

DEATH CLAIMS A CZAR.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE RULER WHO DIED THURSDAY.

His Second Son Reported to Have Renounced his Rights in Succession to the Throne in Favor of his Younger Brother.—The Russian Laws of Succession.

On Thursday of this week the Autocrat of all the Russias was forced to an unconditional surrender by that mightier Autocrat Death, who truly "spares none, however powerful."

For the last month, the whole world had been watching the despatches from St. Petersburg announcing the state of the Czar's failing health. Many have been the conjectures as to the result of the Czar's death upon the affairs of nations, and widespread has been the sympathy called forth

most propitious event in the Czar's unhappy life.

Nicholas, the new Czar, is, as may be seen from his portrait, a fine-looking young man. He was born in 1868. It is currently reported that he has more beauty than brilliancy. It is certain that he was not as much thought of by the Czar as either his second son George, or his third son Michael. The Czar's only daughter's name is Xenia.

The Czar's special favorite was George, who has for a long time been an invalid, and whose life is despaired of. The beginning of his illness dates back to 1891, the year in which he started with his brother, the Czarevitch, and his cousin, Prince George of Greece, on a tour round the world, acting as the commander of the

ence. Later, at Spain, the Czar, himself sick unto death, passed long hours in watching at the bedside of his favorite son.

Last summer the Moscow correspondent of the Daily Chronicle published a romantic story about the young prince. It was to the effect that the Grand Duke had fallen in love with a pretty telegraph girl whom he met with in the neighborhood of his quarters, and whom he was determined to marry. The girl in question was Mlle. Iach, of Tiflis, and she is said to possess marvellous beauty. She is the last descendant of one of the oldest noble families of the province, but she is poor and is obliged to earn her living in a telegraph office.

The Grand Duke George, the Czar's second son, is reported to have renounced his rights in succession to the Russian

it by an additional act in 1820, stating that the issues of the marriages authorized by the reigning Emperor should alone possess the right of succession. These laws of succession are now adhered to in Russia. A most interesting account of the Czar's eccentric physician will be found in another column. Progress regrets that it cannot give his portrait.

A Compliment From Upper Canada.

The finest display of biscuits ever made in Canada was that of G. J. Hamilton & Sons, Picton, N. S., at the Provincial Exhibition, Halifax. It covered an area of about 10x35 feet in a corner of the main building. It was arranged so that three faces were shown. The main one inclined upward from about three feet from the outer edge of the space to within a foot of the rear. In it were 230 varieties of confectionery, from penny goods to the finest chocolate. The whole background was formed with over 200 kinds of biscuits. Both were put up in flat cases, with 7x9 in. plate glass fronts, with the edges tastefully decorated. The base was filled with the various kinds of packages in which the goods are usually sent to the retailers. On stands at the ends were glass jars of druggists' confectionery, containing twenty-five different flavors each of candy, lichen and plain. The exhibit was one of the most attractive features of the show.—Canadian Grocer, Toronto.

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ALEXANDER III, THE LATE CZAR.



THE CONSORT OF ALEXANDER III.

upon the approaching death of the ruler of all the Russias. And now the great ruler who "lived a life of sturt and strife," is at rest. Alexander III. was born March 10, 1845. He was the second son of Alexander II., and became the heir apparent to the throne on the death of his elder brother, the Grand Duke Nicholas, in 1865. In 1881, when his father, Alexander II., was killed by the Nihilists in blind rage, he ascended to a throne upon which a fierce light has long beaten. Early in life he manifested his sympathy with the old hostile Russian party. He held an important command in the war of 1877-78. He was a living exemplification of Shakespeare's truism, "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." The government, upon his succession to the throne, took extraordinary precautions for the preservation of his life, which have since been constantly maintained. He took up his residence in the castle at Gatchina, where he has been so surrounded by guards and so difficult of access, even to high officers of the Government, as to himself be practically a close prisoner. Numerous arrests were made, the secret police was reorganized, cities were placed under martial law, the practise of banishment without trial was resumed, everything was done to protect him from assassination except compliance with any of the Nihilists' demands. The appointment of a day for his coronation at Moscow was deferred repeatedly, and it finally took place

ironclad on which the party travelled. All three princes were of a bright, jovial disposition, and many stories are told of the mad pranks with which they enlivened their journey. But one day a serious accident occurred. Grand Duke George fell from the maintop of his ship to the deck and seriously injured his spine. The injury was so severe that the doctor ordered him to discontinue his journey and to return home. Then came an illness which was at first supposed to be typhoid fever, contracted in the Red Sea, but which proved to be consumption, which is

thrown in favor of his younger brother, the Grand Duke Michael. He is said to be in a dying condition.

Appropos to the Imperial decree declaring Grand Duke Michael heir presumptive to the throne after the accession of his elder brother, a brief description of the law of succession prevailing in Russia is pertinent. When Peter the Great ascended the throne he abolished the law of primogeniture, and enacted that the sovereign should have the choice of his successor, not even limiting that choice to the royal line. In 1757 Emperor Paul



NICHOLAS, THE NEW CZAR.

hereditary in the family of the Romanoffs. The Czar's condition, it is said, was made worse some weeks ago by a visit which he paid in person to a telegraph office in the Winter Palace in order to dictate a message asking for news of the young prince. He waited an hour in the damp office for a reply from the doctor, and his illness was aggravated by the severe cold which he caught in consequence of his imprud-

restored the right of primogeniture in the male line, in failure of which alone was the crown to devolve upon the female head. In such an event the throne was to devolve upon the princess next in relation to the deceased emperor, and in case of her dying childless the other princesses were to follow in the order of relationship. Emperor Alexander I., in 1807, confirmed the act of Emperor Paul, and strengthened



THE CZAR AND CZARINA WITH THEIR CHILDREN.

on May 27, 1883. His reign may be said to have been an unsatisfactory one. The Czar was wedded to the Princess Dagmar of Denmark in 1866, the year after he became heir apparent. The story of early preference for another young woman, and her marriage to another young man, has already appeared in PROGRESS. His subsequent marriage to the lady his parents wished him to marry was the happiest and