

LITHUANIA.

(LIETUVA.)

LITHUANIA became a Grand Duchy in the early part of the thirteenth century. In 1386 the Grand Duke Jogaila embraced Christianity and married the Polish Queen Hedvig, thus becoming King of Poland. During the reign of Vytautas (Vitold) the Great (1392-1430) Lithuania reached the zenith of her power and prosperity, her frontiers extending from the Baltic to the Black Sea. After the death of Vytautas the Great, Polish influence gradually increased in Lithuania, and in 1569 the Lithuanians were forced to sign a treaty of union with the Poles at Lublin, the Lithuanians retaining their own treasury, laws, courts of justice, administration and army. Both countries elected the same king and had a common Seim (parliament).

At the end of the eighteenth century Lithuania fell under Russian rule, until the Great War.

In 1917 a Lithuanian Conference of 214 representatives at Vilna elected a Lithuanian State Council (*Taryba*) and demanded the complete independence of Lithuania. The independence of the Lithuanian State was proclaimed on February 16, 1918.

On December 20, 1922, Lithuania received *de jure* recognition by the Great Powers. Russia had already accorded that recognition in the Treaty of Peace of July 12, 1920.

Under the agreement signed October 10, 1939, between Lithuania and Soviet Russia, the ancient Lithuanian capital Vilnius and a part of its territory (about 6,656 sq. kilometres, with a population of 457,500) returned to Lithuania. By this treaty of mutual assistance, Soviet Russia was granted air bases and facilities for maintaining troops in Lithuania, but the sovereign independence of Lithuania was safeguarded in the treaty.

On July 14, 1940, a general election was held, and on July 21 the new National Assembly unanimously voted in favour of the country becoming a Soviet Republic, and uniting with the U.S.S.R. On August 3 the Soviet parliament, by a unanimous vote, granted Lithuania's application to enter the Soviet Union as the sixteenth Soviet Republic of the Union.

For Lithuanian statistics, *see* under U.S.S.R.

LUXEMBURG.

Reigning Grand Duchess.—Charlotte, born January 23, 1896, was the daughter of William, Grand Duke of Luxemburg, Duke of Nassau (died February 25, 1912) and of Marie-Anne, Princess of Braganza, born July 13, 1861, succeeded on the abdication of her sister *Marie-Adelaide*, on January 9, 1919; married to Prince Felix of Bourbon-Parma on November 6, 1919. *Offspring*:—Prince *Jean*, born January 5, 1921, Princess *Elisabeth*, born December 22, 1922, Princess *Marie-Adelaide*, born May 21, 1924, Princess *Marie-Gabrielle*, born August 2, 1925, Prince *Charles*, born August 7, 1927, and Princess *Alix*, born August 24, 1929. Sisters of the Grand Duchess:—Princess *Marie-Adelaide*, born June 14, 1894, died January 24, 1924; Princess *Hilda*, born February 15, 1897; Princess *Antoinette*, born October 7, 1899; Princess *Elisabeth*, born March 7, 1901; Princess *Sophie*, born February 14, 1902.

The early history of Luxemburg may be divided into four periods, *viz.*, from 963 to 1443, when the country was part of the Holy Roman Empire; from 1443 to 1506, the Burgundian period; from 1506 to 1714, the Spanish