

EMPRESS IS SINKING

RELATIVES HURRYING TO THE BEDSIDE AT CROMBERG.

The Physician Reports That Her Strength Is Rapidly Diminishing—King Edward Starts.

HOMBURG, Aug. 4.—The Empress, Crown Princess Frederick William, Prince of Prussia, and Prince August William arrived at Cromberg, where the doctor Emperor Frederick is lying dangerously ill, at a late hour tonight.

The following bulletin concerning the condition of the patient was issued this afternoon:

"The external disease from which Her Majesty is suffering, and which for years has been slowly increasing, has in the course of the last few weeks extended to the internal regions. Her Majesty's strength is diminishing rapidly. She is conscious and at the present without pain."

RENDEL, GERMANY.

King Edward Starts Today.

LONDON, Aug. 4.—King Edward, who has been staying at Coway, has arranged to leave Portsmouth tomorrow morning by a special train, which will be due to arrive in London at 5 A. M. He will proceed immediately from London by special train and leave for the Continent on the side of his sister. It is not yet known whether Queen Alexandra will accompany him. The Duke of Cambridge is already in Cromberg.

THE RUSSIAN FAMINE.

Acute Distention in the District of Elizabeth Grad.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 2.—A traveler changing into the district of Elizabeth Grad, Province of Kherson, South Russia, would find many women who are endowed with servicable visual powers as long as the sun is visible, become totally blind the moment the twilight sets in, and must be led home by a man.

In correspondence from here, mention has been made from time to time of the drouth which visited many, though not large, districts of Russia last year, and of the efforts made by the government to alleviate the suffering arising from it.

The Ministry of the Interior repeatedly declared the famine had been conquered, food had been distributed, and seed corn provided. The necessity for private benevolence was reluctantly admitted at one time in the Winter, but later the existence of severe want was denied. News papers received by the government for months contain occasional letters depicting the situation in anything else than the rosy colors which the government organs used. The government answered by a communique recanting what had been done and repeating former assertions that all was as well as could be expected, and then the newspapers received from the districts mentioned the existence of famine was an inconceivable fact at a time when negotiations were pending for foreign loans.

The districts were divided for convenience into three groups, and the charity workers who were not directly under the control of the state were sent to their homes, and the agencies they had created were placed under the Red Cross. These measures did not still the natural curiosity to ascertain the truth about the matter, and certain people who were not placed under the Red Cross, and who were not to be ignored, sent a trustworthy young man to Elizabeth Grad to investigate. He has just returned. Without going into details, he reports the following facts:

"1. Many cases of acute distention."

"2. Some people dying of starvation."

"3. Spotted or 'hunger typhus' prevalent."

"Hunger typhus fever is an unfailing indication that poverty has sharpened into want. Whole families are attempting to live on national soup."

"The government rule is to omit persons not actually sick with disease who could be labeled as able-bodied working people. There is little or no food for them, consequently rations cannot be had until they are no longer of much benefit. The government gave minimum quantities of the first grade of seed corn, and supplies of seed corn and food stuffs to the nearest railway stations. The peasants, having already been forced to sell their horses, were unable to secure the supplies so furnished in many cases without giving a large part to draymen. The investigator was told that those converted with local resources and the confidence of the Governor were utterly unable to see how the souls and bodies of the majority of the population were to be held together in the winter. The crops should be harvested and available."

"Mention has already been made of the advice of the Novoye Vremya recently to Japan—to forget Korea and ally herself with Chinese territory opposite Formosa and various islands of the Pacific, including the Philippines and the Hawaiian Islands. Russia would like to secure these possessions with diplomatic advice and other support."

"The Bourse Gazette, which claims to represent the commercial interests of Russia, subscribes to all of this. This journal observes:

"As a matter of fact, Russia expects nothing from Japan except to get rid of her designs on Korea. After Russia has employed colonial means in her civilizing mission in East Asia, she is in duty bound to guard independence of the peninsula which lies in the path between Port Arthur and Vladivostok. But in addition to Korea there are large territories in Southern China and adjacent island groups south of Formosa, and in Russia nobody has ever denied the justification of Japan's ambition for territorial expansion."

"Vice-Admiral Makaroff, who recently entered upon a polar expedition, has been heard from in a letter from Tromsø, dated June 21, in which he writes a letter via North Cape to the Admiralty Peninsula and Spitzbergen. He will skirt the north edge of the Gulf Stream, and establish a provision depot and a letter office on the north side of the Cape of Abruzzi wintered, if this can be attained. However, if the ice can be penetrated early enough and coal is still present, an attempt will be made to go west from Spitzbergen to Cartograph. This programme is rather extensive for two or three months."

Dumont Made Another Attempt.

PARIS, Aug. 4.—M. Santos-Dumont, the

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