

NICK'S HARD FATE

From Romanoff to Whorn Country
Has Been Ungrateful.

Story of Great Russian Military Commander Most Amazing Romance of the War—His Splendid Generalship Is Recalled.

From March, 1917, till October, 1918, Grand Duke Nicholas Romanoff, former commander in chief of the Russian armies and one of the most brilliant generals of the great war, was a prisoner in the town of Yalta in the Crimea. He is now in Milan with his family, humbly housed. The story of "Big Nick" is one of the most amazing romances of the war, the Pittsburg Gazette-Times states.

When the bolsheviks gained control of Russia Nicholas was residing at Tiflis, where he had been governor under the czar and under the Lovett regime. He was summoned to Yalta by the bolshevik authorities and obeyed the summons. His brother, his wife, his sister-in-law and other members of his family and his suite were imprisoned with him. Twenty-five bolshevik soldiers were detailed to guard the distinguished prisoners.

Late in the summer of 1918 it was decided by the Yalta soviet to execute all the prisoners. The bolshevik guards absolutely declined to permit the sentence of death to be executed and sent the firing squad back to headquarters. Three times thereafter executioners were sent to kill the prisoners, but in each instance the guard prevented the carrying out of the sentence.

When the Germans came to Yalta Nicholas declined to permit the Germans to enter the house that had been his prison, declaring his utter loathing of all things German. Soon after this the allies took Yalta and Nicholas was rescued.

All the private fortune of the grand duke has been lost. His lands have been confiscated. At Milan he lives comfortably, but very unostentatiously.

Democracy owes much to Grand Duke Nicholas. He was, in fact, a staunch upholder of the old Russian absolutism. But first of all Nicholas was a Russian. He knew Russia's salvation depended on the vanquishing of Germany. He was a leader of consummate skill and it is more than probable that only his splendid generalship prevented Germany from winning the war in the early stages. His retreat before the tremendous attack of Mackensen and Hindenburg, which resulted in the saving of the Russian armies, was one of the most notable chapters of the war.

Between the bolshevik Russia of today and the old autocratic Russia for which Nicholas fought, practical students and statesmen find little choice, but it must be admitted that the autocracy produced great men, while the gutter communism has found only scoundrels for its leaders. In the awarding of justice there should be some provision for this gigantic Russian, who in 1914 and 1915 prevented Germany from marching to easy victory.

No Horses on Largest Farm.

A 200,000-acre farm, the largest in the world, which is the direct result of the government's efforts to stimulate the growing of wheat, is described by Robert H. Moulton in Everybody's.

"The farm is devoted entirely to wheat, and if it produces somewhere around the country's average of twenty-eight bushels per acre, which is practically certain, it will add approximately 5,600,000 bushels to the 1919 wheat crop," says the writer.

"All of the work is being done with tractors. Last fall when the first



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ground was broken, there were fifty monster machines at work tearing up the prairie sod. They plow on an average of one acre a minute for the working time. A record was made one day of 1,880 acres turned and broken. All the seeding, harvesting, etc., will also be done by tractors, and, of course, there are the thrashing machines. Hence, the absolute no-accountness of horses about this place."

Price of Labor.

An Indiana suffragist, who is a wide-known speaker, went to her door the other morning to buy some blackberries of a young country woman, reports the Indianapolis News. The berries were fine, but the suffragist wished them at a lower price than they were offered. "Why, they just grow along the roadside so plentifully that all you have to do is to pick them," she told the woman. "Don't you think you are charging a rather exorbitant price for your labor?"

"The country woman put her boxes back into her basket. 'I've known of higher-priced labor,' she retorted testily. 'Words are more plentiful than blackberries and yet our club had to pay you \$25 last winter for putting a bunch of them together.'"

His Resolve.

"It is better to do your losing early in the season."

"I know that axiom," said the baseball manager, "but if I happen to win a few games I'll endeavor to hear it with resignation."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

No Loss of Animation.

"I suppose Crimson Gulch is quieter since the bar closed."

"Not yet," said Cactus Joe. "All you've got to do is to say 'prohibition' and everybody begins to argue at the top of his voice."

VERMIN OLD PEST OF ARMIES

Reference to Them Found in Writings of the Romans, and in English Literature.

The newspapers have had much to say about the "delousing" of the returning troops. Philip Hale writes in the Boston Herald. The word is not a pretty one and it is not to be found in the dictionaries, but the war has brought with it many new words, some of which will disappear, some of which will soon be regarded as orthodox and of good and regular standing.

No soldier need be ashamed of necessary submission to the process. It may console him to recall the case of Thomas Otway, an Oxford man, the author of "Venice Preserved" and "The Orphan." As a cornet in a regiment of horse, he joined in 1678 the army under Monmouth in Flanders. It was reported that he came back from Flanders "manky and covered with vermin." Rochester taunted him with this in his "Session of the Poets." It should also be remembered that when the troops were disbanded and recalled, the money voted by the com-

mons for their payment was misappropriated. The soldiers were paid only by debentures and the credit of these was so low that they were hardly salable.

It was observed in the sixteenth century that "lice cometh also of that cloth that is trained in the wool with the fat or grease of a horse or of a swine, and therefore the northern cloths worn of a sweating body do breed lice in 12 hours." The "humor" of an individual had much to do with the character of the pest. Lice generated of sanguine humor were red and green; of phlegmatic, white; of choleric, yellow, long, swift and sharp; of melancholic, ashen colored, lean and slow in moving. Anyone of these pests "grieveth more in the skin with the feet and with creeping, than he doth with biting." And the learner that a louse is, the sharper she biteth and grieveth. There were many approved remedies even in the elder Pliny's time, thus: "The old skin or slough that snakes do cast off in the spring, whosoever drinketh in his ordinary drink, it will kill all the vermin of the body within three days."

Story of a Dog.

"Marathon races in the woods will never become universal for the reason

that speed and stamina like that of Bull Crannell's dog are not universal in the four-footed hunters," says Warwick S. Carpenter, secretary of the conservation commission. "Mr. Crannell lives at West Glens Falls, and while hunting near there recently his dog picked up a fox track. The dog was picked up next day near Cranberry lake, more than seventy miles away.

"Accounts do not state whether the dog was still going strong or whether he might have taken the fox back to Mr. Crannell, but simply that identification of the dog was made by the conservation commission license tag and that Mr. Crannell went after the dog.

"The moral of all this is that if one owns a dog good enough to run a fox through two counties she should surely be protected by an identification disk."—New York Times.

Make the Best of Today.

Anticipating tomorrow's opportunities and regretting yesterday's failures is scarcely a fair way to spend today. It is dividing the present and bestowing it upon two periods that have no right to it.

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