

To Seize Anna Gould's Great German Estate

Disconcerting Threat to Confiscate the Historic Sagan Castle and Property Which the Duke de Talleyrand Ingeniously Transferred to His Little Son to Prevent His Creditors Taking Them



Snapshot of the Duke de Talleyrand, Taken When He Was Courting Madame Anna Gould



The Little Son of the Duke de Talleyrand and Anna Gould, to Whom the Duke Transferred His German Title and Estates Which the Germans Threaten to Confiscate



The Duchess de Talleyrand, Formerly Anna Gould, Divorced Wife of Count Boni de Castellane

Paris, December 27.

WILL the Germans confiscate the duchy and principality of Sagan, which is supposed to belong to Anna Gould's little son, who is known as the Duke of Sagan? This is one of the most curious complications that has arisen from the great war. The present Duke de Talleyrand, formerly known as Prince de Sagan, inherited the German title and estates on the death of his father, but in order to avoid the seizure of the latter by his creditors, he turned both title and estates over to his son, born of his marriage to Anna Gould, after she had divorced Count Boni de Castellane.

Now the *Breslauer Zeitung*, a leading newspaper of the province in which Sagan is situated, demands that the duchy shall be confiscated by Germany, on the ground that the real owner, the Duke de Talleyrand, is a Frenchman, and now serving with the French army. This action, the newspaper urges, would be only a fair retaliation for the confiscation of German property in France.

There are many plausible reasons for urging this step. The ingenious manoeuvre by which the Duke transferred his rights to his son deprived a large body of German creditors of the chance to seize the very valuable Sagan estates. They are situated in Silesia, which forms the southeastern angle of Prussia, and of which the chief city is Breslau. It was against Silesia that the main Russian movement to invade Germany was directed. Hence the feeling against the allies is particularly fierce in this region.

In reply to the suggestion that the Germans should confiscate Sagan, the Duke de Talleyrand points out that his little son is a German subject, who assumed the title and estates with

the approval of the Kaiser, who is in a sense his guardian.

Sagan is an entailed estate of a very feudal character, a fief of the King of Prussia, who is also German Emperor. It includes upward of 60,000 acres of land, an immense castle and various incidental rights. It is said to be rapidly increasing in value, owing to the presence of minerals.

When the present Duke de Talleyrand succeeded to the title, he found over \$4,000,000 of debts were held against the German estates by German creditors. This accumulation of debts was begun by the Duke's grandfather. It was increased by his father, the Prince de Sagan, long known as "the modern Alcibiades," and the most elegant figure in Parisian society. When this prince succeeded to the Sagan estates, he was a paralytic and a mental wreck, and no definite action was taken by the creditors. His son, Helie de Talleyrand-Perigord, married Anna Gould in 1908, and in 1910 he succeeded to his father's titles.

A son had been born to Prince Helie in 1909. He bears the Christian names Charles Maurice Jason Howard, in memory of various famous ancestors.

The present Duke de Talleyrand painted a pleasing picture to his American wife of the splendors of occupying a German feudal palace, and being called "Serene Highness," a style of address to which the holder of the Sagan duchy is entitled. She proposed to reside in the castle when her little son was about to be born, but the official who administered the estates for the German creditors coldly refused to allow her to enter.

In the following year the Duchess is understood to have offered to guarantee the payment

of the debts on reasonable terms. The Duke then believed that he would certainly be allowed to occupy his ancestral castle. He even invited a merry party to visit him there in the Autumn, and sent new furniture and many cases of choice wines from the collection formerly made by Boni de Castellane in the pink marble palace built by Anna Gould in Paris. Once more the creditors refused to let him enter and basely seized the wines which he had forwarded.

The Duke kept up the struggle for his German estates with much ingenuity and persistence. A great deal of complicated litigation occurred. He succeeded in having his German relations, Count von Hatzfeldt, removed as administrator of the estates on the ground that he was hostile to him. The Duke wished to take charge of them himself, but the Kaiser, to whom every measure had to be submitted, barred the Parisian dandy on account of his stormy past.

Finally the Duke hit on the very ingenious plan of turning his German titles and estates over to his son. So this little boy, with an American mother and a French father, became, quite unknown to himself, a German subject and a German nobleman, with all the privileges that that implies. He is described in the *Almanach de Gotha* as "His Serene Highness the Duke of Sagan, Prince of Courland, Semigallen and Sagan, etc." Presumably when he grows a little older he will become a Prussian officer and wear a spiked helmet, unless the angry Germans shall have taken his property away.

The little Duke was formerly registered at the Prussian court, and Count von Kanitz, one of the Kaiser's chamberlains, was appointed his guardian in Germany. A certain sum is set aside for the creditors yearly, and as the estates are steadily increasing in value, they can bear this. It is said that when the Duke comes of age he will be very rich.

Sagan is a possession that came to the present family through the prudent arrangements of the famous Talleyrand, perhaps the most adroit and versatile diplomat in all history. The Emperor Ferdinand II. of Austria gave Sagan to his great general, Wallenstein, Duke of Friedland, who led his army during the Thirty Years' War. This was in 1637, and Wallenstein proceeded to erect the present palace. The space that suited him was part of the city of Sagan, but this did not hinder the terrible warrior. He simply gave orders that the inhabitants of the houses he decided to remove must leave within twenty-four hours, and at the expiration of that time the torch was applied and 490 houses were burned to the ground. Upon the ruins Wallenstein built the castle, which stands to-day, surrounded by one of the finest parks in all Germany.

Sagan in 1787 came into the hands of Prince Peter of Kurland, or Courland, a son of Ernst Johann, Prince of Biron, Duke of Kurland, the notorious favorite of the Russian Empress Anna. Peter died in 1800 and left Sagan to his daughter, Princess Katherine of Biron-Sagan, at whose death, in 1845, her sister, Dorothea, Duchess of Talleyrand-Perigord, inherited the estates. She was a very remarkable woman, who had married the nephew and heir of the great diplomat, Talleyrand. The Duchess Dorothea held court at Sagan for many years, and even when old and infirm, gave several receptions every Winter, to which the officers of the small garrison, the landed proprietors of the neighborhood and the town officials were invited with their wives and daughters.

Long after Sagan was connected with the outer world by a railroad she used to travel by coach with six gaily caparisoned horses and outriders, and whenever she passed through a village the schools were closed to permit the children to admire the unusual spectacle. The citizens of Sagan put up with her whims and bowed to her, not only because she was a duchess, but because the ducal household brought much money into the town.

When the Duchess Dorothea died in 1862, her son, already Duke of Valençay, Talleyrand and Perigord, became also Duke of Sagan. Although a Frenchman by birth and education, he took up his residence at Sagan, and embellished the park by the construction of magnificent fountains, after the style of Versailles. The burghers of Sagan were happy, because they expected that the new Duke would spend all his money in the town. The Franco-German war dispelled this hope. The Duke returned to Paris, where he spent all the revenue from his German possessions, and much more. His son and heir "the modern Alcibiades," followed him, and then came the present Duke, the husband of Anna Gould.

The castle of Sagan is a vast structure in the Italian Renaissance style, with a courtyard between two wings fronting on a terrace, under which a large orangery extends. It contains more than a hundred rooms, most of them richly furnished in modern taste by the Duke's grandfather. Some of the rooms are of historical interest, having been left in the condition in which they were used by former proprietors, among them the *Loebkowitz* room and the *Wallenstein* room.

A large picture gallery contains many valuable paintings. One room is used as a museum, where many objects of local interest are preserved, together with large collections of butterflies, stuffed animals and minerals. The park is laid out in the English style, and in front of the castle is a garden where thousands upon thousands of rose trees of all kinds are planted.

Not far from the entrance is a smaller building, almost a castle in itself, called the "Cavalier House," now the residence of the manager of the estate. It has rooms for guests who cannot be placed in the palace proper. Several square miles of forest surround the park on three sides. Game abounds there—pheasants, deer and hares. Here is also one of the few spots left in Germany where the sportsman finds the capercaillie. All the Kings of Prussia in the last century have shot over these preserves.

The city of Sagan is on the Bober, a river hardly more than a good sized creek in the Summer, but a turbulent and often dangerous stream in the Spring. The town has about 12,000 inhabitants and consists, like most of the smaller German cities, of two sections, entirely different from each other. The older city has preserved much of the architecture of the middle ages, the narrow houses with high gables, and the market place, surrounded by arcades. The newer quarter is entirely modern and pretty. There are manufactures of cloth, linen and cotton.

The entire duchy of Sagan covers a territory of 1,211 square kilometres, 507 square miles, and has a population of 65,000.

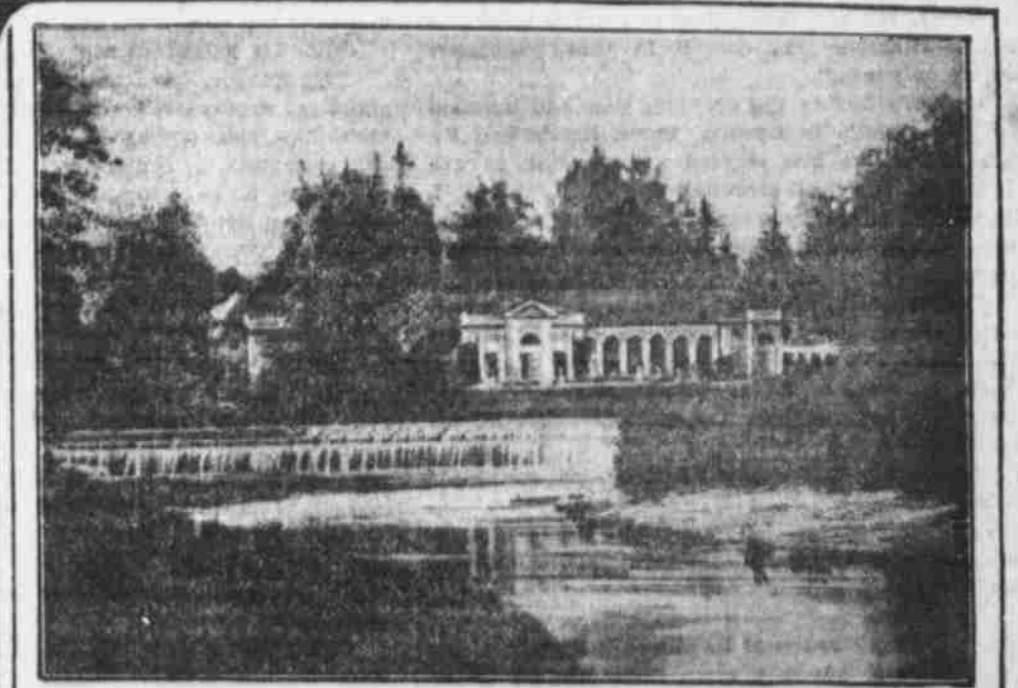
The property is said to yield an income of nearly 1,000,000 marks per annum, which is enormous for Germany, being one-sixteenth part of the Kaiser's own.



The Great Castle of Sagan, Long Held by the Duke's Creditors, but Which He Hoped to Leave to His Son



"The Count Lobkowitz Study," One of the Rooms in the Castle of Sagan



View in the Beautiful Park of Sagan Castle, Showing the Orangery