WHAT KULTUR BROUGHT TO COUCY

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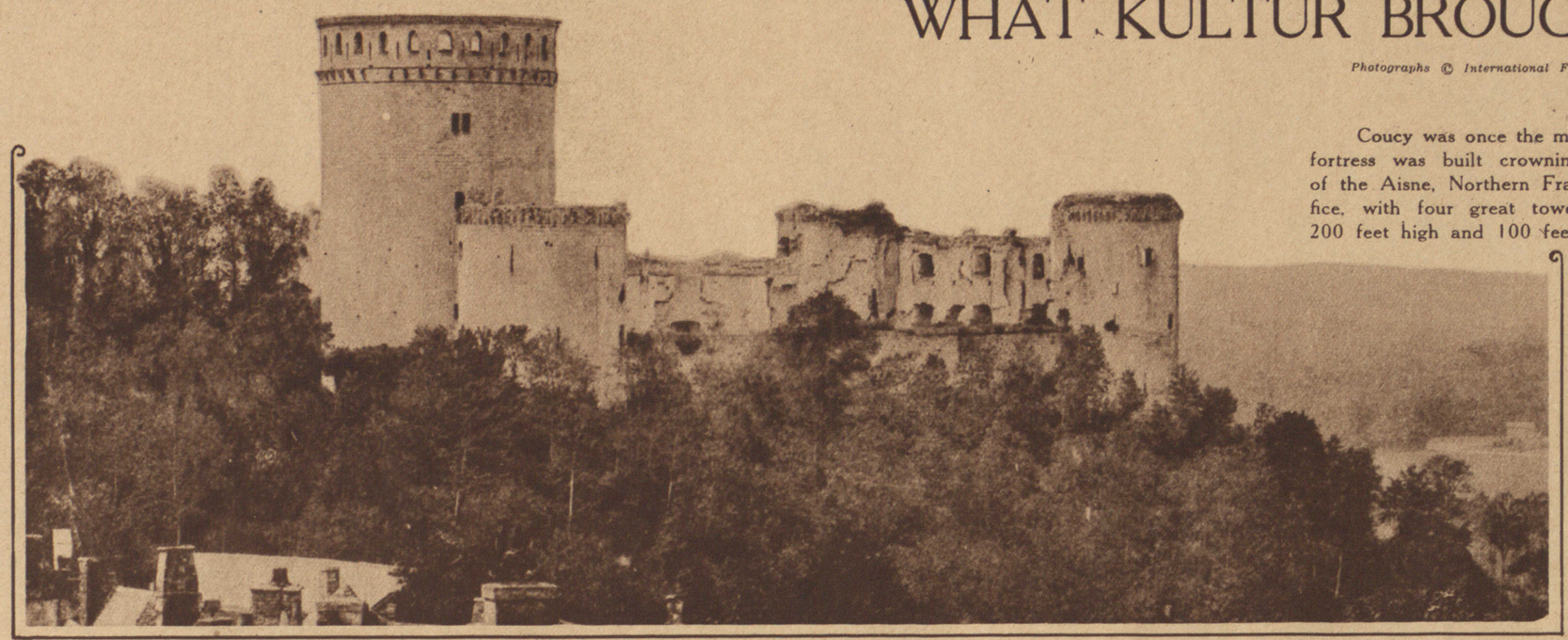
Coucy was once the mightiest stronghold in France. This magnificent feudal fortress was built crowning the eminence of a slope in the Department of the Aisne, Northern France, not far from Laon. It was a huge edifice, with four great towers. The strongest part was the donjon, over 200 feet high and 100 feet in diameter. Three large vaulted apartments, one above the other, occupied the interior. The architectural unity of the fortress was due to the rapidity of its construction, which took place between 1230 and 1242, under Enguerrand III, Lord of Coucy. A large part of the building was restored and enlarged at the end of the fourteenth century by Louis d'Orleans, by whom it had been purchased. The place was dismantled in 1672 by order of Cardinal Mazarin. In 1856 the French government ordered certain restorations as measures of preservation. What time and the hordes of the Middle Ages could not do, the Germans accomplished last year.

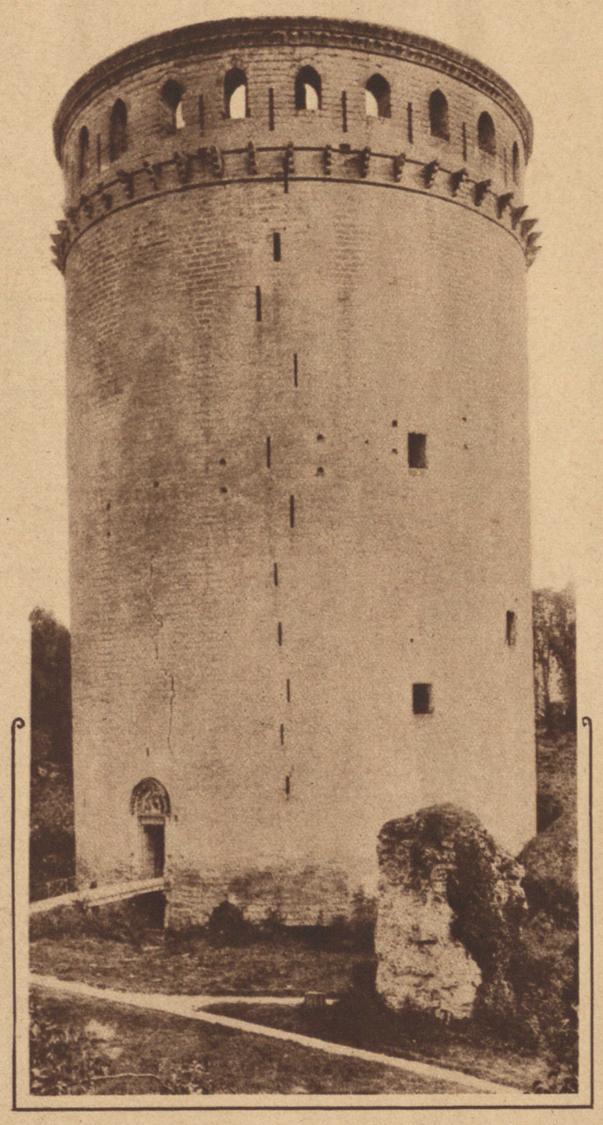


The chateau from the east.

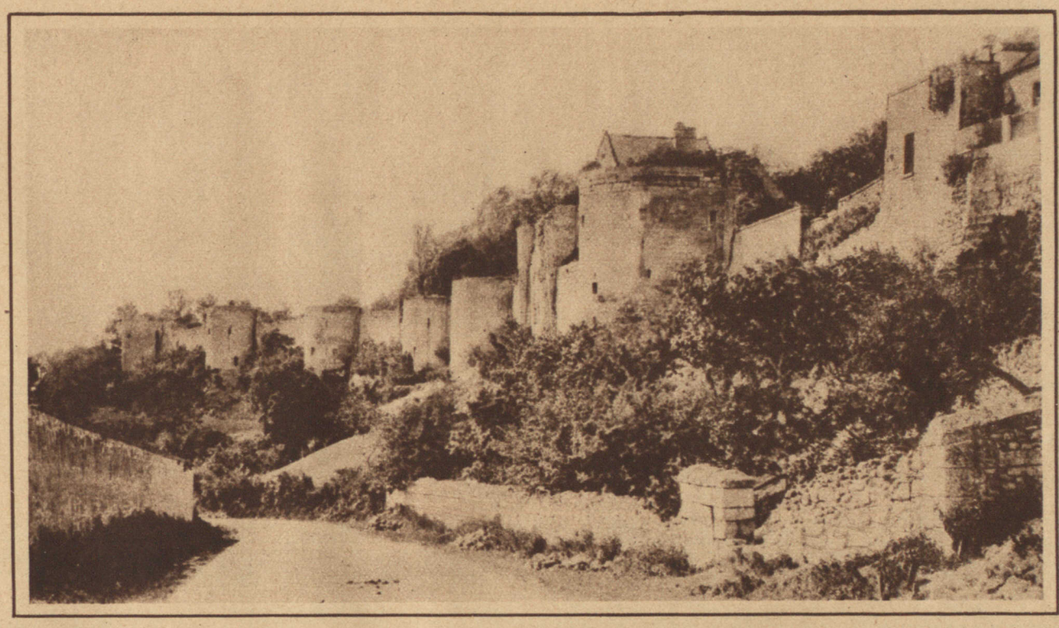
Coucy as it is to-day, seen from inside the walls, showing what remains of the famous towered donjon and the deep passages leading to it.

The ramparts of the chateau after the Germans left.

The donjon as it is to-day.



The donjon as it was.



The ramparts before the Germans came to Coucy.

The gate of the donjon as it was.

French officials of the Aisne district visiting the chateau after the Germans had moved out. What was left of the garden after the work of destruction had been completed.