

MOST UNHAPPY QUEEN of the WORLD



THE EMPRESS OF RUSSIA



THE CZAR and EMPRESS OF RUSSIA



HEIR TO RUSSIAN THRONE

FROM time to time the press of Europe 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 fear.

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 and the Russian land, and it may be said without exaggeration, that Alexandra Feodorovna is today the unhappiest of all queens.

Princess Alice of Hesse-Darmstadt, according to the biographer of the czarina, lived amid ideal and idyllic surroundings throughout her childhood. The small, good looking princess, dressed as beautifully as her dolls, was told that the flowers daily presented her were so beautiful and fragrant for her sake, and that when she was crying, the little flowers were also shedding tears, and when she was laughing, the little flowers were also kind hearted and obedient, and she did all she could to refrain from crying, for she recalled that every tear drop of hers would cause so much pain to all those who loved her.

But the tears she repressed in her childhood days she is shedding now within the walls of the palace, as the queen of the long suffering Russian people. Being of a sensitive, impressionable and artistic nature, the princess was deeply interested in the best kind of literature. She familiarized herself with the most important works of the masters of fiction in Europe and she even made some attempts at writing poetry and dramas. As she was frail, the physicians feared that she was undermining her health by devoting most of her time to books, and she was told that her health was more important than all the books in the world, and then for the first time she learned that she was not free. The books were now selected for her by physicians and she was permitted to read only a very limited number of such books. To while her time away she took up the study of drawing, and soon showed considerable talent in that direction.

Little by little she commenced to notice the life beyond the boundary of her fairyland; she saw the life of the people who were suffering and starving, and she learned that what was new to her was not new to her father, to her mother, to her aunts, to all those who lived contented in her fairyland of luxury. And she began to ask herself the question which she was for a long time unable to answer: "How can they all remain care free and so shamelessly cheerful when beyond the windows of this palace is the moan of an entire suffering nation?"

Princess Alice 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 reputed 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.

The superstitious inclinations and weaknesses of the czar, manifested in his eagerness for a male heir to the Russian throne, filled the czarina with untold grief.

She had to obey the orders of various charlatans who were welcome advisers of the czar. And the intrigues directed against her in the

palace added to the misery of the young empress. She noticed that the czar was angry at her because she was "endeavoring to introduce in Russia western reforms and that she considered herself more intelligent than the entire household in the palace."

In the meantime storms of unrest had broken out in the land, and orders were given to pacify the discontented at all cost. The empress did not know of the horrors that were perpetrated in Russia, and when she learned of them she consoled herself in the thought that all the cruelties directed against the Russian people were not committed by order of the czar. She believed that the czar, like herself, was ignorant of what was going on in the land.

But she soon found out her error. Then her suffering grew ever more intense. She looked with disgust upon the clique surrounding her, upon their hypocritical smiles and greetings, but she was unable to change anything even in the palace. It was then that she became seriously ill.

When the empress had recovered she divided her time between her children and her desk. She turned once more to the reading of books and also devoted considerable time to writing. Nevertheless the feeling that she was alone and misunderstood in the palace weighed heavily upon her. She grew ever more and more melancholy.

One day, after having worked for some time upon the tragedy she was writing, the empress entered the czar's study. She found him seated at his desk looking over numerous documents. He brightened up when she entered and he kissed her hands.

"Why are you so sad?" she asked. "I am thinking of the future of our children," he replied.

The empress looked at him surprised. "I do not understand—" she began, looking into his troubled eyes.

"A plot has just been unearthed," he said cheerfully, yet with a shade of confusion.

"Oh, I know about it—" "No, I mean another plot—a new one. They have just learned of it today." And shaking his head he added:

"Do you understand now?" And he described to her in detail the conspiracy of the terrorists against his life. They became more sad than before. The shadow of danger was still hovering over their heads.

They endeavored to calm each other,

but somehow their words were uncertain.

"Thank God, it is all over now," said the empress, heaving a deep sigh. "I had a terrible presentiment during the last few days. Wherever I went I could not rid myself of the terrible thoughts that haunted me."

"Really. Do you know," answered the czar, "I also felt ill, feverish, weak. They keep me in a constant state of terror."

The empress tried to calm him again. He smiled bitterly and handed her a document bearing numerous notes in red ink.

The empress made an effort to appear calm as she read the document, for she felt that the emperor was watching her closely.

"What wicked people! Savages!" said the empress as she looked up to him.

"That is exactly what is troubling me," replied the emperor with a sad, forced smile. "I should not like to leave to my son a heritage in such a dreadful state!"

"Do not speak of this, do not speak of this!"

The empress advanced to him and took his hand.

"With the help of God all will be well. All will be well!" she repeated.

"And you, would you want to remain a widow?" the czar suddenly smiled strangely. His eyes were cold and moist.

The empress shuddered at these words. She released his hand and looked at him fixedly.

"My dear," she said in tremulous voice, "I have wanted to speak to you seriously for some time. This is impossible! Do you understand? This life we are leading is impossible. You must do something to change it. You must decide to do something!"

The empress' voice quivered and there were tears in her eyes.

"For my sake and four yours, for the sake of our dear children, do something! Even if you have to— even if you have to yield. Do it!"

"What can I do?" asked the czar. "Tell me. Do they know what they want? Some of the people want one thing, others want another. Don't you know that yourself?"

"Will you deny that there is a system of provocation and spying in Russia," she demanded.

The empress spoke with firmness and authority.

"There is an infernal machine in your hands," she said, "and you look upon it as a plaything. I know that upon some occasions you speak with

authority, but when a matter requires energy and determination you yield to the first adviser who knows how to influence you!"

Then the empress spoke more softly. "I understand that you often find yourself in an embarrassing position. But you believe everything that should be repulsive to you. You yield to flattery and—"

"My dear, do not talk to me about these fables. You and I cannot think of anything that will change all this. The laws of nature cannot be changed. Some of the people will demand water, others will demand fire. All I could do would be to make some concessions. Otherwise everything must remain as it is. It must be so. Do you understand?"

The czar seemed pleased with his words. He leaned back in his armchair and added angrily:

"I have tried everything!"

"But I cannot go on like this," cried the empress. "I cannot. I am going away. I have no strength any longer. I am afraid to look at myself! When I see myself in a mirror I am seized with terror."

"What can I do? You must consult the physicians."

The empress looked at him angrily and shook her head.

"Perhaps things will run more smoothly when you will be a widow," said the czar, rising from his seat and running back and forth in his study.

"That is nonsense," he said suddenly and rang the bell, pausing in the center of the room perplexed.

When the servant entered the czar shouted and stamped his feet. The empress had fainted. She was taken to her room and remained for a long time under the care of her physicians.

The czar neglected all important affairs of state when the empress was ill. In the evening the minister of the interior arrived at the palace with an important report. When he was ushered into the czar's study the czar shouted at him nervously:

"For God's sake leave me alone! The empress is ill! Do whatever you like! It is all the same to me."

When the minister of the interior offered a few words of consolation the czar interrupted him:

"I know you! I know everything! I know you all!" and he waved his hand.

The minister of the interior walked out of the czar's study confused and humiliated.

And the minister of the interior heard the czar shouting to himself: "Monarchy, constitution, anarchy. Even my nearest are against me."

The health of the empress was shattered and for a long time she was suffering from a nervous breakdown. During that illness various rumors were spreading in the palace. It was said that the czarina was planning to leave the palace and return to her native land. It was then also rumored that she wanted the czar to abdicate and leave Russia. But all knew that she rebuked the czar for his lack of will power and determination

SAVE MUCH MONEY

TOTAL FIRE SALVAGE THIS YEAR TOTALS OVER \$10,000,000.

GOSSIP FROM STATE CAPITAL

Items of Interest Gathered from Reliable Sources and Presented in Condensed Form to Our Readers.

Fire departments and volunteer fire fighting organizations in Nebraska are credited by Fire Commissioner Randall with having saved over \$25,000,000 of property in Nebraska from incineration during the past two years. He bases this estimate on figures which he has compiled from reported conflagrations occurring in the state. The total salvage from fires during 1911 is found by Mr. Randall to have been \$14,977,109, and this year so far the same item is placed at \$10,762,730.

Chancellor Talks to Students.
The great development of colleges and universities during the last generation and the increasing numbers of college graduates found in important places was the theme of Chancellor Avery's address to state university students at the opening convocation of the school year Tuesday. He unqualifiedly commended industrial education as a means of giving equal economic opportunity to all.

"Since 1890 our population has increased approximately one-half, while the number of college students has practically quadrupled," said the chancellor. The University of Nebraska now has an attendance about equal to the number of students in all American colleges and universities eighty years ago.

Bill to Promote Racial Purity.
Designed to promote racial purity, two bills which will be introduced in the coming legislature, have been drawn up by A. J. Leavitt of Omaha, secretary of the Nebraska Prisons association. Surgical operations are provided for in the case of confirmed criminals, paupers, idiots and rapists confined in state institutions. This bill provides that the operation shall be performed only in such cases as have been pronounced unimprovable, the matter to be determined by two skilled surgeons appointed on the staff of each institution and acting in conjunction with the regular institutional physician and its board of managers.

The other bill provides that no person can obtain a license to marry without presenting a medical certificate, sworn to by a physician and showing the applicant to be free from all contagious and venereal diseases.

Must Reform Methods.
Adjutant General Phelps is asking certain companies of the Nebraska national guard to reform their methods to conform to the wishes of the war department. Major Julius A. Penn of the regular army, who inspected the guard in Nebraska last spring, reported to the war department that two companies have rifles that are all in bad condition, four companies do not have armories in which United States property is properly protected from the elements or from theft; three companies use property for non-military purposes and three companies allow property in the possession of the individual men.

Money in Oil Department.
The state oil inspection bureau collected more money in fees during August than in any previous month in its history. The total receipts were \$6,956.72, this being much in excess of any past month. The big record is attributed to the fact that roads were good throughout the month and that more automobile traveling was done and more fuel consumed than ordinarily. The office turned into the state treasury \$5,506, after paying \$1,108.47 as running expenses.

Few Moving Picture Fires.
Only three fires in moving picture theaters have occurred this year in Nebraska, according to information gathered by the state fire commissioner's office. The loss involved in them was about \$1,200. Last year there were four such fires. The number of moving picture theaters in the state is estimated by Commissioner Randall from more than 1,000.

The relation of public service corporations to the public and incidentally to the railway commission, is being studied in Lincoln by Prof. J. H. Gray, head of the investigation now being conducted by the National Civils Utilities Federation. Dr. Gray, who is connected with the University of Minnesota, arrived in Lincoln Monday and has confined his work here solely to the records of the commission. At noon, Tuesday, at a private session, he addressed members of the Nebraska university faculty and the commissioners at the commercial club.

Land Commissioner Cowles started the system of having the state board of purchase and supplies submit goods to chemical analysis. He has had State Chemist Redfern analyze coffee and soap and tests have been made of coal before being purchased by the state. Mr. Cowles is now having the chemist analyze lubricating oils for use in the power plants at the different state institutions. Four or five markings are made on each sample, the principal ones being for viscosity and the temperature at which the oil burns and flashes.

ARRESTING FLIGHT OF TIME

German Scientists Advise the Eating of Egg Shells by Those Who Approach Old Age.

Two Germans, deep thinkers—Professors Emmerich and Loewe—state that egg shells eaten increase the power of resistance against "the withering blight of time," add weight to the body, activity to the brain and strength to the heart; that they destroy injurious bacilli, prevent inflammation and disease and lend courage and energy. This reminds me, Philip Hale writes in the Boston Herald, of the preparation advertised in London thirty or more years ago as removing superfluous hair, being an excellent substitute for table butter, none genuine unless stamped on the blade. Eustace Miles, the English court tennis player and vegetarian, says he had an old nurse who used to eat egg shells and crunch them joyfully between the teeth that happened to meet, and she said she ate the shells because they "shaved the hair off inside of the throat." The discovery of the German scientist is peculiarly welcome to dwellers by the ocean, for it is a well known fact that if you do not break egg shells the witches will put out to sea in them to wreck vessels, and of you burn the shells the hens will cease to lay. Furthermore, as eggs are now absurdly high—even case eggs—in the neighborhood it seems a pity to waste any part of them.

Thoroughly Up-to-Date.
"Hallo!" Jellison cried, as he encountered his acquaintance, Darwood, in the street. "Thought you were getting married today. Postponed?" "Altogether," said Darwood, firmly. "Not even engaged now, then?" pursued Jellison.

"No. The lady I was to have married was too modern—too up-to-date for me."

"Up-to-date!" The excuse astonished Jellison. "How on earth—" "Wrote her last Monday, saying I was coming to see her on Wednesday. You see, although we'd been engaged for some time, I never formally proposed, and she seemed to want it. So I went on Wednesday—just to satisfy her whim, as I thought. Got there and found she had sold the rights of photographing me at the moment of proposing to a cinematograph company."

"That settled it!"—T. H. Bits.

Potteries Prospering.
The output of the pottery industries of the United States had a value of \$34,618,500 in 1911, according to the United States geological survey chart of clay products production, by states, compiled by Jefferson Middletown. The pottery collection for 1911 was greater than for 1910, when the output was valued at \$33,784,678, the increase being \$733,822. Of the total production, Ohio was first, with an output valued at \$14,775,395; New Jersey second, with \$8,401,941; West Virginia third, with \$2,880,303; New York fourth, with \$2,178,364; Pennsylvania fifth, with \$1,166,817, and Indiana sixth, with \$1,004,737. The output of no other state had a value in excess of a million dollars.

How About This?
"Geese are supposed to be symbolic of all that is foolish." "Well, go on." "But you never see an old gander board up a million kernels of corn and then go around trying to mate with a gosling."

A Paradoxical Ballot.
"I should think the women voting in the new suffrage states would strike one obstacle." "What is that?" "How can the matrons of a party cast their maiden vote?"

The Style of It.
"How do they serve meals from that lunch wagon?" "I suppose they serve them a la cart."

One advertiser offers to send a dollar package free. It is the concentrated wisdom of the ages that no package worth a dollar is free.

One way to hold a man's interest is to take a mortgage on his property.

"A confession of faith"

If you have trouble with your Stomach, Liver or Bowels, feel run-down and in need of a tonic, we urge a trial of

HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS

Your faith in this medicine will not be misplaced. It will surely help you. Be convinced today. All Drug-gists and Dealers.

PISO'S REMEDY
Best Cough Syrup, Tastes Good. Use in Time. Sold by Druggists.
FOR COUGHS AND COLDS