

EMPERESS OF RUSSIA MOST UNHAPPY QUEEN



From time to time the press of Europe and America has recorded accounts of the ailments of the Russian empress. The Russian press even now that there is supposed to be no censorship in Russia, is forbidden to print anything concerning the imperial family aside from the official reports distributed by the official news bureau.

From the various fragmentary reports it has become known that the Czarina, who had come to Russia with lofty ideals and a liberal western education, is an invalid and a martyr, alone in the palace of the Czar, misunderstood and tormented with melancholy and despair.

Now a chronicler, intimately familiar with the home life of the Russian Czar, has described vividly the sufferings of the woman who had hoped to reform the Russian Czar. Princess Alice of Hesse-Darmstadt, according to the biographer of the Czarina, lived amid ideal and idyllic surroundings throughout her childhood. When the princess became the Czarina of Russia she came to the Russian land at a time when the people, exhausted by the burden of absolutism, were returning from the funeral of Alexander III, and were hopefully waiting for a more merciful reign on the part of the new Czar, Nicholas, who was reported at that time to be a liberal.

The first day of the new reign was marked by the Khodynka tragedy, when thousands of people lost their lives amid the festivities. The tragedy made a profound impression upon the Czarina. It seemed to her a foreboding of a terrible future.

One evening while she was at work in her study the Czar entered. By his voice she knew that he was in a happy frame of mind.

"Well, my dear," he said, "let me see how gifted people create their heavenly works."

"The things I am writing now do not satisfy me, either in contents or in form," she said.

"Never mind. Read anything you like, anything you consider your best," remarked the Czar.

"I like most of my work at the time I am writing it," answered the empress, "but after a while I feel dissatisfied."

"Well, read me some of your poems," begged the Czar. "I like poems when there is soul in them."

He took up one of her notebooks and looked at the empress.

Then he read aloud: "In the soul of every human being there is chaos in which all things are justified, good and evil and mercy and cruelty."

"That's pretty good," commented the Czar. He went on reading: "If we had enough courage we would have liberated ourselves and others from many vices, and we could have become as pure as children."

"Do you know," remarked the Czar, "I prefer poems. You see I feel somewhat tired and it is rather difficult to digest these heavy thoughts. Poetry is different—it is like music. Tra-la-la-la-la!"

The empress showed him some of her poems. In one of her lines she expressed a doubt that their life could continue long without a change. The emperor passed. He was displeased and angry.

"Well, that is my opinion," remarked the empress.

"Then you do not have sufficient self-respect!" he cried. "That is, I meant to say, you are too exacting. In other words, you must not forget that I—that we—that we. Do you understand me?"

The empress shuddered nervously. The Czar flung the book aside and rose. He left the room after a quarrel. She remained alone for a long time. And it was rumored in the palace that she was then planning to commit suicide.

SLANG OF A QUEEN SHOCKS THE NOBILITY

Queen Amalia of Portugal, who frequently visits the Countess of Grand (Beatrice Mills of New York) at Forbes House, and also lunches occasionally with Mrs. Anthony Drexel, is given to using English slang with most amusing effect. On arriving for luncheon at a time when after a hot spell there was a sudden cold, wet snap, she wore a black fox stole, which she kept on in the drawing-room. Count Mendorff, the Austrian ambassador; the Marquis de Soveral, formerly the Portuguese minister; Prince Christopher of Greece and several others were present. During a lull in the conversation the queen replied to some remark of her hostess about her furs, in these words: "Yes, I had to put them on again. It is so rottenly cold. But are they not beautiful? My maid had put them away for the summer in some stinking stuff. The small makes me sick."



A horrible pause ensued, and the conversation all over the room was assumed at a gallop.

CHEAT FATHER TIME

One Way of Doing It Is to Forget Birthdays.

After All, They Are Only Grim Reminders of Life's Milestones That Mark the Hard Pathway to the End.

With all the advice that we are getting these days on how to remain youthful and how to grow old gracefully and kindred topics relating to the common desire to cut the acquaintance of Father Time, it is gratifying to note that a few exceptional persons have really mastered the secret and can get along without expert advice, remarks the Providence Journal. The secret, after all, is not buried very deep. It consists mostly of the ability to forget, as far as possible, the annoying little matter of age. Any man is likely to stay comparatively young so long as he can succeed in actually forgetting how old he is.

Perhaps there are few who can really do this, but a case was reported in New York the other day. A man waited himself breezily into the office where they keep the vital statistics in storage and announced that he wanted to find out how old he was. He said that he had been so busy for twenty years or so that he had entirely lost track of his age. Now he was going to get married and he needed the information. He was not sure whether he was 41 or 48 years old, and he was both surprised and elated when the indisputable evidence of the records showed that he was only an even 40. "Guess this will please the lady," said he as he went out.

That illustrated the only true story of the way in which to cheat the advancing years. Keep busy! The life that is properly busy has no time to think about birthdays. The trouble is that nearly all of us establish the habit of thinking about birthdays in our juvenile years, when we are apt to count the passage of time somewhat impatiently, and it is hard to break the habit in later life, when the significance of a birthday impresses us with a reverse English. Our birthday gets into the minds of our relatives and intimate friends as a minor annual festival, an event to be celebrated with gifts and congratulations, and we are rounded up and forced to gaze regretfully at each milestone as we reach it with a crude attempt at a pleasant smile.

The joy-makers radiate their gloom with painful reminiscences and with such inept remarks as "Well, we're getting along." "Hair's getting kind of thin, George, ain't it?" "Only six more years to go and then you'll be 50!" "I must say, you hold your age pretty well." Many of the remarks are intended to be complimentary or consolatory, but somehow they convey a subtle sting. After one has reached a "certain age" there is apt to be the suspicion that a congratulatory utterance may be only a polite euphemism for "Get the book." The way to dodge these doubtful emotions is to keep busy, and sprinkle such things as birthdays liberally with a strong solution of oblivion.

Modern Towers of Babel. America is preeminently the land of the skyscrapers and New York city their special location, though Chicago is coming well to the front as a competitor. In no other spot in the world is space at such a premium as in New York. The land area is so small for the population and for the amount of business to be done that the real estate value is enormous, hence space must be utilized and as a result we have the skyscrapers. The Metropolitan Life Insurance building, on the southeast corner of Madison square at Twenty-third street, held supremacy in height till the erection of the Woolworth building. This huge campanile is 700 feet 3 inches high and has 59 stories, with two acres more of floor space than the latest marvel. The Singer building, at the corner of Broadway and Liberty street, has a total height from the basement floor to base of flag staff of 742 feet, the height from the street to the main roof being 612 feet 1 inch. It has forty-one stories and nine and one-half acres of floor space. The Bankers' Trust company building, at the corner of Wall and Nassau streets, is 539 feet high, and has 39 stories. The Times building, at Forty-second street and Broadway, is 419 feet high and has 25 stories.—The Christian Herald.

Evil in Athletics. Some of the big men in our navy have been making a study of the effects of athletics on the men in Uncle Sam's naval schools, and they say that spectacular and competitive athletics are bad for them. Too many of the men have serious after effects from the long, severe course of fitting themselves to lead in physical sports. Once the men are on the sea conditions are such that the system of exercises can not be kept up. The excessively developed muscles in the framework and vitals of these athletes tend to degenerate when exercises are left off. Leading athletes become too fat and actually lose strength from the muscles going backward instead of staying at a standstill.

Auto Experts Large. About 10,000 automobiles was the export record of the United States during the six months of the present year. With the accessories and parts this means \$12,000,000.

FIGHTING POPULATION GROWS.

There are in the United States today 20,473,684 men within the fighting age limit.

While the total population of the country has increased during the decade 21 per cent, males of militia age have, in the same period, increased 26.5 per cent, and as a consequence they constituted a somewhat greater proportion of the total population in 1910 than they did in 1900. Of the total population of both sexes and all ages in 1910, 22.3 per cent were males of militia age, the corresponding percentage for 1900 being 21.3.

The fact that males of militia age increased more rapidly than the total population is accounted for in part by immigration, which has been, during the last decade, to a greater degree than in earlier years, predominantly male. Among immigrants the proportion eighteen to forty-four years of age greatly exceeds the proportion in those ages among natives, and consequently the northern and western states to which immigrants chiefly go have, as compared with the southern states, a greater proportion of their population males of militia age.

The eastern divisions, however, lose some part of their adult male population by immigration westward, and an effect of this westward migration appears in the higher percentages shown for the states of the Rocky mountain and Pacific coast regions.

As compared with the general average noted above for the country as a whole, of 22.3 per cent, males of militia age in 1910 formed 22.8 per cent of the total population in the four northern divisions taken together, 35 per cent in the two far western divisions, and 19.9 per cent in the three southern divisions taken together. The percentages in the individual northern states are with few exceptions close to the average for the country as a whole; in the far western states they are generally above and in the southern states generally below the average.

Among the states the percentage for Wyoming is highest, males of militia age in 1910 constituting 37.4 per cent of the population. Other states with high percentages are Nevada, 35.9; Montana 33.8; Washington 29.8; Arizona 28.9; Oregon 28.3 and California 26; all of these states being in the Rocky mountain and Pacific coast regions. The percentage for North Carolina, 17.8, is the lowest.

Of the 20,473,684 males of militia age in 1910, 1,186,361 were in the single state of New York. Of the increase for the decade amounting to 4,290,922, nearly one-fourth, 1,074,424, was in the middle Atlantic division, comprising the states of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The male population of militia age in New York state increased 516,966, in Pennsylvania 333,702, in California 256,645, in Illinois 239,064, in Texas 206,753.

HAWAIIAN FORTIFICATIONS.

"With the completion of the fortifications at Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii, the islands will be so fortified that no foreign foe, in my opinion, could gain an entrance," said A. J. Connell, a lawyer of Honolulu, when in the city recently. "The work on these fortifications is progressing splendidly, and it will not be long before it is completed."

"I have heard frequently since coming to the states that the Japanese are leaving Hawaii. I failed to find in my ten years' residence there that the number of yellow men is decreasing to any great extent. There are more Japanese in Hawaii today than ever before, and it is true that most of the men have seen military service. They might not be termed 'trained soldiers,' but they are good fighting men, and if the Japs wanted to they could make a lot of trouble for the Americans in Hawaii. However, there apparently is no disposition on the part of the Japs to raise any row, and I have no apprehension that we need fear any trouble from the Japs. It is likely that the number of Japanese in Hawaii will decrease, for there are none coming in, and the disposition of the little people is to go back to their own country once they have acquired sufficient money on which to live. Five hundred dollars is pretty near a competency for the average Japanese family.

"It is astonishing how much interested the younger Japanese are in the English schools. They are eager to obtain an education, and following their hours in the public schools they spend some time in Japanese schools. We are getting most of our immigrants now from Portugal and Spain, and they make excellent laborers, particularly the former."

DID HIS DUTY.

Mounted Policeman Cullinane of the patrol police force, did clever detective work the other day. A suburban resident complained to Major Sylvester, superintendent of the police department, that bees were eating her grapes. Cullinane was asked to investigate. He went to the grape vines, saw the bees at work, went to a nearby store, got a pound of flour, returned and sprinkled it on the busy bees. One by one the bedecked bees flew away, going west. Cullinane mounted his horse and rode in the same direction. A half hour later he came upon a bee hive, a mile away, and upon examination found the flour and bees. The owner of the grapes was given the name of the owner of the bees. What action the former will take against the latter or her bees is not known. The police officer had done his duty.

TRUE AND FAITHFUL

"Laddie" a Perfect Example of the Shepherd Dog.

One of a Passing Type That Had Brains and Used Them—Belonged to Race That Is Now Fast Disappearing.

Laddie belonged to the race of old-fashioned collies or shepherd dogs now fast disappearing, remarks Our Dumb Animals. A writer in a recent magazine deplors the passing of these wonderfully sagacious and faithful collies, "since the advent of the modern sharp nosed show type, believing the old-fashioned collie one of the finest dogs that ever came to be the companion and helper of man."

Laddie was a fine example of this type, and in his seven years of devoted, delightful companionship and protection will always be remembered.

Laddie had the good fortune to live in the country, where, unlike his less happy brother of the city, so much hampered by the leash, he could enjoy with perfect freedom his greatest pleasure—a daily outing.

He disliked to ride and with almost human reasoning discriminated between the walking hats of his mistress and those worn when motoring for, without a word being said, at the sight of the former he would show his delight in every way possible; but when the motor hat was brought forth Laddie would give it one look and in the most dejected and disappointed manner walk away and hide until his mistress was out of sight.

True to his shepherd instincts, Laddie was always active in rounding up the family, especially at meal times, and if sent to bring a "straggler" he would search out the delinquent, take a little nip at the sleeve and gently pull, as if to say, "Dinner is ready! Why don't you come?"

Laddie knew Sundays from week days and could tell the time of day. When the old clock on the stair struck 6 in the morning he would walk into his master's room and put his head on the bed. At night, when the clock struck 10, the hour for the evening walk, he sought his master and used all his gentle arts to remind him of his duty. Once, when falling with the usual hints, he brought his master's glove and laid it on his lap, which act, very properly, had the desired effect.

Laddie preferred those who were mild of voice and manner; yet, while strongly showing his affection for those he loved best, he was too truly a gentleman to show decidedly his dislikes. The single exception was the garbage man and his dog.

No sleep of Laddie's was too deep to prevent him knowing when anybody left the house. He was dependable. He minded on the instant and was always where you expected to find him, a valuable trait and one that made his absence all the more keenly felt, when his home knew him no more.

Prussic Acid in Plants.

The remarkable fact that considerable quantities of free prussic acid are accumulated in the living tissues of certain plants was observed by the late Dr. M. Treub, and there appears to be little doubt that this poisonous acid is actually utilized as food material by these plants. Some interesting details concerning the occurrence and function of prussic acid in the cherry laurel are given by Peche, who concludes from his observations that the prussic acid found in the leaves and other organs is produced as a direct result of carbon assimilation in the green leaf cells when exposed to light, and that it is not merely a product of the hydrolysis of glucosides. Peche found evidence that while part of the prussic acid enters into the building up of glucosides, some of it is transported in a labile form, probably in loose combination with a tannin, and is stored up in various tissues as a reserve food.—Nature.

Impressed on His Memory.

The way some of the boxing clubs are crowded with people these nights causes uneasiness to many, even though there are firemen always on the scene. "Do you ever think about the Iroquois theater fire?" a newspaper man asked Eddie Foy not long ago. "You bet I do, when I get in a place like this," replied the comedian, who is, by the way, an ardent devotee of the flitic sport. "I seldom get in a crowded hall but that I peel my eyes for the red lights over the fire escape doors. The Iroquois fire's a long time back, but a man who saw that can never forget it." Foy was on the stage when the tragic Chicago theater fire broke out.—New York Tribune.

Old Scientist Raps Eugenics.

Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, like many others, does not approve of any of the "modern eugenic heresies that are being advocated." The aged scientist (Dr. Wallace is in his ninetieth year) feels a little sore on the point because he has been referred to as spending the evening of his days in furthering the teaching of eugenics. "Wherever did I advocate any such preposterous theories?" Dr. Wallace asked scornfully. "Not a reference to any of my writings; not a word is quoted in justification of this scientific libel. Why, never by word or deed have I given the slightest countenance to eugenics."—London Dispatch to New York Sun.

MME. CAMILLE DU GAST TO VISIT UNITED STATES

France's most versatile widow, Mme. Camille du Gast, has again covered herself with political and philanthropic glory by carrying to a successful issue a difficult mission in Morocco, entrusted to her by the ministry of foreign affairs and the ministry of agriculture.



Mme. Du Gast is the tallest and one of the richest and most accomplished widows in Paris. Unlike most French women she is quite blonde, with a hint of Titian red in her hair. Though not in the flush of youth, she returns from her trip in Morocco with the bloom of health and vigor fresh upon her.

Mme. du Gast is the widow of the former partner of Dufayel, one of the richest merchants in Paris and the owner of one of the few private residences in the City of Light which tourists and natives alike go to see.

Mme. du Gast has been a widow for fully a score of years, during which time her heart and hand have been vainly sought by the first nobles of France. Among other aspirants was the Duke de Talleyrand, then Prince de Sagan. On one occasion the Duke chastised an unchivalrous judge who made inappropriate remarks about a masked portrait of Mme. du Gast.

It is a moot question whether Mme. du Gast or the Countess de Bearx ranks first among the wealthiest of Paris widows, but the former has the most tenants. For on her rent roll there are the names of 400.

She is a woman of many accomplishments and is the best amateur pianist in Paris. Presently she is to tour the United States.

A strong advocate of an entente cordiale between the two republics, Mme. du Gast believes the best way to develop it is by social, musical, literary, scientific and commercial intercourse.

She was born in Paris and is president of the Society of Native-Born Parisians. Once a month this society gives a dinner at which Mme. du Gast presides. On these occasions typical Parisian wit, which has the finest flavor in the world, may be heard. The recent visit of Mme. du Gast to Morocco was not her first. Two years ago, when M. Piebon was minister of foreign affairs, she visited that interesting country.

She saw the Sultan, gave him gifts from France and accepted the safe-conduct of his bodyguard. When she returned to Paris a book of hers on Morocco was published from the government printing presses.

Her recent trip was not devoid of adventure. She and her companion were about to be made prisoners by a Moorish band when Caid Al Floss and Guellough came upon the scene. Recognizing the great Frenchwoman, they not only prevented her capture, but chivalrously loaded her with gifts.

Mme. du Gast has brought back with her many studies of flora and fauna and of the industrial resources of Morocco; also wild animals that will be added to the collections of the Zoological gardens of Paris—the Jardin des Plantes and the Jardin d'Acclimation.

That there has been a political and diplomatic side to Mme. du Gast's visit everyone knows, but its precise nature is secret. She is quite friendly with the present Sultan of Morocco and her visit helps greatly to smooth the rocky road of the French protectorate.

QUEEN OF SWEDEN'S GRANDSON AMBITIOUS

To many visitors to the Swedish capital during the Olympic games the simplicity of life of the Swedish royal family came as a revelation. Yet, while their habits are democratic, they are all imbued with enthusiasm for the army, and all are attached to one or more regiments.



The queen herself sets the example by acting as honorary commanding officer of the Thirty-fourth Pommeranian Fusiliers, whose uniform she dons on ceremonial occasions.

Not only are her sons and brothers-in-law equally prominent in encouraging Swedish military ardor, but the crown prince's eldest son, Prince Gustave, though only six years old, is the merry honorary lieutenant of a cavalry regiment and is ambitious already to become commander-in-chief of the army.

The military tendency in his case is hereditary on both sides, for his mother is the elder daughter of the Duke of Connaught and tremendously popular in Sweden. Her second son, little Prince Sigvard, aged five, also has military aspirations.

Just as England is ever haunted by the specter of a German invasion, so many Scandinavians believe that if Sweden's army comes to a clash it will be with the forces of the Czar, bent on making an outlet for Russia on the open Atlantic. But this fact does not minimize the popularity of the Russian wife of the queen's second son, Prince Charles Wilhelm.

CROP INCREASE BIG

Total Value in U. S. in 1899 and 1909 Compared.

Advance in Cereal Production Shows Only 1.7 Per Cent, While the Rise in Cost is About 79.8 Per Cent.

Washington.—The total value of the crops of continental United States in 1899 was, in round numbers, \$5,487,000,000, as compared with \$2,999,999,000 in 1899. The increase was thus \$2,487,000,000 or 45 per cent, according to a statement issued today by H. Dana Durand, director of the bureau of the census, department of commerce and labor. The tabulations showing these total results were carried on in the agricultural division of the bureau of the census, under the supervision of L. G. Powers, former chief statistician, and J. L. Coulter, expert statistician. The census has made no attempt to ascertain the total net value of farm products for 1909, including both that of crops and animal products. Merely to add the value of these two groups of products together would involve extensive duplication, since large quantities of the crops reported are fed to the animals on the farms and reported later as live stock products. It is impossible to ascertain accurately the amount of such duplication, and the attempt to do so, which was made at the twelfth census, was not considered satisfactory. For this reason the relative importance of crops as a factor in the agricultural production of the United States cannot be determined precisely.

A large part of the extraordinary increase in the total value of farm crops between 1899 and 1909 is attributable to higher prices. This might be inferred from the fact that, while the acreage of crops with average reports increased only 9.9 per cent, the value of such crops increased 82 per cent. It also appears by comparing the percentages of increase in the quantity of the various individual crops with the percentage of increase in the value. Thus, for all cereals taken together, the production increased only 1.7 per cent, while the value increased 79.8 per cent; for hay and forage the production increased 23 per cent, and the value 70.3 per cent, and for cotton (not counting cotton seed) the production increased 11.7 per cent, and the value 117.3 per cent. A more precise calculation of the average increase in unit values of crops has, however, been made by the census bureau.

For the individual crops for which both quantity produced and value were reported at both censuses, the average value per unit in 1899 was computed and this was multiplied into the quantity produced in 1909, thus showing the total value which would have been reported for each crop in 1909 if the acreage value per unit had been the same as ten years earlier. For certain crops the values were not reported separately in 1899, and for certain other crops quantities were not reported at either census, but the analysis covers nine-tenths of the crops of the country as measured by value.

The total reported value of the crops covered by the computation in 1899 was \$2,999,979,000 and the total reported value of the same crops in 1909 was \$4,324,490,000, an increase of \$2.3 per cent. Had the prices of 1899 prevailed, however, the value of these crops in 1909 would have amounted to \$2,972,358,000, or an increase of only 10 per cent over 1899. The difference between \$2,972,358,000 and \$4,324,490,000, or \$1,352,132,000, represents the amount added to the value of these crops in 1909 by reason of increase in prices over those of 1899, the average percentage of increase in prices being thus 66.6.

The figure just given, 10 per cent, as representing the excess of the value of the crops of 1909, on the basis of 1899 values, over the values of the same crops in 1899, is virtually a consolidated expression of the general increase in the quantity of crops produced. Covering, as it does, nine-tenths of the crops of the country, it may properly be compared with the increase of 21 per cent in the population of the United States between 1890 and 1910. As earlier statement showed that the increase in the number of farms from 1906 to 1910 was 10.9 per cent, and the increase in the rural population, which includes places under 2,500, in addition to the agricultural population, was 11.2 per cent, the increase in urban population being 24.3 per cent.

FILIPINO WORK EXHIBITED.

An exhibition of industrial methods from Philippine schools, prepared by the bureau of insular affairs, has been loaned to the public library of the District of Columbia, and is now set out for public view.

The work done by boys and girls of the public schools, shown in the exhibit, is their regular class room work. The idea of the school authorities in the Philippines is to make every boy and girl who completes even the primary course of study, an effective factor in the commercial affairs of the community.

Included in the exhibit is some of the finest embroidery, which was turned out by the pupils of the primary schools. The display of baskets, mats and hats shows conclusively that the pupils are able to make commercial products, as these articles are in every way equal to those made in factories.