

RUSSIA HAS ITS FIRST CONSTITUTIONAL RULER; GRAND DUKE MICHAEL BECOMES REGENT

RUSSIA'S REGENT IS GREAT LIBERAL Grand Duke Was Banished for Marrying Beneath His Station

HAD A STORMY CAREER

The talents, inclinations and capacities of the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, the new regent, have been obscured, or rather have had no opportunity to become known, by reason of the personal affairs which resulted a little more than four years ago in his being forced into exile in England.

He was born at St. Petersburg, November 22, 1878, and therefore ten years younger than the czar, three years younger than his sister Xenia, now married to Alexander Michailovitch, and four years older than the Grand Duke Nicholas, who married Duke Peter of Oldenburg.

OPPOSED TO AUTOCRACY In his early life he received the ordinary education of an imperial prince, and, as usual with imperial princes, is reported to have manifested strongly democratic tendencies. His character, however, does not seem to have made a very definite impression on the court circle, either because of his easy-going disposition or because he was not in sympathy with the mystical and autocratic tendencies dominant in his family.

Aside from representing the Emperor at royal weddings, royal funerals and other similar occasions, he did not come into prominence, particularly after the birth of the Czar's heir, Alexis, made him only the heir presumptive, until 1908, when there was much scandal in Petrograd over the report that he had fallen in love with the daughter of a member of the landed aristocracy of the southern Russia, and had been visiting her family incognito.

This affair, which was generally believed to be his first serious entanglement of the sort despite the frequent rumors that he was about to be engaged to one or another princess, was not a very definite manifestation of imperial displeasure. But it was hardly two years before he became involved in another and more serious one, which led ultimately to his marriage.

MARRIED YEMMA FROM MOSCOW

Natalie Sergeyevna Scheremetevskaya was the daughter of a Moscow nobleman who had been married to a woman named Mamontoff. Early in 1910 it began to be whispered that her recent divorce from Mamontoff had been motivated by a love affair with a student named Michael Alexandrovitch, and that the marriage with Captain von Wolfert, a young guard officer, which followed almost immediately, was an arrangement in name only, designed to cover the continuation of the imperial connection.

For more than a year the Emperor's feelings did not become publicly manifest, but in January, 1913, he issued a decree relieving his brother of the command of the army and to appoint a regent designate during the minority of the Czar's heir.

"RED SUNDAY" SPELLED RUIN FOR THE CZAR

Massacre of Russian People in 1905 Caused Distrust of Ruler

LOST GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Once in every man's life, so it has been said, comes a great opportunity. To Czar Nicholas II the great opportunity came on July 22, 1904. He was not equal to it. Instead of proclaiming a new era of liberty for Russia, he called on his Cossacks. There was a great massacre in St. Petersburg, and history was called upon to record what had been known through the ages as "Red Sunday."

For Nicholas II "Red Sunday" was the beginning of the end. The revolutionary movement, which started in 1901 with the assassination of Rogolev, the Minister of Education, by a student, had become threatening through the unbroken series of disasters which marked Russia's war with Japan. By the middle of 1904 there came riots, strikes and political outbreaks, and the people began to demand a new constitution. Voino, the Minister of the Interior, was assassinated. The successor of Von Plehve, the Prince Sviatopolk-Mirski, was of liberal tendencies, and the people began to hope that in popular support for the prosecution of the war the bureaucracy would grant them civil liberty.

In November, delegates from the zemstvos or municipal councils, held a secret meeting in St. Petersburg, and finally submitted a report to the czar, warning him that his bureaucratic administration had had touch with the people and asking for a speech, free press and civil and religious liberty. Again in December a chamber petition was presented, virtually demanding that a legislative assembly of two houses be formed.

Meanwhile there were strikes in the Government iron works and other disturbances in St. Petersburg and other cities. The leader of the workmen was Father Gapon, a priest. With the consent of the Government he had begun to organize labor to march to the workingmen away from the agitators.

CHRONOLOGY OF RUSSIA'S TRANSITION FROM AUTOCRACY TO DEMOCRACY

MARCH 8 (Thursday)—Shortage of bread caused unrest among workmen. Strikes declared at various munitions factories. First raid by hungry people on food shops.

March 9 (Friday)—Petrograd streets under guard of mounted police. Minor outbreaks when hungry people broke into bread stores and were dispersed by the police. People and some troops from Petrograd garrison visibly half-hearted in suppression of disorders. In many cases blank cartridges were fired on mobs now steadily increasing. Cavalry regiments were ordered to clear streets.

March 10 (Saturday)—Crowd increased. Government officials finally alarmed and ordered troops to fire into the solid masses in Nevsky Prospect. Troops drawn up with machine guns flatly refused to carry out massacre. Officials replaced them with police known to have no compunctions. Fired several volleys. First general clash followed. The czar ordered Duma dissolved. It was apparent he had determined on stern repression again.

March 11 (Sunday)—Widespread clashes all Saturday night and Sunday culminated in first big break in Government's forces. Russian regiment of Petrograd garrison revolted when officers demanded they open fire on hungry people. Another joined later. Four more came over late at night. These forces combined and took the strong fortress of St. Peter and Paul after a brief battle. Success led to other wholesale mutinies of troops with bloody scenes as the troops killed officers or overwhelmed the small number still loyal to czar. Troops marched in force against police and defeated them in bloody street fight. First day of organized revolt.

March 12 (Monday)—Street fighting continued unabated, but in afternoon tide of battle turned in favor of revolutionists. With dramatic swiftness a Government regiment opposing revolutionists fighting for people suddenly left barricades and joined revolution. Desertion spirit swept whole line. Troops joined within an hour nearly all of Petrograd in hands of revolutionists. Immediately Duma reformed, Manifestoes issued. Czar was apprised that the people would now rule. Imperial Ministry resigned. New Cabinet named by revolutionists. Really the second day of revolution with organized control by those seeking overthrow of old regime. At night the troops, now organized, made vigorous assault on the few Government buildings held by czar.

March 13 (Tuesday)—Early in the morning remnant of Government forces and officials surrendered. Ministers arrested. President Rodzianko, of Duma, sent final appeal to czar demanding immediate reform measures. Revolutionists assumed full control of governmental machinery.

WASHINGTON REGARDS RUSSIAN REVOLUTION AS OF BENEFIT TO ENTENTE ALLIES

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Kaleidoscope changes in world affairs now in process set may seriously affect the future of the United States, officials admitted today. The next few weeks must be fraught with momentous happenings, they say, which may force radical action at a dozen points by this Government.

Administration officials are seriously concerned with the outlook. They hope, for the best, of course, but are leaving nothing undone to protect the interests of the United States. Naturally, developments in the Russian revolution were today overhauling all else. Officials were inclined to believe that the outcome there will be beneficial to the cause of the Entente nations. They asserted that for the first time in generations the Russian throne is in the hands of a man whose Government, Monarchical and aristocratic corruption and degeneracy have overreached themselves, officials say, and Russia has finally overthrown absolutism.

It is believed here that with the advent of the new Duma and the representatives of liberal thought in Russia there will be a general resumption of the offensive against Germany. This offensive, officials report, reaching here during the last two months have pointed out, has been held back by inefficiency—and possibly corruption—on the part of certain Russian leaders. These men now have been relegated to obscurity. Some of them are in the hands of court-martial and death. And it is expected that in their places will be brought forward competent officers who will lead.

In this very connection it is recalled that only a very short time ago experienced Japanese soldiers, who had been detailed to train the Russian units, were forced out of the service by the direct orders of Czar Nicholas. With him deposed, these officers report, are ready to return to their former posts. Administration officials are in control of the revolution in Russia and the parliamentary crisis in France will lead to a breaking down of the solidarity of the Entente nations, they expect. They expect that the war will continue for some time, with the exception that Russia will prove more powerful.

U. S. FAVORS REVOLUTION PRINCE KRAPOTKIN, FORTY YEARS AN EXILE, TO RETURN TO RUSSIA

BRIGHTON, Eng., March 16.—Forty years' banishment from Russia did not dim the joy today of Prince Krapotkin in the prospect once again of "going home" under a government which would make all peoples equal in control.

It was a joyful interview which the seventy-five-year-old self-professed anarchist accorded your representative here, in the presence of his equally jubilant wife and children, as they gathered about him in his enforced absence from his native Russia, which started when he cast his lot with the workmen. "I hope this means Russia will follow the example of America and give full freedom to the people," he declared. "Autocracy has now finally come to its end after fifty years' struggle. A new era of progress has opened."

"This is the happiest day of our lives," interjected the Princess. "Perhaps," she added with a sigh, "we will now return to Russia."

"I said a new era of progress was opened for Russia," the Prince continued. "A nation united with the army is sure to win the war. Free Russia will help the German nation get rid of the Hohenzollerns."

"Russia, freed from German pressure, is sure to recognize an independent Poland—not Poland governed by a monarch, but a really independent Poland."

"I believe the Russian people will point the way for the German people. The latter are kept fighting by a manufactured fear of the menace of Russian aristocracy."

"I wonder," interrupted the Princess again. "If Bethmann-Hotweg knew what men high up in the favoritism of the czar and Czarina, but devoid of intellectual ability. Since the revolt of 1905 the present powers of Russia have been unable to meet the industrial, political and economic problems of the country."

"Those who know Russia realize that there are three forces in the unhappy country—the Reactionaries or those close to the czar; the combination of landlords, capitalists and ministers who combine to form the Liberalism; and, third, the people. The Liberals wanted, and still want, to establish a constitutional monarchy; they want the war to continue because, having great ability, and they want Constantinople opened because a port to the south would be of personal commercial worth to them."

"But it was the people, the workers and the peasants, who fought hardest against the war, and the war and who wanted and still strive to establish a democratic republic. It was the people who started the present revolution. The Liberals, once the revolution had been started, fell in with the revolution."

"The Russian people are opposed to war and to militarism, but they believe that their own success as revolutionists will mean revolution on the part of the German people. They hope and believe that the coming of a democratic republic, a revolutionary people, Russian and German, a combination that by its very force and weight will compel the militarists of Europe's warring nations to cease their

REVOLT OF RUSSIA PURSUING POLITICAL OVERTHROW OF MONARCHY A DEMAND FOR REPRESENTATIVE RULE

Overthrow of Monarchy a Demand for Representative Rule

BLOW AT PRO-GERMANS

By SAMUEL N. HARPER Professor of Russian Language, Literature and History at the University of Chicago. (Written for the United Press.)

CHICAGO, March 16.—The Russian coup d'etat is the logical culmination of the political situation of these last few months. In November last, when the Duma convened, a complete change of the Government system was demanded. The revolution of 1905 shows again its inefficiency, this time in connection with the distribution of the food supply of the country. The Government was actively engaged in a premature conference of the organizations working to support the army and to solve the many problems raised by the war. And finally some members of the Government were suspected of pro-Germanism.

It was not considered possible for a moment that Russia would betray her allies, but it was realized that the then Prime Minister, Sturmer, might put his influence forward for a premature conference of the belligerents, such as Germany did, in fact, later propose.

On these grounds the Duma demanded a responsible government. Ministers responsible to the representative bodies. This demand was supported by the upper house of the Russian Parliament, half of whose members are appointed by the czar. Behind the Duma were these public organizations in which all classes were represented—land owners, peasants, members of the Liberal professions, manufacturers and workmen—in fact, the Russian people.

A few days after the Duma had issued its ultimatum the Ministers of War and of the Navy addressed the Duma reporting upon the work of their departments, praising the heroic traditions and valor of the army and the navy, and were working for the support of the army and stating that there must be co-operation between Duma and Government. A few days later the Prime Minister resigned.

The new Prime Minister appointed at the outbreak of the revolution was Stolpin. He tried to rid himself of colleagues in whom neither he nor the Duma had confidence. He failed, however, and was dismissed. Frank Gorky, a revolutionary Minister, was appointed, and those members of the Government whose names had been mentioned in the pro-German intrigue were retained in office. The date for the reopening of the Duma was fixed for February 27. It declared that the new Government did not represent responsible government. In the meantime the food situation in the large urban centers had become a breaking point. Then came the edict dissolving the Duma. After trying moral pressure to no purpose, the Duma had to resort to revolutionary means.

The movement is a purely political revolution with the single aim of establishing responsible government. The Duma leaders will be able to hold the confidence of the people, for they are acting in accordance with the demands of the masses, as voiced by the all-comprehensive public organizations mentioned above.

The same organizations have made it possible to bring off this revolution rapidly and without much violence.

The Duma is supported by the army, for the public opinion has been through the work of the public organizations, the presidents of which are among Duma leaders. The fact that the army is behind the Duma accounts for the fact that this revolution was attended by a minimum of disorder.

The revolution is political but not anti-dynastic. Every effort was made to convince the Emperor that he could safely remain on the throne, and that the people were loyal to him and would support the war, but it seemed impossible to gain his ear. Constitutional government was the demand of the Duma, and is the object of the revolution. The monarchic idea is firmly established in Russia, and the movement was directed not against the ruling dynasty but against the irresponsible Ministers who were either deceiving or at least giving bad counsel to the Emperor.

Finally the aim of the movement and its justification is to secure conditions which will make it possible for Russia to put forward all her strength for the successful prosecution of the war.

Last summer leaders of the Duma said to me: "Perhaps we will have to have a revolution before we win the war." These same leaders say now and admitted the danger of any such move.

But they have realized that the move had to be made, and they, also, it is now clear, saw that it could be concluded quickly and effectively without weakening Russia, from the military point of view.

OPINION HERE DIVIDED ON RUSSIAN SITUATION

Varying opinions on the Russian revolution are held by Philadelphia citizens conversant with the peculiar conditions existing in the Russian Empire. Dr. Henry Golden, of 1722 South Broad street, one of the small group of Russian-Americans in this city, said that the belief of the Russian people in the divine attributes of the czar would be a great hindrance to a constitutional form of monarchy.

"With the divine idea abolished, the rest will be comparatively easy. At the same time the masses in Russia are so ignorant that it will take some time for them to comprehend the full significance of the situation."

Dr. Joseph Krauskopf, of Kenneth Israel congregation, said that he was unable to form a correct opinion from the information available. He said he preferred to form his opinions on the matter when he could find whether the uprising was from distressing economic conditions or a national revolution.

Doctor Golden, on the other hand, said that the revolution was a great step. "I doubt if this could be called a victory for the Allies, as the news from London seems to indicate. The Russian masses are pro-nobody. They have no quarrel with any one. They are in such conditions like hunger—not men or nations. This revolution is the second phase of the disturbance which began sixteen years ago."

Chaos will reign according to Doctor Golden, if the democracy gets the upper hand, or there will be, and this is more probable, a constitutional monarchy with a constitutional government.

THIRD ESTATE TRIUMPHS; FRENCH REVOLUTION REPEATED IN RUSSIA

Rising Commercial and Agricultural Classes, Carried Forward on Wave of Popular Revolt, End Rule of Absolutism—German Plots for Separate Peace Smashed—Liberalism Secure

By JOSEPH SHAPLEN

Russian absolutism has lost its rear-guard action. It has been fighting this rear-guard action since the reign of Alexander II and the abolition of serfdom. Today's news from Russia indicates that, so far as this system of absolutism is concerned, the battle seems to be over. For the successful revolution reported from Petrograd differs most radically from all previous outbreaks and social upheavals in the Russian Empire during the last century. Beginning with the revolt of the Decembrists in 1825, and ending with the revolution of 1905, the Russian people have had thirty-six hours of freedom and the Duma. The Duma, too, was soon reduced to impotence under the respective regimes of Gorky, Stolpin, Kokovtsov and their successors. But while deprived of actual parliamentary power and despite the Prussian system of representation introduced by Stolpin, the Duma remained the tribune from which the real representatives of the people continued to shout their defiance at the reaction and to demand radical reforms.

To understand why the present revolution has been successful and differs, therefore, from all other revolutions in Russia it is necessary to understand the various social elements composing the Russian Empire and the fact that above all these elements has arisen a class, whose historic mission it has been, on previous occasions to raise the banner of political democracy, not merely as an abstract ideal, but as a vital necessity to its economic advancement and position in society. That class is the modern industrial and commercial class, the product of a complex economic development came into being with the birth of political democracy and representative government. It was impossible for it to grow and expand within the narrow confines of feudal tradition and government, and since revolutions are the product of changed social conditions, the ascendancy of new productive forces in society and the rise of the trading class—the bourgeoisie—made the death blow to feudalism in western Europe and in England inevitable. The French Revolution ended forever the rule of feudal despotism in France, and the silent industrial revolution in England created the democracy of modern Great Britain.

RUSSIA 100 YEARS BEHIND In Russia, the appearance of the Third Estate had been postponed for a century, and while during the decade prior to the war, in the process of finding itself, it has not been able to sever its allegiance to the old order, it has been slowly completing its education and made it ripe to play the part allotted to it by social evolution. At last the forces of progress in Russia have received their most earnest leadership of the vigorous, ambitious and enterprising Third Estate. That Russia's Third Estate has really found itself is demonstrated by the fact that it seems to have won the support and sympathy of the army and the people and that, after assuming the power of government, its first move was to order the banks and financial institutions to resume business. For it is well to remember that the eyes that gaze with longing and ambition toward western Europe and the Bardiennes are not the eyes of the reactionary pro-Germans and Holy Synod, but the eyes of the merchants, manufacturers and bankers.

The Third Estate took virtually no part in the revolution of 1905. That revolution was a sporadic, badly organized outbreak on the part of the workers in the large cities. In a large measure, as demonstrated in the general strike of 1905, the revolution earned the enmity of the Third Estate, for it was directed as much against the Third Estate as against the old, monarchical order. The rich landowners, too, particularly the pro-German landed aristocracy of the Baltic provinces, most shy of the democratic agrarian movement. The bankers, manufacturers and merchants had little sympathy for the trade unions in the large cities, and the agricultural gentry looked with distinct suspicion upon the growth of the peasant rural organizations. None of these elements realized that, for the time being at least, their interests were identical; that neither of them could make much headway under the old system of Czarism, for that system drew its main support from medieval tradition and brutal force; that if the trade unions and peasant organizations threatened to cut the profits of the land and factory owners, the old political regime, because of its apathy and inefficiency, was not in a position to make the development of agriculture.

GERMAN INTRIGUES IN WAR

German intrigue, however, continued to find eager auditors in Petrograd.

The inner reaction was more interested in preserving its power by a separate peace, if need be, even though it may forever have had to surrender all dreams of Constantinople and the sale of German surplus products. What to it were the growth and development of Russia? Privately, individual members of the reaction were speculating on the Berlin, Paris and London stock exchanges, but their souls were in medieval monasteries and their boots in the bowels of the Russian people. And so we have heard, on very good authority, of the various attempts at a separate peace between Russia and Germany, the last of which was frustrated by the assassination of Rasputin and the resignation of Sturmer.

Despite the efforts of the reaction during the war to keep the Duma where Stolpin had led it—bound hand and foot—the national assembly, through its own determination, energy and patriotism, assumed a most threatening attitude so far as the government was concerned. At last the Third Estate began to realize, and the army, inefficiency and treachery of the government that it was being deceived. And so the reactionary Purishkevitch, the patriotic Rodzianko, the efficient Gutchikovs and the honest, learned and cautious Miliukov of 1905, carried forward upon the wave of popular revolt, became the revolutionary fathers of 1917.

Apparently they have won. Evidently they have the people and the army behind them. At last they are in a position to establish true constitutional government in Russia. At last they will throw off German economic tyranny, gain an outlet for their own products through the probable neutralization of the Bardiennes and lead an independent economic life. At last Russia will take her place among the nations of the West, while the industrial and agricultural proletariat of the empire will join hands with the proletariat of the rest of Europe for driving the chariot of progress still farther. For it is well to remember that in epochs of revolution—and this war has certainly created the soil for a great social transformation—national boundaries become but imaginary lines and Moscow and Berlin are on the same parallel.

EVOLUTION OF RUSSIA TOLD IN EVENING LEDGER

Book Page Tomorrow Will Contain Able Treatment of Conditions in Monarchy

What do you know about Russia? The governmental crisis in Petrograd sets us all to asking ourselves what we know about conditions in the empire of the Little Father. Most of us have to confess that we know very little.

The Book Page of the EVENING LEADER on Saturday will contain an article about the state of civilization in Russia and the progress which it is making in the evolution from autocracy to democracy, with a new history of the country for the last hundred years as the text. The history is written by a professor in the Political Science of Peter the Great in Petrograd, who is in sympathy with the cause of progress. It shows how modern Russia differs from the Russia of Catherine the Great.

REVOLT DUE TO PUBLIC'S IRE, TOLSTOY'S SON SAYS

BOULDER, Col., March 16.—"Russia's revolution is wholly due to public indignation at the pro-German sympathies and conduct of the war of the old ministers," said Count Ilya Tolstoy, son of the Russian novelist, here today.

"Russia's activity in the war has been constantly curtailed by those ministers. Of them Sukhomlinoff, Minister of War, was probably the worst. One time he even went so far as to have shells manufactured for the army that were absolutely worthless. There is ample proof of this. The soldiers will now know that the Government is behind them and will fight with renewed vigor."

Advertisement for Saturday "Paddy's Night" at the Hanover Hotel. Includes text: "There will be a 'Little bit of Heaven' at the Hanover tomorrow night—'Pat' and his 'Bonny Lassie' will be with us—We'll expect you. We have celebrated many holiday occasions, but for a real typical good time we stand 'pat' on this one. Souvenirs, Special Music and Dancing. THE NEW HOTEL HANOVER Twelfth and Arch Sts. (Entrance on 12th St.) CLAUDE M. MOHR, Mgr."

Large advertisement for Stern & Co. featuring Easter suits and dresses. Includes text: "Easter Dress Up! Is Just Around the Corner. Buy Your New Clothes at STERN & CO., on the CLUB PLAN \$1.00 A Week. In a season when keeping prices down has been difficult, it is a tribute to the resources of this store that we are now able to announce NO INCREASE in our prices for Spring wearing apparel. Buy of Stern Pay As You Earn. Extra Special Tomorrow \$20.00. Easter Suits and Top Coats for Men and Young Men—Suits, Coats and Dresses for Women and Misses. You will be delighted with the beautiful garments you will find in this special collection marked at the attractive price of \$20 each. They are the season's smartest styles—and all of them are worth \$25 to \$30. Many are samples—of which we have no duplicates. Immediate selection is therefore urged. Pay \$1.00 a week. STERN & CO. 712-714 Market Street