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Something About the Grand Duke

The anxious attention of the whole world is concentrated on the Russian Grand Duke Nicholas, but to the world his personality is a puzzle and his history half a mystery. He is the Grand Duke Nicholas Nicolaievitch, the uncle of the Tsar, and the commander-in-chief of the Russian army.

He is a thin and extraordinarily tall man—six feet eight inches—and his face, with its short greying beard, and its austere and sharp-cut features, is the face of an ascetic monk.

It is his height that has earned him his name among his soldiers, but not even his height or his striking face and figure would have earned him the affection that the familiar name, Bolshoi Nikolai, suggests.

No; big Nicholas, has more than a fine face and a fine figure to commend him to Russia's millions. He is that unexpected thing, a Grand Duke who, in an Empire where grand dukes were beginning to be thoroughly discredited proved himself to be thoroughly capable.

"That young man will one day fill the world with his fame", said Alexander II of Russia, who watched him at his work.

That was a good prophecy, but most people forgot it. The young man went back to his humdrum military duties and to the text books in his unpretentious houses in St. Petersburg, and only those who came into immediate contact with him knew his worth.

Fortunately, the Tsar was one of these. When the present Emperor of Russia was heir apparent to the crown Alexander III, decided that his training as a soldier should be made in the Hussars of the Guard. The Grand Duke Nicholas was commanding that regiment, and so in his early days the Emperor came to know his uncle's worth. He knew big Nicholas was a man to be made use of, and in time he made use of him.

After that disastrous war in Manchuria the Grand Duke Nicholas became commander-in-chief of the Petrograd area, and it was he who became the main focus of reorganization that changed the ill-managed army which Japan defeated into the superb army that has astonished and disturbed Germany.

The soldiers loved him all the time. He is as hard as iron but he looks after them. They are better fed, better equipped, and better clothed than they have ever been. They are also better soldiers.

Like many great men, the Grand Duke is modest and simple in his character. In the railway carriages that form his headquarters he dines with his officers, and any chance visitors, without formality; they are simply a number of fellow workers having their meals together. The meal is frugal, and, since the Grand Duke was one of those mainly responsible for the abolition of drink in Russia, there is no alcohol whatever on the table. This simplicity is manifest in his piety—which is great—for he is often seen before the altar of churches near his headquarters, kneeling as his men kneel, and praying as devoutly. And this simplicity also extends to his estimate of his girths.

When the Tsar pressed the command of the Russian army on him he at first refused; he was lacking in experience he declared, while there were many men more able than himself who had fought actual wars. It was only the determination of his ruler that caused him to reconsider his refusal.

What he has meant to Russia and to the cause of the Allies, we shall only really know when this war is ended. He showed the brilliance of his ability

at once. The steadiness, the imperturbability, the tenacious patience of his skill has baffled Germany. It will baffle Germany until Germany is beaten.

Asserts the Total German Losses Are Fully 3,500,000

Petrograd, Aug. 19.—A Russian expert point out that the German lists of losses showing 1,616,761 casualties do not include 26 Bavarian, 174 Saxon and 228 Wurtemberg lists, nor forty lists of losses of the German fleet. These make a total of 3,500,000, to which now must be added 120,000 suffered by the Prussians during the last battles.

These figures, the expert states, so stunned the German staff that beside recognizing the prostration of its plan of envelopment of the Russian army, it was compelled to withdraw six corps from the fighting line. These were then used to form new reserves of about two corps, amounting in strength to only two regiments which had been sent against Serbia or to assist Austria against Italy.



It is considered here that absence of fights along the left bank of the Bug is due to the Russian army having successfully established connection with the garrison at Brest-Litovsk.

A Russian general who left Novo Georgievsk, which is now completely invested, declares that the fortress is abundantly supplied with victuals, which are sufficient to last a year. The fortress has been prepared to withstand a siege. The garrison is at its necessary strength and there are no unnecessary mouths to feed, all civilians having been expelled in time.

The batteries and forts are similar to those of Ossowetz, which has been holding out against the strongest German artillery for many months. The sanitary conditions of Novo Georgievsk are excellent.

Russia Will Continue Fight

Paris, Aug. 26.—An account of an audience granted him by Emperor Nicholas is telegraphed to the Matin by Jean Cruppi, former French Minister of Foreign Affairs.

"Peasants speak to me in affectionate terms, and every day I receive from them several addresses, saying: 'Hold firm, for we are all behind thee,' the Emperor is quoted as saying.

The monarch's voice was firm and clear, M. Cruppi says, as he told of the resolution of all Russians to carry the war to an end, until the victory necessary to "free Europe" is assured.

The Emperor added: "France can count on my immovable will to struggle on until complete victory is achieved."

Petrograd, Aug. 26, via London.—In accordance with orders received from the army authorities, the garrison at Ossowetz joined the Russian field army on August 22, evacuating the fortress after blowing up the permanent fortifications, burning the wooden structures and removing or crippling the guns, thus ending a year of gallant defence of the principal crossing of the Bobr river.

Bialystok is said to be still in Russian hands, but a large part of the railway from the north and west is now in the

hands of the Germans, and it is expected that they will make every effort to extend their lines toward Grodno, the next fortress of importance in this region. Meanwhile, the Austro-Germans continue to press upon the flanks of the fortress of Brest-Litovsk from the north and south and serious battle are developing in the vicinity of Pischia and Kovel.

The Russian extreme southern flank is inactive, but in the far north, on the other end of the line, there were minor battles on Aug. 23 in the direction of Jacobstadt and Dvinsk with alternating successes.

TURKISH HEADQUARTERS ON THE GALLIPLI PENINSULA, Aug. 22, via London, Aug. 26.—Fresh British troops were landed here on August 6 and 7. The new allied forces have penetrated a few hundred yards beyond the shores of the Salt Lake, which at present is dry. That part of the British force which gained the crest of Kodjachtmen Mountain has been thrown back in the recent fighting to the base of that elevation, holding a narrow ridge not far southeast of the shore of the Salt Lake, with the Turkish trenches only forty yards away.

At three o'clock in the afternoon of August 21, the British made a violent attempt to improve their situation there but failed in spite of a terrific fire from ship artillery, and several well sustained infantry charges.

London, Aug. 26.—A despatch to the Central News from Amsterdam says that a transport carrying seriously wounded German marines, who participated in the recent fighting in the Gulf of Riga, has arrived at Konigsburg from Libau.

Thursday Night's War Reports

London, Aug. 26.—Brest-Litovsk, the main Russian fortress and concentration centre for the Bug line of defences, was occupied by the Austro-Germans to-day. The Germans now are in possession of the whole line of railway from Cholm to Bialystok. The Russians having already evacuated the latter city, the lesser fortresses of Grodno and Olita are now the only strongly defended positions remaining in the hands of the Russians. Both these are being approached by the Germans and probably will be given up when they have fulfilled their purpose of facilitating the retreat of the Russian armies.

The Russians have not yet entered the vast Beloviez forest, which runs thirty miles north and south and has a width of from seventeen to thirty miles. South of it are the Priepet marshes, which protect the Russian left, and with plenty of roads and three or four railroads it is expected here that Grand Duke Nicholas will make good his retirement if Grodno and Vilna can hold out long enough. Even though they should fail, military observers say the Grand Duke would be well on his way to his new positions before the Germans could reach his flank.

A British aviator successfully dropped a bomb upon and destroyed a German submarine off Ostend.

In the Admiralty report of the exploit of the British airman in sinking the German submarine it is significantly stated that it has not been the practice of the Admiralty to publish accounts regarding the losses of German submarines, "important though they have been," in cases where the Germans had no other source of information as to the time and place at which these losses occurred. It has been reported, for months, that a large number of German submarines, variously stated at from twenty to forty, have been caught by the British navy, but today's statement is the only official admission that there were others than those previously announced by the Admiralty as having been destroyed.

The Italians claim further minor successes on the fronts, but these are consistently denied by Austria. On the operations on the Gallipoli peninsula, which are now so important to the cause of the Allies, there is no further news.

Except for the postponement of the statement of the Greek premier on the future policy of Greece, there is nothing new in the Balkan situation.

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 26, via London.—Concerning the recent bombardment of Zeebrugge, Belgium, by a British fleet, the Tija says it has learned that a large number of soldiers were killed by the fire of the fleet, and that ninety severely wounded men were brought to Ghent. The material damage done, it adds, was apparently very great, as a shed built for submarines was completely destroyed, and with it some submarines.

GERMANY AND HER FOOD PROBLEM

Berlin, Aug. 26 (via London). The Reichstag has adopted a Socialist resolution asking the government to organize a bureau under the auspices of the federal council, with some of its members elected by the Reichstag, to take charge of the food problem. The bureau will have the right to confiscate food products in behalf of the people.

War on Luxury In The British Social World

The leaders of the British social world have declared war on luxury. Realizing the importance of the chancellor of the exchequer's words: "in our present circumstances extravagance is a crime and economy—parsimony even—becomes the biggest of national virtues," and they are banding themselves together into an anti-luxury league, with the title of the Woman's War Economy League. The leagues, objects are:

1. To reduce in every possible way expenditures on imported goods and strictly to limit the purchase of everything that comes under the category of luxuries.
2. To buy as few luxurious articles of clothing as possible. To resist all efforts to introduce new fashions.
3. To avoid as far as possible the use of automobiles, except for necessary or charitable purposes.
4. To give up all unnecessary entertaining, both at home and in the restaurants, to and restrict the consumption of meals at home to the lowest possible limits.
5. In no case to employ men servants unless in-ligible for public services.
6. To use influence to inculcate economy among friends and dependents.

These are the pledges taken by the following among scores of well known persons: Duchess of Beaufort, Duchess of Sutherland, Marchioness of Ripon, Marchioness of Tullibardine, Countess of Yarborough, Countess of Pembroke, Countess of Mar and Kellie, Viscountess Kidney, Cornelia Lady Wimborne, Lady de Ramsay, Lady Islington, Honorable, Mrs George Keppel and Honorable Mrs Cyril Ward. They wear a special anti-luxury badge.

Juliet Lady Duff states that she herself is avoiding all luxuries.

"I am tabooring new fashions and dressing simply," she said. "Expensive evening and ball dresses are not indispensable at present. I am entertaining less, too. I invite only my most intimate friends to luncheon or dinner—never more than one or two.

"Taxicabs, I seldom use, and, apart from the question of economizing by motor omnibus, young taxicab drivers should not remain at home."

Asked if the campaign against luxury would result in throwing numbers of people out of employment, Mr H.E. Morgan, of the Parliamentary War Savings Committee, said:

The making of luxuries for export was altogether desirable, but for home consumption it was an evil."

Germans Arrested In Barcelona

Barcelona, Aug. 7, via Paris.—Seven Germans were arrested last night on board the steamer Regia Helena at the request of the French consul as they were about to sail for Italy. It is alleged that the prisoners had false passports and intended to try to reach Germany through Italy. One of the men arrested was a former member of the crew of the famous German cruiser Emden, who escaped from the British and reached Lisbon. The police had some difficulty in protecting the Germans from other passengers on the steamer, mostly Italian reservists, returning from America.

Bulgaria To Remain Neutral

Washington, Aug. 27.—Unofficial advices to representatives of the Balkan nations here say Bulgaria has signed an agreement with Turkey, which includes the provision that she remain neutral, and that the attempt to form a Balkan League has failed.

News of the formation of the new cabinet by Minister Venizelos reached the Greek legation last night. It is said here that the demands of the allies on Greece were unsatisfactory, and that the Hellenic government will announce its intention of remaining neutral, for the present at least.



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WHERE JUNE 21 IS NOON OF THE YEAR

Sounds Strange, But is True at Poles
Novel Facts About Night
and Day

We are apt to refer to a day or a night to indicate a specific period of time without realizing that these terms have a different meaning in different parts of the world. Not everywhere and always does the natural day include 24 hours if measured from sunrise to sunrise.

The fact is that a day is not a fixed number of hours, but the length of time during which the light of the sun illumines any part of the earth. In some parts of Norway the day lasts from May 21 to July 22 without interruption. In Spitzbergen the longest day is three and one-half months and the shortest two and a half of actual light. At Petrograd the longest day is 19 hours and the shortest 5. At Hamburg the longest is 17 and the shortest 7, and in London the longest is 16 1/2 and the shortest 8.

The beginning of the day is not a question of universal agreement. It has been arbitrarily decided by different peoples from time to time. The ancient Jews fixed the beginning of the day at sunrise; with the Umbrians it began at noon, and the Egyptians and Romans fixed the time at midnight, a custom adopted by Canada, the United States, and most of the European countries.

It is a matter of common knowledge that the longest day of the year is June 21 and the shortest December 21 (sometimes the 22nd). This latter is the time when the sun is farthest south on its annual slant over the tropic of Capricorn, making the maximum declination to the axis of the earth. All over the world this date marks a turning point in duration of the day although in every case it is not the shortest day. In places south of the equator they are enjoying the longest day. At the South Pole on this date it is high noon of the six months day, and at the North Pole it is midnight of the "great night."

Fortunes Turned Down

If ever a man has good reason for "kicking himself," it is when he has had a fortune in his hands and has weakly allowed it to escape. There is a man ending his old age in poverty in Cape Town, who, a generation and more ago, refused to pay a five-pound note for the old homestead under which the treasures of the Kimberley mine were discovered—a mine which, within a dozen years, was yielding an annual million pounds in diamonds. A few years later its total yield exceeded \$100,000,000. And another man died penniless in Johannesburg who declined to buy the barren acres over the De Beer's Mine for \$15,000, a purchase which would later have produced the income of nearly \$10,000,000 a year.