

LIECHTENSTEIN.

THE Principality of Liechtenstein, lying between the Austrian province of Vorarlberg and the Swiss cantons of St. Gallen and Graubünden, is a sovereign State consisting of the two counties of Schellenberg and Vaduz (formerly immediate fiefs of the Roman Empire). The former in 1699 and the latter in 1712 came into the possession of the house of Liechtenstein and, by diploma of January 23, 1719, granted by the Emperor Karl VI., the two lordships were constituted as the Principality of Liechtenstein. After the Treaty of Pressburg John I., who had succeeded his father, Aloys I., as seventh Prince in 1805, seceded from the Holy Roman Empire on July 12, 1806, and joined the Confederation of the Rhine under the Protectorate of the Emperor, Napoleon I., and after the fall of the French Empire joined the German Confederation June 8, 1815. He was succeeded in 1836 by his son, Aloys II., whose son, John II., in 1858 began his long reign, which lasted until 1929. This Prince, who was of age at his accession, saw the dissolution of the German Confederation in August, 1866, and thereafter maintained the political independence of the Principality.

The Reigning Prince is **Francis I.**, born August 28, 1853; married July 22, 1929, to Elisabeth (née Guttman) Bethlenfalva; succeeded his brother, February 11, 1929. The reigning family originated in the twelfth century, and traces its descent through free barons who in 1608 became princes of Liechtenstein. The monarchy is hereditary in the male line. The constitution, adopted in October, 1921, provides for a Diet of 15 members elected for four years by direct vote on the basis of universal suffrage and proportional representation. The capital and seat of Government is Vaduz (pop. 1,715). The principality has a High Court. Since February, 1921, Liechtenstein has had the Swiss currency, and since January, 1924, it has been included in the Swiss Customs Union; the posts and telegraphs are administered by Switzerland.

Area, 65 square miles; population, of German origin (Census 1930), 10,213; Catholics, 9,492; Protestants, 253. In 1936 there were 225 births, 65 marriages and 121 deaths. In 1936-37 there were 40 elementary schools and 21 continuation schools, with 1,799 pupils. Budget estimates for 1938: revenue, 2,187,800 francs; expenditure, 1,880,923 francs. Budget estimates for 1937: revenue, 1,900,700 francs; expenditure, 1,762,337 francs. Public debt on December 31, 1936, 3,901,063 francs. The inhabitants of Liechtenstein since 1867 have not been liable to military service. The Principality has no army (since 1868). The population is in great part agricultural, the chief products of the country being corn, wine, fruit, wood, and marble. The industries are cotton weaving and cotton spinning, leather goods, and pottery. The rearing of cattle, for which the fine alpine pastures are well suited, is highly developed.

Administrator.—Dr. Joseph Hoop (appointed August 4, 1928).

Books of Reference.

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