

# WILL GREECE'S BEAUTIFUL FAIRY GODMOTHER BE FIRST AMERICAN WOMAN TO RULE AS QUEEN?

### Prince Christopher, Husband of 'Dollar Princess' and Former Mrs. William B. Leeds, Only Candidate for King Constantine's Throne, Now That Prince George Has Expressed No Desire to Occupy Royal Arm-Chair

### POSITION OF PRESENT RULER CRITICAL, AND REPORTS SAY HE MUST ABDICATE THRONE

### Late Tin-Plate King's Widow Said to Have Saved Monarchists of Greece More Than Once With Her Millions, and She Is Reported Now Arranging for Flight of Constantine to America

WILL beautiful Nancy May Stewart, of Cleveland, O., reign upon the throne of storied Hellas? Will the "Dollar Princess," former wife of the late tinplate king and now spouse of Hellenic Prince Christopher, become first American Queen of Greece?

Will that beautiful woman who controls countless dollars as widow of William B. Leeds, late citizen of the United States, wield a scepter directing the destinies of 5,000,000 of devoted subjects? When 'Omer smote 'is bicomin' lyre they hadn't even heard of America over there. But the three tireless fates were even then threading out the subsequent history of that nation, and no doubt had the present Princess Anastasia at their elbows ready to line her into the multi-colored fabric of the future.

She may become Queen or she may not. It remains, however, that, in the present Greek crisis, the position of King Constantine, brother-in-law by marriage to the former Mrs. Leeds, is in grave danger.

Report comes that he must abdicate. If he doesn't the throne will topple and a republic be proclaimed. King Constantine may abdicate in favor of his son, Prince George; but information from high quarters states that Prince George isn't partial to thrones and Kings, and that he would refuse to mount the royal archaic.

Consequently, Prince Christopher, husband of the American beauty, brother of Constantine, is the only remaining candidate.

Although a melomania, who carries a piano with him wherever he travels, who prefers art to politics, Prince Christopher is anxious enough to keep the throne in the family. He is antipathetic toward Premier Venizelos, such foe of King Constantine's, and no friend of republicanism.

And there is little question but that he will do everything in his power to preserve the royal line.

The former Mrs. Leeds' millions, it is said, have more than once saved the situation for the monarchists in Greece. It is reported to have been her money which financed the successful resumption of the throne by Constantine in 1920, and her contributions have been one of the chief financial supports of the Greek war against the Turk.

Today, it is reported, she is making unofficial negotiations with Washington to arrange for the flight of King Constantine to America. He will live at the Leeds' Montclair, N. J., mansion or at Rough Point, near Newport, R. I.

Mrs. Leeds' connection with the royal house of Greece has been tempestuous, to say the least. King Constantine mounted the throne in 1913, immediately after the assassination of his father, King George. Constantine had married a sister of the Kaiser, and was believed to be pro-German.

### Was Thorn in Allies' Side During Early Part of War

During the early prosecution of the war, he was a thorn in the side of the Allies, and in 1917, on the demand of England, France and Russia, King Constantine abdicated in favor of his son Alexander.

But Alexander, nine months after Mrs. Leeds was married to his uncle, was playing with his pet monkey, and the monkey bit him. He died from the bite, and the Greek nation was thrown into turmoil. The vagaries of the fate! A national upheaval in consequence of a monkey bite. However, a new King was needed. Premier Venizelos was repudiated by the elections of November, 1920; the income from the Leeds millions was thrown to the use of royalty and Constantine resumed his kingship on the high tide of public favor. And Princess Anastasia, named originally and sarcastically by her husband's people "the Dollar Princess," became endeared to their hearts.

"Anastasia" meant "resurrection," and the Greek subjects superstitiously believed that a Princess with such a name meant a rebirth of the old glories of their country and a new life for its regal family. And it is striking to note that the Prin-



"Dollar Princess," former Mrs. William B. Leeds, who may be first American woman to become Queen of Greece

of "highnesses" became her associates. Many suitors bobbed up for the hand of this woman whose fortune was estimated as high as \$50,000,000. Her suitors were men of royal blood and commoners of distinction.

But Mrs. Leeds denied that she would marry again. Like the proverbial and poetical brook, however, her suitors went on forever. Prince Joachim Murat seemed to be a favorite for a time, but she very flatly and irrevocably rejected him in 1911. There was the Count Hely de Talleyrand Perigord, Tallyrand-Perigord, cousin of Anna Gould's second husband, the Duke de Talleyrand; there was Lord Alexander Thynne, and Prince de Faucigny-Lucinge, and Lord Falconer, and Captain Albert Paget, son of General Sir Arthur Paget.

He began on the spot a courtship which continued all over Europe for seven years. He managed to follow Mrs. Leeds, whether she was in England, France or Italy, or wherever she was. And he was a welcome guest at her villas.

The Grand Duchess Anastasia of Modlenburg, Russian mother of the Crown Princess of Germany and Christopher's sister, looked with especial favor upon Mrs. Leeds.

In 1917 Mrs. Leeds took the rich estate of Kenwood, in England, off the hands of the destitute Grand Duke Michael of Russia. The Grand Duchess scored in this transfer, too, as did Mrs. Leeds, for the estate was an extraordinarily acceptable one.

And it was in 1917 that King Con-

stantine appeared to be having trouble with the Allies. Only half-heartedly did he look upon the war. He wasn't a bad King to his people, but he loved— for obvious reasons, since his Queen, Sophie, was sister to the Kaiser—the Prussians too much. In June, 1917, he was forced to abdicate and his son Alexander assumed the controlling hand in

the state under the direction of the astute Venizelos.

Her friendship for the deposed King's brother cast an uneasy light upon Mrs. Leeds in those days when people did not hate subtly. It was rumored that she was pro-German and that her millions



Prince and Princess

were being used indirectly against her native land.

Mrs. Leeds denied this vehemently. She still loved America, she still wanted her son to be an American, and she told the world that she was unable to touch the principal of her fortune any way, but only the income.

In the meantime her friendship for Christopher grew. His father, you remember, was the late King George of Greece, originally a Danish prince; his mother, the dowager Queen Olga of Greece, born a Russian grand duchess; he was cousin to King George of England and to Queen Victoria of Spain. Mrs. Leeds could own to no misapprehension about the distinctive type of relatives she would corral. Hers wasn't an instance of marrying into a family of poor relatives, although in those days of the close of the war Kings and Queens were not at the height of fashion.

Altogether, provided Mrs. Leeds loved Christopher—and she emphatically declared she would never marry for anything but love—the possible marriage of the two seemed a highly profitable sort of thing for both of them.

But the path was beset by obstacles. Prince Christopher was declared to have Teutonic leanings. And Mrs. Leeds' friendship for him was used as a club against her. Rumors arose which had her clapped into the Tower of London as a spy. Rumor went so far as to execute her in secret dungeons of that bloody old pile of stone and mortar. But she was neither locked up, nor executed—and she spent her spare time denying that she was an enthusiast for Imperial Germany.

Furthermore, she suffered something of the ignominy of so-called commoners at the hands of the Royal Mutual Admiration Society. The royal relatives of Prince Christopher, with the exception of his sister-in-law and the Grand Duchess of Russia, became

in vain against the poison-bite of his pet monkey.

But Mrs. Leeds approved of no left-handed marriages. If she was to be the wife of the Prince, she'd be "Her Royal Highness" or nothing.

### Were Married Quietly In Geneva in January, 1920

And, in the end, both Prince Christopher and Mrs. Leeds won. They were married more or less quietly in Geneva on January 31, 1920. The ceremony was a civil one, and was followed by the religious ceremony next day at Vevey, near Montreux, according to the rites of the Greek Church.

The deposed King Constantine was in a blue funk. He sat in exile, and he wouldn't attend the wedding. He didn't approve of it in the first place, and in the second place he was out of a job. He did have a representative there, nevertheless, the Duke of Sparta; but he himself wasn't invited.

The news of the wedding went around the world. A simple ceremony had made an American citizen a cousin to the King of England, to the Queen of Spain and gave her all sorts of relationships to the rest of the royalty of Europe.

The subjects of Greece didn't like it much. Those poor folk want their Kings and Queens, and this marriage savored of too much democracy. They hailed her derisively: "Long live the Dollar Princess!"

But they lived to change their tune. Her amiable manner and her kindness and her love for the land of the proud Hellenes, gradually endeared her to



Another pose of former Mrs. Leeds

them. They soon accepted her willingly and gladly.

If they raise her up to the throne by way of Christopher it will be a new avenue of service for an American woman. Aristocracy has gone out of vogue in the United States, but it is still in the English Parliament, and makes a name for itself among the warring nations, in the state, in European society, sports and what not.

And there is no reason under the sun why an American woman won't make a good Queen, if a Queen is what the Greeks want. It isn't as if the days of absolute power of Kings and Queens reigned. There isn't any willful guffawing or dithering or the other varieties of royal degenerating any more.

It is the day when Kings and Queens have power which is only nominal. They rule behind whom the respect of peoples; they must submit to the latest demands of modernity; they must practice a very modern and complete system of democracy in spite of their pretensions.

And the Princess Anastasia is capable of doing that, one supposes. Crowns come not naturally to her, though they doubtless become her. "I am an American at heart," she still insists. And if she is, she ought to make a popular Queen.



King Constantine, Queen Sophie and their youngest daughter, Catherine. This was taken at Lucerne before the ruler regained his throne