

Here's a Democratic King



KING AND CROWN PRINCE



DIRECTING ARTILLERY FIRE

VICTOR EMMANUEL III, the scholar and student among present-day monarchs, the sovereign of quiet family life, when the call to war sounded, became at once the first soldier among Italian soldiers, says the Milwaukee Sentinel. With a unanimity of sentiment more complete than at any time in a generation the nation rallied around the king as the bearer of the national flag. Socialists, liberals and republicans not only forgot their special doctrines and tenets, but vied with one another in becoming more loyalist than the monarchical followers themselves.

A first natural tendency was to exaggerate, with a wealth of detail more or less important, the simplicity and democratic character of the king's life at the front. A little of this, however, goes a long way and the Italian press has been prompt in putting a stop to the multiplying of little homely tales which are liable to carry with them an element of triviality.

A few letters from soldiers to their families suffice to give all the information of this kind about the king's daily life that is considered important to be known, as an insistence upon them might naturally lead to the inference that in this form of existence is comprised the monarch's entire activities with the army. Such a letter is the following, from Private Francesco Menegotto, addressed to his father:

"I recently found myself near the king, in an observatory which I had helped to build. As agile as a hare, he moved around from one corner to another. I assure you that he is exceedingly brave. He ate lunch with us and divided his portion of ham and cheese with us and afterward gave us four 'Toscano' cigars and spoke with us as if he had been himself a simple soldier, asking us many questions." This private failed to note in his letter the fact that he was one of a company who had distinguished themselves by a brilliant achievement which was important in the day's military operations and that if he and his companions had been signally honored by the king, it was not because the latter mingles on all occasions more or less familiarly with his privates, but as recompense and encouragement for duty well performed.

The king himself is a soldier and is consulted by General Cadorna, the chief of staff, on every movement of importance and regarding the daily line of endeavor, but he leaves to the commanders the performance of their various functions, and the stories told, in a mistaken zeal of exaggerated loyalty, by some correspondents regarding the actual direction of artillery fire or infantry movements by the king himself are protested against by all serious persons as defeating their purpose, besides being literally incorrect.

The press of Italy today dwells only on such incidents as may be considered symbolic, such as the event narrated in a letter by Soldier Franco Taminelli when he wrote:

The King's Presence Cures.

"Of much influence on the minds of our soldiers is the presence of our beloved king, and in this regard I wish to tell you the incident that happened to a sergeant of artillery named Vincenzo Santra, a native of Vallelunga. This poor fellow, after fighting for a long time, was severely wounded in the arm and was found by the ambulance corps in an unconscious condition. When he recovered his senses we observed with distress that he had become dumb and that he had lost the power of speech.

"It happened that at that moment our sovereign was in the neighborhood and, learning of the sad case, he hastened with his customary paternal solicitude to the bedside of the injured man. So great was the emotion experienced by the soldier at the sight of the king that speech suddenly returned to him and he was free from the nervous crisis that had been brought on by the sudden terror he had felt on finding that he was wounded and risked falling into the hands of the enemy as a prisoner.

"The first cry that issued from his lips was, 'Long live Italy! Long live our beloved king! The sovereign, touched by the words, patted the



Victor Emmanuel III of Italy Is a Scholar, Student and Family Man. But When the Call to War Sounded He Became at Once an Active Soldier in the Field. :: ::



KING VICTOR EMMANUEL OF ITALY

soldier on the head and said: 'My brave boy, you are a true Italian.'

Victor Emmanuel comes well by his martial qualities. Scion of the proud dynasty of Savoy and grandson of that doughty warrior, King Victor Emmanuel II, he was born in Naples on November 11, 1869, and bore the title of prince of Naples till his accession to the throne on July 29, 1900. Married in Rome on October 24, 1896, to Princess Helen of Montenegro, he became the father of four children—Princess Yolanda, born in 1901; Princess Mafalda, born in 1902; Prince Humbert, heir to the throne, born on September 15, 1904, and Princess Giovanna, born in 1907.

The then prince of Naples entered the Italian army in 1887 as sublieutenant; he became colonel in 1890, major general two years later, lieutenant general in 1894 and general in command of the forces at Naples in 1897.

King Victor Emmanuel is honorary doctor of laws of the universities of Oxford and Pennsylvania, honorary commander in several foreign armies, a Knight of the Garter and an authority on numismatics. A volume published by him on this subject was recently crowned by the Institute of France.

An exceptionally happy incident, which has made its due impression on a people of such artistic tastes as the Italians, was the recent discovery, or, rather, rediscovery, of a war lyric by one of Italy's great poets, which is being adopted as appositely made for the present struggle.

When Victor Emmanuel of Sardinia had undertaken the redemption of Italian provinces, over half a century ago, Giosue Carducci had composed a noble poem, with the title "To the King—A National Song." By some strange fate it was neglected and then forgotten.

Its every line is today appropriate to the work of redemption of Italian provinces undertaken by Victor Emmanuel III.

War Fixes the Nation's Attention.

The king's name should not be bandied about, is the declaration of an Italian writer, made in the Tribune. The marvels of activity, of courage, of abnegation, of heroic and smiling fatherliness shown by King Victor Emmanuel, says this writer, marvels constantly renewed and constantly rising to heights unattained by others, have now become like the pure air one breathes and the pure sky one contemplates for the calming of fears and the exaltation of the spirit. It is impossible to succeed in giving adequate account of them and it is dangerous to weave a crown of anecdotes.

Some might be led to form a mental picture of the king through an anecdote which should not and cannot be regarded otherwise than as a symbol.

Let us bow reverently, he says; let us not try to build up images that would only be inferiorities, that would sound as profanations. Let us keep in our heart with regard to the king a religious sense, a mystic feeling.

In a correspondence from the front a noted French writer, Mr. Jean Carrere, after describing the king's life in the field, dwells upon the degree to which Victor Emmanuel has become popular with his army and his people.

Before the war, he says, Victor Emmanuel was profoundly respected by all, admired by those who had the honor to approach him, beloved by those around him, but, perhaps, in the precise and broader sense of the word, he was not absolutely popular. This, he is remarked, for reasons which are profoundly to the honor of the monarch. In order to be popular in the time of peace a sovereign must have certain external forms of exuberance, a certain predilection for pomp and show and, if one may adopt a modern term, a certain capacity for "bluff." All these were repugnant to the straightforward, sincere and to some extent democratic nature of the king of Italy. He would certainly never have consented to lend himself to any of those displays and theatricalities by which certain other sovereigns loved to put themselves in evidence.

Leads the Simple, Laborious Life.

In Italy, where all are so intimately simple, where domestic life is a passion, it pleased him, the first of the nation's nobles, to lead the simple, laborious life of a great bourgeois and to give the example of the domestic virtues, and yet these qualities, however appreciable in normal times, had, so to say, the inconvenience of not being visible from near at hand and of making no sensational impression on the judgment of the crowd, which is always fond of a certain amount of the theatrical. Scarcely had the great upheaval of the war come to call forth from the depths of the popular soul all the great qualities that were there latent in Italy in its entirety drew itself up before its new destiny and then, all of a sudden, the people remarked in their king the most vital qualities of Italy itself and recognized in him their true leader.

This king, to whom the most captious critics could only reproach a certain want of military display, at once made the finest of all displays shine around him, namely, that of courage, of royal love for the people and the army, of intrepidity in the presence of danger, of kindness for the woes of the humble. That chivalrous prestige which wars and great human crises cause to irradiate around the truly noble souls, irradiates now around Victor Emmanuel. He has proved today that the best means of being a popular king in a great country is to show that one deserves it.

Private communications are not held directly with the king, even at the front, but through the intermediary of his staff.

On certain more important occasions Count Cadorna, the generalissimo, is the medium. Then an opportunity may be accorded the public to read as interesting a letter as the following, from General Cadorna to the editor of the *Idea Nazionale*, who had written to announce the offer of 50,000 lire (\$10,000), made by a Mr. Clerici, for distribution among the soldiers who may capture the first Austrian flags. The Italian commander wrote:

A Letter From the Chief.

"I have had Mr. Clerici's generous and patriotic offer communicated to the troops under my command. In my name and in theirs I beg you to express to the donor our gratitude for the munificent act, a new proof of the admirable rivalry throughout the country by all classes, from the most conspicuous to the most humble, in enveloping the army with a flame of affection and confidence, the army which, with Italy in its heart, offers every day with serene joy the example of the most elevated spirit of sacrifice. I am personally grateful to you for your noble and flattering sentiments and for your good wishes, which I return in the name of our brave soldiers.

"Signor Clerici could not have chosen a more worthy messenger than you, whose untiring work as a militant apostle contributed so much to hasten the hour of national awakening and vindication of rights, through which the dream, sighed for by our fathers, is about to be transformed, by the force of arms and of national virtues, into a radiant reality."

Probably more than any other army today the Italians are spurred on by a battle cry, the word "Savoià." Savoy. It is the dynastic name of the royal house and in uttering it the soldier thinks of his beloved king, of Vittorio Emanuele di Casa Savoia.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

CHASTISER OF CAPITALISTS



Frank P. Walsh, as chairman of the federal industrial relations commission, made the country sit up and take notice by his verbal chastisement of capitalists. Persons who like radical utterances applauded him as a man of fearless courage. Other folk of the more conservative sort were horrified, and called him an agitating demagogue and trouble-maker.

Mr. Walsh, who comes from Kansas City, Mo., was appointed as one of the three representatives of the public, the other two groups in the commission representing the employers and the employees. Walsh was the only one who jumped out of his class in the findings of the commission. He stood with the three labor members in the main report of the commission assailing capitalism.

Although Walsh went with the labor men, he is not numbered with the proletariat in Kansas City. He owns and lives in one of the finest houses in the city. He had a law practice that earned him \$50,000 a year, which he gave up temporarily to head the commission at \$10 a day and expenses.

He is fifty-two years old, but looks ten years younger. He is married and has eight children. He began work as a district messenger boy in Kansas City at the age of ten. Then he studied stenography, and at twenty-one was a court stenographer. Four years later he was admitted to the bar.

ARCTIC CIRCLE SENATOR

Frank A. Aldrich is a hardy man, and he needs to be in order to fulfill his public duties. For Mr. Aldrich is a member of the upper house of the legislature of Alaska, and when the lawmakers of the territory are called in session he girds up his loins, packs his dog sledges and sets out on a trip from the Arctic circle that lasts thirty-eight days. Thirty-three of these days are spent traveling on a sledge.

Down here this seems like a hardy adventure, but in Alaska the inhabitants do not think it anything out of the ordinary, and Senator Aldrich has had a life training that makes him look on it as rather trivial. Indeed, when he was in New York recently for the first time he intimated that a sledge journey of hundreds of miles over the snowy wastes was nothing to compare with a trip across Fifth avenue through the streams of automobiles.

Senator Aldrich was born in Fort Wayne, Ind., fifty-eight years ago, and at the age of nineteen he joined General Terry's command on the Yellowstone river during the Indian campaign of 1876. He was driving a six-mule government team in Terry's division in Montana at the time of the Custer massacre. The next year he was with Gen. Nelson A. Miles in the Nez Percés expedition, in which Chief Joseph was captured. In 1879 he began prospecting for gold, and has pursued the career of a miner ever since. He was elected to the Alaska legislature in 1913.

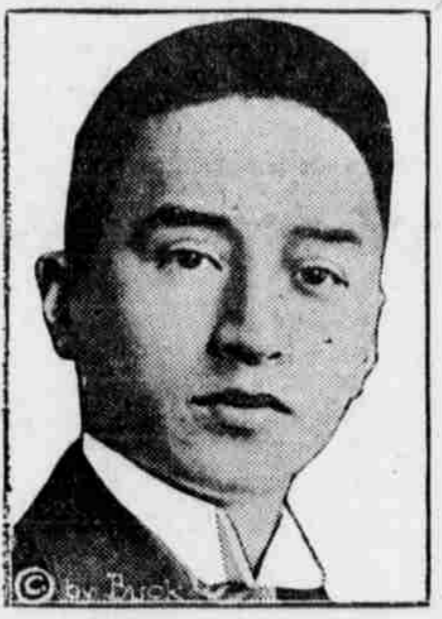


NEW CHINESE MINISTER

Hundreds of young men and women scattered throughout the United States remember their young Columbia university friend, V. K. Wellington Koo. It hasn't been so many months since he graduated with them and went home to China. Should they desire to see Doctor Koo now, they will find him minister to the United States, at the Chinese embassy in Washington.

Doctor Koo is just thirty years old. To him has been entrusted the destiny of China in its relation to the western world. He has dedicated his life to "save China as a nation from being dismembered and swallowed up in the maelstrom of the European war."

Doctor Koo was popular at Columbia, a leader in student activities, editor of the college paper, and active in athletic and literary groups. Doctor Koo has grown a trifle more sedate since his diplomatic duties have been put upon him. He is hailed by Prof. John Bassett Moore and other enthusiastic American friends as "a most brilliant student of international law, comparable to the prodigies of a century ago—William Pitt, Fox and Alexander Hamilton."



WOULD TAX RICH HEIRS

Senator Norris of Nebraska says he intends to introduce in the senate a bill providing for a graduated tax on inheritances.

"An inheritance tax," Senator Norris says, "would not take from any man a single dollar he had done anything toward earning. It would, in fact, take only a part of the property that the legislatures of the states or of the Nation have a right, if they see fit, to take away entirely.

"I do not believe any injustice can come from taking away a portion of an inheritance from a man who has done nothing whatever toward its acquisition. It is taking something that he has not produced. The particular provisions I propose will leave enough, without any serious taxation, to keep him and all his friends and family in absolute luxury during all their lives."

Mr. Norris proposes to tax all inheritances, direct and collateral, in excess of \$50,000. The rate he proposes is 1 per cent on the first \$50,000 above the exemption, 2 per cent on the next \$100,000, 3 per cent on the next \$100,000, 4 per cent on the next \$100,000, 5 per cent on the next \$100,000, 10 per cent on the next \$1,000,000, 15 per cent on the next \$2,000,000, 20 per cent on the next \$5,000,000, 30 per cent on the next \$10,000,000, 45 per cent on the next \$15,000,000, 60 per cent on the next \$16,000,000, and 75 per cent on all over \$50,000,000.

