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## ANDORRA.

THE independence of the valleys of Andorra is of Carolingian origin. Their political status was regulated by the *Paréage* of 1278, according to which they were placed under the joint suzerainty of the Comte de Foix and of the Bishop of Urgel. The rights vested in the house of Foix passed by marriage to that of Béarn and, on the accession of Henri IV, to the French crown; they are now exercised by the President of the French Republic. The country consists of gorges, narrow valleys and defiles, surrounded by high mountain peaks of the Eastern Pyrenees. Its maximum length is 30 km. and its width 20 km.; it has an area of 465 square km. and a population of about 5,000, scattered in 6 villages. The surface of the country is rough and irregular, with an altitude varying between 880 and 1,800 metres. A 'General Council of the Valleys' submits motions and proposals to the Permanent Delegations. Its 24 members are elected for 4 years; half of the council is renewed every 2 years. The council nominates a First Syndic (*Syndic Procureur Général*) and a Second Syndic who must not be members of it.

Judicial power is exercised in civil matters in the first instance by 2 civil judges (*Bayles*), one appointed by the *Viguier* de France and the other by the bishop. There is a judge of appeal appointed alternately by each co-prince, and in the third instance (*Tercera Sala*) the supreme court of Andorra at Perpignan or the ecclesiastical court of the Bishop at Urgel. Criminal justice is administered by the *Tribunal des Corts*, consisting of the 2 *Viguiers*, the judge of appeal, the 2 *Bayles* and 2 members of the Council-General.

The valleys pay a bi-annual due of 960 francs to France and 460 pesetas to the bishop. The co-princes are represented in Andorra by the 'Viguier de France' and the 'Viguier Episcopal.' Each co-prince has set up a Permanent Delegation for Andorran affairs. A good road traverses the country, connecting the Spanish and French frontiers by way of Sant Julia, Andorre-la-Vieille, les Escaldes, Encamp, Canillo and Soldeu: it crosses the Col d'Envalira (2,400 metres). Another road connects Andorre-la-Vieille with Ordino. Catalan is the language spoken. French and Spanish currency are both in use.

*National flag*: blue, yellow, red (vertical).

Exports from the United Kingdom, 1938, £28; 1951, £7,464; 1952, £10,180; imports to the U.K., 1953, £25; re-exports, 1951, £1,333; 1952, £766; 1953, £1,096 (British Board of Trade returns).

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