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HORRORS IN LIFE OF A RUSSIAN COUNTESS



Courtesy Olga Romanoff

That the lives of Russian women are frequently mixed with tragedy, is shown by the history of the 23-year-old widow of the late Count Romanoff. The countess is the eldest daughter, by a morganatic marriage of Grand Duke Sergius, who was blown to pieces by a bomb over a year ago. She was married to Count Romanoff in February, last year, and when he was murdered a few months later she was forced to stand by and witness the crime. Then she was seized in her St. Petersburg home and made a secret prisoner by the officer in charge of the soldiers. She resisted him and escaped last June and has since been hiding in London.

WOMEN AS EXPLORERS.

One of Them Crosses Northern Labrador with Husband.

The arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Tasker at Fort Klimo on the east coast of the arctic peninsula, adds another to the list of women explorers, says the New York World. As probably the first white woman to cross northern Labrador, she has fairly won her spurs in a field of adventure for which her sex has of recent years shown a rare aptitude. Mrs. Tasker's feat will recall Mrs. Hubbard's venture into Labrador in the track of her husband's ill-fated expedition and the arctic voyage of Mrs. Peary. The return of Mrs. Max Fleischmann from a honeymoon spent in the arctic regions shooting polar bears illustrates new feminine ideals of a wedding journey.

The exploits of Miss Mary Kingsley on the lower Niger still challenge comparison with masculine standards. Accompanied only by native attendants, she penetrated for long distances through the bush in the face of frequent dangers. In her writings she showed rare insight and sympathy with the native point of view, which male explorers have not always done. The reputation made by Miss Annie Peck as a mountain climber is world-wide. From the Matterhorn to the Peruvian peaks, what difficult summit has she left unscathed? She was the first woman to climb Orizaba, and she scaled Mount Sorata, in Bolivia, to a height of 20,500 feet, almost exactly that of Mount McKinley, which Dr. Frederick A. Cook has just conquered.

In mountain climbing woman now asks no odds of man. Miss J. E. Duncan, whose explorations in Tibet carried her into regions previously unvisited, was the first European woman to cross the Changla pass, which is nearly 18,000 feet above the sea, 1,400 higher than any pass crossed by the British expedition to Lhasa. Mrs. Bullock-Workman has scaled great heights in the Himalayas. In April last Mrs. Laura Fitzgerald, an American, was reported to have left Mogador to explore the great Atlas mountains, among which are summits 14,500 feet high. Mountain climbing being in extreme altitudes a test rather of vital endurance than of muscular strength, women who have cool heads find it not beyond their powers. Fitzgerald camped for months at the base of Aconcagua, unable to get to the top, although there were no insuperable difficulties except the strain on the heart and lungs. There are probably many women who could with training have staggered with his Swiss guide to the summit.

Glad the Mint is Working.

He was a seedy looking individual and reminded a casual observer of a man who, with Kipling's "tramp royal," had more than once found "his mate the wind which tramps the world." He wandered into small lunch room not far from Pennsylvania avenue and in a low voice ordered a mug of milk. He sipped the beverage slowly and it was evident that he was trying to make it do for a square meal.

Throwing down a dime on the counter, he waited for his change. The spy and observing waiter tossed a nickel out to him, but observing the coin's brilliancy picked it up and looked at the date.

"That's a 1906 nickel," he announced to the tramp.

The tramp verified his words by looking at the date for himself, then muttered sadly as he started out: "Thank God the mint's still working!"—Washington Star.

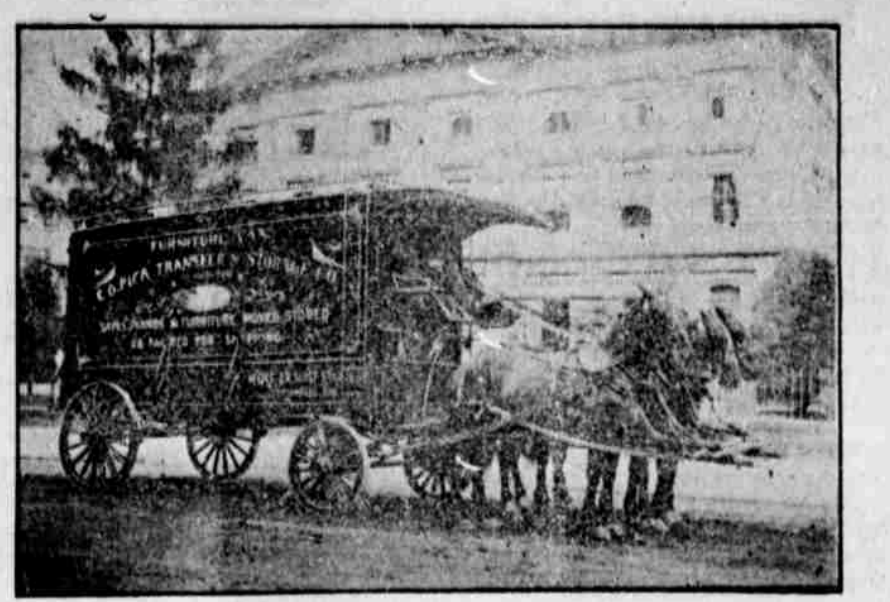
Held Back.

"That big foundry over there can't get ahead very fast."

"Why not?"

"It's always casting anchors."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

One reason people frequently take a lawyer's advice is that they have to pay for it.



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