of Belgrade is situated in a strategic position at the junction of the Danube and the Sava, and many times through the centuries it has been besieged and sacked. Zagreb, the chief town of Croatia, is a mixture of old and new. It has both modern flats and ancient baroque palaces. In the Bosnian town of Sarajevo one-third of the people still wear the fez or the veil. Dubrovnik, the Dalmatian commercial port on the Adriatic coast, with a great circle of walls and splendid palaces, rivals Venice for beauty, while the South Serbian town of Skoplje reflects an atmosphere of ancient Turkey. There are forty Mosques in the town and it is one of the few places where "infidels" are allowed to attend Moslem ceremonies.

About eighty per cent. of the Yugoslav population depend on agriculture and forestry. The chief crops are maize and wheat. There is much

mineral wealth. Coal, iron-ore, manganese, copper, lead, zinc, quicksilver, aluminium, antimony and gold are all found in quantity. Today, the conditions in Yugoslavia are appalling. War casualties, disease and starvation have taken over two million lives. Roads and railways have been destroyed.

Since 1941 both Serbs and Croats have fought with the Partisan army. To what extent they are willing to forget their former feuds is not yet clear to outside observers. Any prospect of a peaceful future for "Europe's most troubled area" will be viewed with satisfaction and relief by the whole civilised world.

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An advance note has been received from London of a newly published book, *Italo-Yugoslav Boundary* by B. A. Moodie. It deals fully with the geography and history of the Julian region and the delimitation of the Italian-Yugoslav boundary, and provides a fresh examination of the problems and effects of the peace treaties made after the First World War. There is a foreword by the Professor of Geography, University of London. Copies of the book will shortly be available for issue on loan through the ERS Book Request Service.

INNOCENTS ABROAD

A new reinforcement had just arrived at Trentham, and the men were on the parade ground for the first time. "Shun! About turn!" roared a sergeant. Then as he viewed a hopeless mix-up he went on: "As you were"! Most of them shuffled into the last position, but one private stood still. "You," snapped the sergeant. "I said 'As you were'!" "I heard you sergeant," replied the new Kiwi, "but how was I"?

A "Grim Dig" had recently returned home and was walking through a Wellington shop when he saw a salesman open a package of gaily-coloured pyjamas. "What're those!" he asked. "Pyjamas," the man told him. "Pyjamas! what are they for?" "Why, you wear them at night" the salesman explained: "want to buy a pair?" "Nothing doing" said the Dig. "I don't go anywhere at nights except to bed."