

King George of Greece Quite Democratic in Disposition



PRINCE ANDREAS

PRINCESS MARIA

PRINCESS ALICE

PRINCE NICOLAOS AND HIS TWO LITTLE DAUGHTERS



PRINCE GEORGE



CROWN PRINCE CONSTANTINE



THE KING AND QUEEN OF GREECE

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ATHENS—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—King George of Greece is now absent from Athens. He is at his villa on the island of Corfu, where he has a palace not far from that of the emperor of Germany. He divides his time between Corfu and Athens, with the exception of four months every summer, when he goes off to Europe. I am told that he puts on no airs at either place, and that he and Kaiser Wilhelm go about at Corfu just like common people. Summer before last the kaiser while out walking on the country roads stopped at a cottage for a drink and talked with its peasant proprietor. The latter brought out a chair and his imperial German majesty sat down and rested. After he had gone the peasant wrote the kaiser's name on the chair and laid it away. When the kaiser walked out again this year the peasant stopped him on the roadway and offered him the use of the chair, saying he had vowed that none but an emperor should sit on it thereafter.

The Democracy of King George.
 The king of Greece is even more democratic. He walks about Athens, and now and then goes into the stores. He talks with everybody, and it is not difficult for a foreigner introduced by his minister to have an interview with him. I met him when I visited Athens, now twenty-two years ago, and he gave me an audience, during which he talked at length for my American newspapers. He was at that time 44 years of age, but he looked ten years younger. He is now 68, but is still in his prime. During our interview his majesty spoke English. He shook my hand as he met me and again on my leaving. He spoke highly of the Greeks and was enthusiastic about the future of the country. I am told that he is quite as democratic today.

Speaking of the king's lack of formality, I have just heard as to how he received a party of Americans who came with Cook and who have been exploring the Mediterranean. In straw hats and dusters they walked up to his palace and asked the major domo if they might see the king. The latter replied that they must first see the United States minister, whereupon the king, passing through the vestibule and observing the party, asked what was the matter. He was told, and he thereupon ordered the Americans to be let in, holding out his hand to their leader. The chief of the tourists grasped the hand of his majesty with the grip of a vise and addressed him as follows:

"How do you do, Mr. King. We are glad to see you. We had only one day in Athens and we did not want to leave without meeting the king."

His majesty took the party into the palace and chatted with them for a few moments, when the leader arose and held out his hand, saying:

"We must be going, Mr. King, as we have lots more to see."

Another American came to the palace lately with a general letter of introduction to our diplomatic and consular officers, signed by President Taft. Such letters of introduction are not uncommon, although they are usually signed by the secretary of state and mention the fact that they are given at the request of some senator or member of the house of representatives. They are intended to be presented to our diplomats only. This man did not call upon the United States minister, but went direct from the ship to the palace and asked for the king. His letter was taken in, whereupon his majesty ordered that he be admitted. Before the American entered he cried out asking if his wife might also come in. This request was granted, and the two were received. I am told that they asked so many impertinent questions that the king had to pretend another appointment to get rid of them and that he practically asked them to leave.

The King and the Peasant.

Many stories are told of the king in connection with the Greeks. He talks with the people whom he meets on his way through the country and listens to what they have to say about himself and the government. This is, of course, when he is not recognized. He has no trouble in getting opinions, for every Greek farmer and cartman has his own way of thinking and is not averse to making it known. Not long ago his majesty got into conversation with a peasant walking along beside him following his cart filled with vegetables. Suddenly the peasant's horse slipped and the vegetables were scattered all over the road. The countryman began to swear, but the king caught hold of the horse and made it get up and proceeded to put the vegetables back in the cart. At this moment an officer of the army passed by and saluted. The countryman was amazed and realized that the king was his helper. He did not know what to say, whereupon his majesty gave him a gold piece and remarked: "My good man, you are foolish to waste your time swearing and praying when you get into trouble. What you want to do is to put your hand to the wheel

A Royal Money-Making Farmer.

Speaking of the vegetable cart, I have no doubt that his majesty knew the value of those carrots and potatoes and just what it cost to raise them. He is, I am told, one of the best farmers of Greece. He had much to do with founding the agricultural department, and has rendered great assistance to the farmers of the country. He has large farms of his own, and I am told that it is now possible to buy butter and milk in Athens which come from his majesty's dairies. He has Danish farmers to manage his estate, and has imported Danish dairymaids to superintend the butter-making. He has large vineyards, and the king's wine is regularly sold in the markets. It is about the best made in Greece and can be bought at the leading hotels.

I am told that the king has made money out of his estates as well as in speculation of various kinds. He gets an allowance from the government of a little more than \$200,000 a year and he has about \$100,000 more from France, England and Russia, by whom he was put on the throne and who are to a certain extent the protectors of the kingdom of Greece. This money he keeps up his palaces and maintains his court, but he has lived simply and has invested the surplus so that he is said to be a millionaire. He owns stock in railways, vineyards and mines. He has a fleet of merchant vessels which trades at the various Mediterranean ports and he has also money invested in American securities which he buys and sells on the market.

The kaiser once sarcastically remarked to King George that the making of money was hardly befitting a king, whereupon George I replied:

"I see nothing unroyal in the making of money, and I can tell you I would rather be a rich merchant than a bankrupt king."

How George Got the Throne.

And this brings me to the tenure of office of this remarkable monarch. He has held the throne for forty-eight years, although his predecessor was expelled from it, and if the people were much dissatisfied it is doubtful whether he could retain it today. The ruler of Greece has not a drop of Greek blood in his veins. He is the son of Christian, the late king of Denmark, and was placed on the throne at the suggestion of the great powers which protect Greece. He was elected by the National Assembly here, and accepted the crown through his father acting as guardian. This was in 1863, when George was only 18. A few months after this the National Assembly at Athens declared him of age, and he came here to rule. He has been on the throne ever since, and one of his family, although it is doubtful whether this will be the crown prince, will succeed him.

The king was married shortly after he ascended the throne to Olga, the eldest daughter of the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia and brother of the late Emperor Alexander II. By her he has had six children and he also has a number of grandchildren, the most of whom live here at Athens. The king is related to nearly all the chief monarchs of Europe. One of his sisters was the late queen of England and another has been empress of Russia.

His majesty is a Lutheran, and this is permitted by the terms of his accession, but it is provided that the children must belong to the Greek church, which is also the church of Queen Olga.

An Unpopular Queen.

I am told that the queen is not liked by the Greeks and this notwithstanding her charities, which include hospitals, schools and other benevolent institutions. The Greeks are sensitive, and her majesty is said to favor the Russians and to want to introduce Russian methods into the Grecian religion. Both nations are Greek Catholics, but there are some differences. Not long ago there was a great fuss about revising the New Testament, which caused what was known as the gospel riot. On this occasion the Russian priests got out an edition, of which the Greeks did not approve. Her majesty distributed some of the Russian Testaments among the soldiers, and this brought a mob to the palace, who yelled "Down with the Russian," meaning the queen. It is said that the queen visits

the Russian war vessels whenever they come to the Piraeus, but that she will not go on a Greek vessel, except when she has to travel from one port to another. So, altogether, she has gotten the ill will of her subjects.

Nevertheless, her majesty has earned the right to be popular, for she is always doing something for the women of Greece. I have visited schools of hers where Greek girls are taught to embroider, make lace and weave cloth. She is one of the chief promoters of the Grand Evangelical hospital, and she goes there every week to visit the sick and pray with the dying. She is a patron of the Orphan asylum and of the Society for Poor Women, and also the founder of a store for the sale of women's handwork. She is the president of a society for the relief of female prisoners, and, in connection with the Greeks of Constantinople, she has had to do with a reform school for young criminals.

Her majesty is a fine-looking woman. She has a sweet, womanly face, with classic features, hair being brushed well back from the forehead. She dresses simply, but has many magnificent jewels which she

wears upon state occasions. She is a fine linguist, speaking with fluency a half dozen languages, including the Greek. I am told that English is her favorite tongue and the one which is used in the family.

Life in the Palace.

During my stay here I have learned something of life in the palace. The home of the king is in the very center of Athens, not far from the leading hotels and cafes, and on a hill which overlooks a great part of the city. In front of it is the Place de la Constitution, containing about forty acres, and around and behind

it are the king's gardens, which his majesty throws open to the public on three days of the week.

The palace itself is not beautiful. It is a great three-story building, with rows of unshuttered windows, which make it look like a factory, poorhouse or an insane asylum. The chief street cars of Athens go by it, and there is a steam tram which has a depot directly in front. The building is of yellow limestone or marble, gotten from the mountains nearby. It is kept up by the Parliament, and I am told so poorly that it lacks many comforts, and especially a sufficiency of bathrooms.

As to the life of the royal family, it is simple and homelike. His majesty rises at 7 o'clock and makes his own coffee, using a spirit lamp and two tablespoons of well-powdered Mocha. The coffee is strong as lye, and his majesty smokes a cigaret as he drinks it. After this he looks over the newspapers for two or three hours and then goes upstairs to breakfast. This is usually held at 10 o'clock, in a room on the second story. All of the family are present. The meal consists of little more than tea and bread and butter, the first real meal of the day being the luncheon at noon, or rather at 2:30. This is served in courses, beginning with soup and ending with a dessert. It comes from the kitchen to the palace and is gotten up by the royal cooks, the most of whom are French and German, with some Greeks, who make the desserts.

After luncheon the king chats with his family and then takes a drive. He has audiences during the day and attends to such formalities as his position requires. At 8:30 the family again assembles at dinner and if there are no guests of distinction the evening is spent not unlike that of any well-to-do family of Europe. The king is said to be very good-natured. He is fond of pun-making and can laugh as loudly as his royal grandchildren.

The Princes and Princesses of Greece.

As to the princes, Constantine, the crown prince, is now in retirement. The people think he mismanaged his army during the war with the Turks and he has lost caste with them. He is living in Germany, where the kaiser is his brother-in-law, and it may be that he will have to give up his claim to the throne in favor of his son, George, who is more popular with the Greeks. Prince George will be 21 years of age next July. He is a fine-looking, well-educated young fellow. He speaks Greek like a native, and has such an education as will fit him to be king should his father be set aside by the people. I am told that his mother, the Crown Princess Sophia, is also unpopular. Prince George, the king's second son, is now commissioner of Crete. He is said to be well liked by the Greeks. His wife is one of the Bonapartes.

The third son is Prince Nicolaos, who was born in 1872 and is, hence, about 40 years old. He is married to the daughter of the Grand Duke Vladimir of Russia, who is exceedingly rich, and he has two bright little girls, the Princesses Olga and Elizabeth. Nicolaos has the literary bent. He has written a comedy, which was produced here and was a success.

In addition to the above, the king of Greece has two other sons, the younger of whom is Christopher, who is now at school in Germany, and the other, Andrew, or Andreas, as they call it, who married the Princess Alice of Battenburg. Andreas and Alice, for that is her Greek name, are about the most popular of the whole royal family. Alice is cheered whenever she goes on the street, and Andreas is favorably spoken of in all parts of Greece.

As to the king's daughters, he has had two, the elder of whom died in her youth, and the other, the Princess Marie, who has married the Grand Duke George of Russia and gone there to live.

Court Entertainments.

The younger members of the family frequently visit the houses of the richer Athenians. They are well known to the people and may be seen driving about through the city. They have entertainments now and then at the palace, and his majesty gives a great court ball there every New Year. On this occasion almost every one who is any one is invited. The guests number 1,200 or more, and they include the diplomats, the officers of the army and navy and distinguished foreigners. The guests are expected to arrive at about 9 o'clock and the dancing begins at 10:30. It starts in with a royal quadrille, in which the chief celebrities take part, and continues throughout the evening.

The Story of a Library Book

(Continued from Page One.)

tures, are prone to the seductive charms of mere mortals.

"I am a moderately popular book. I have not proved a 'best seller,' but after having lived in fear and trembling, I know I have come to stay, so I will begin at the time that marks a milestone in my life, that epoch of interest to all the friends of my new home; the momentous occasion when I became a part, infinitesimal though it be, of that momentous whole, the Omaha Public Library. Fortunate, indeed, is the book destined to repose here. From the cumbersome folio to the dainty cameo edition all agree that they have found sympathetic and responsive souls among their comrades on the shelves. If perchance an uncongenial comrade is discovered we charitably close our eyes, for among many is it not possible that a few guilty ones might pass muster?"

"The watchword of the library is, 'Quality, not quantity.' What normal book would not feel a thrill of pride on finding itself the recipient of a certificate of admission? It was with joy, not unmixed with un-speakable fear, that I was received on probation and learned then the process undergone before I became an integral part of the card catalogue universe.

"Though the librarian is not an official censor, yet she has a duty, as custodian, to guard against what is undesirable. She must not be like the fisherman of the Arabian nights who let the Afrite escape from the brass bottle, and then was at his wits end how to get

Militarism Costly

SINCE 1885, a period of twenty-five years, it has cost Europe to maintain its armed peace footing the prodigious sum of \$29,000,000,000, all this apart from the cost of wars actually fought, says the Mexican Herald. Meantime the public debts of the European nations rose from \$21,000,000,000 to \$30,200,000,000. This heavy burden, saddled on posterity, menaces the people of the future with bankruptcy. One noted French economist says that disaster is inevitable, for this stupendous aggregate of obligations can never be paid.

The half-way remedy would be to scale down national debts, a proceeding that would ruin hundreds of thousands of comfortably positioned people.

Armed peace costs tremendously, and every effort should be made by nations boasting of being civilized to reduce the size and expense of armaments.

It is authoritatively stated that all the wars of the nineteenth century, prior to the years 1885, cost less than one-half the enormous amount spent to keep the peace in the last twenty-five years.

France in the 218 years preceding 1872 fought wars costing it \$5,900,000,000, but the armed peace of the last twenty-five years has cost it \$7,500,000,000.

Great Britain in the 215 years preceding and including the Crimean war spent for warlike purposes \$6,800,000,000, but a quarter of a century of armed peace has cost it more than this.

These are facts not to be blinked out of sight, and they serve to explain in part the inability of civilization to get rid of poverty and to lower very sensibly the death rate. The \$29,000,000,000 spent in war preparations since 1885 would have established great colonies for the relief of congested old world populations, would have got rid of slums and given a sound education to the rising generation.

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