

STATE SECRETS ARE DISCLOSED BY KAISER'S LETTERS

Missives Written to Former Czar
of Russia Now Interesting
Sidelight for Historian.

By Isaac Don Levine

(Correspondent who returned recently to the United States from Russia.)

Upon the execution of Nicholas Romanoff, the ex-czar of Russia, in Ekaterinburg in July, 1918, a case containing his private correspondence was found among his personal effects. This case was transmitted by the soviet authorities to Moscow. Among its contents was a batch of letters written in English, addressed to "Nicky," and signed "Willy." There were 73 letters in the batch, covering a period of 20 years, 1894-1914.

I examined these original letters during my stay in Moscow last October. The somewhat faded blue of the stationery used by the German emperor, his heavy and firm handwriting as well as his quaint English distinguished this batch from a number of other papers kept in the same case. It seemed to be made a complete copy of all the letters, and photographs of some of them.

The collection that the Daily News will publish, beginning on Friday, is complete—not a selection from the Kaiser's letters to the czar. It includes all such letters in existence. None of these letters has ever been published, although more than a year ago a number of telegrams exchanged between the Kaiser and the czar in the years 1904-7 appeared under the name of "The Willy-Nicky Correspondence."

AUTHENTICITY ESTABLISHED
Without questioning the genuineness of the telegrams referred to it should nevertheless be emphasized that the so-called "Willy-Nicky Correspondence," being telegrams, cannot by their very nature be authentic. For it is scarcely possible that no errors should have been committed in the transmission of a large number of telegrams. In the case of the letters here published we have really a set of irrefutable and unquestionable documents.

The first of these communications was written in 1894, on the occasion of the ascendancy to the throne of Nicholas Romanoff. The last was dispatched in 1914. The 20 years encompassed by these communications from the Kaiser to the czar will always remain a period of profound interest to the future historian. In these 20 years the forces which culminated in the bloodiest and vastest war in the life of mankind grew and developed. After the countless contemporary histories of the causes of the world war have turned into dust and vanished from the memory of man, these letters will hold their own.

As time goes on and passions and prejudices give way to calm judgment and impartial analysis, people will peruse these pages more and more frequently. What a boon to humanity it would be if the enormous volume of truth lying buried in the private archives of half a dozen European courts, existing and extinct, were suddenly to be revealed to the world! So far nothing has come out of the archives of the fallen German and Austrian royal houses.

ALIENATE RUSSIA FROM FRANCE
The Kaiser was the apostle of the "principle of la monarchie." It appears very early in his communications to the Russian autocrat. His big purpose, running like a red thread through all these letters, was to divert Russia's attention from the west to the east and alienate her from France. In the first part of his program the Kaiser succeeded. He turned the attention of the czar to the far east, he aroused in Nicky the belief that Russia's mission was to save

LETTER WRITTEN BY KAISER TO CZAR

figures of Russia & Germany
as sentinels at the Yellow Sea
for the proclaiming of the Gospel
of Truth & Light in the East
I drew the sketch in the Xmas
week under the blaze of the
lights of the Xmas trees.
Also an album of photographs
representing the review on your
birthday at Wiesbaden before
the new standard of your
Regiment & the swearing in
of the recruits of your
Alexander Regiment as well as
a scene from its barracks yard

Nicus Palais
4/1/1896

Dearest Nicky.

The new year has just
opened & the old year has
closed. But I cannot let
it close without a glance
at those lovely & brilliant
days of August, when I was
able to embrace you & Alix,
& without thanking you for
your kind, splendid even last
hospitality to V. Iborice & me.
With deep feelings of gratitude
do I remember the pleasant

Former German emperor wrote to his friend Nicholas, the czar, in English, and signed his epistles "Willy." Seventy-three letters were found in a batch among the czar's personal effects after his execution in Ekaterinburg.

off the yellow peril. Inasmuch as the czar followed the suggestions of the Kaiser—and this correspondence shows it—he was actually responsible for the Russo-Japanese war!

But Wilhelm failed in his second aim, although by the narrowest margin. He endeavored to create a Russo-German-Austrian alliance, a modern league of three emperors. He even drew up himself a secret treaty of alliance between Russia and Germany! The czar, partly because of his being under the influence of Wilhelm and partly because of his instinctive appreciation that safety for autocrats lay in union, consented to such an alliance. But French diplomacy averted its consummation at the last moment.

WHAT IF KAISER HAD SUCCEEDED?
What would have happened to the world had Europe's mightiest autocrats joined hands in a military alliance is a matter for interesting speculation now. In all probability there would have been no revolutions in Russia and Germany, and Willy and Nicky would still be on their thrones. The whole world now probably would be respectively under the arrogant rule of Prussian and Russian militarists.

It is impossible to recount here all the characteristics of the "admiral of the Atlantic,"—as the Kaiser called himself—revealed in these letters. Every letter contains a different feature, discloses a new trait, of the Kaiser's nature. But by far the most outstanding phase of Wilhelm's mind appears to be his intense hatred of Great Britain.

The Kaiser's English is far from perfect. His spelling leaves much to be desired. "Already," "always," "well-fare" are some of his commonest mistakes. He almost invariably employs "and" for "and." He writes "being" instead of "being," "wether" instead of "whether," "unoble" in place of "ignoble," "courtesy," "assistance," "talkie," "ex-instant," "openess," are some of his other errors. Instead of "Turkey" the Kaiser writes "Turky" and instead of "Dardanelles" he spells "Dardaneils." His letters are replete with faulty constructions and

contain scores of misspellings in addition to those here mentioned. These mistakes have been corrected in the text of the letters as they are to be published from time to time. Herewith is printed one touching upon various matters:

"Neues Palais, Jan. 4, 1898.—Dearest

Nicky: The new year has just opened and the old year has closed. But I cannot let it close without a glance at those lovely and brilliant days of August, when I was able to embrace you and Alix, and without thanking you for your kind, splendid even last hospitality to V. Iborice & me. With deep feelings of gratitude do I remember the pleasant

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gratitude do I remember the pleasant hours I was able to spend with you, exchanging intercourse, showing that we were of one opinion in the principles we following the fulfillment of the task which has been set us by the Lord of all Lords. Each of us tries to do his best for his country's development and welfare, as is his duty! But in commonality we seek to procure to our countries the blessings of peace!

"May the New Year be a happy one for you, dear Alix, and the whole of your house and country. May the plans which you mature be fulfilled for the welfare of your people. Henry's mission is one of the help and countenance of your lofty ideals—without which no sovereign can exist—in promoting civilization, i. e., Christianity in the Far East! Will you kindly accept a drawing I have sketched for you, showing the symbolizing figures of Russia and Germany as sentinels at the Yellow Sea for the proclaiming of the gospel of truth and light in the East. I drew the sketch in the Xmas week under the blaze of lights of Xmas trees!

"Also an album of photographs representing the review on your birthday at Wiesbaden, before the new standard of your hussar regiment and the swearing in of the recruits of your fine Alexander regiment, as well as a scene from its barracks ground. A book of memoirs of the father of my chief of the horse, Count Wedel, will follow shortly, as the binding is not quite finished yet. He served under Napoleon I in 1812 in Russia, was made a prisoner by your troops, and makes very interesting description of the campaign of his captivity. Victoria sends her best wishes. She was in bed for a long time and suffered much from the nerves and had a bad throat, and only got up today for the first time. She had much worry on account of the two youngest ones, who suffered from a bad attack of influenza, which is raging here, and were laid up for nearly a month.

"Now goodbye, dearest Nicky, best love to Alix and my most respectful compliments to your dear mamma, from your most devoted and faithful friend and cousin

"WILLY."

THE YELLOW PERIL AGAIN

"Berlin, March 23, 1898.—Dearest Nicky: General Von Werder brought me your and Alix' kind messages from Petersburg and was beaming with delight at the souvenirs of his stay, which, as usual, you managed to render so nice and agreeable to him. I thank you most sincerely for all he transmitted to me from you, and need not add that I heartily reciprocate your wishes. The dear old general is not only a relic of the past, but firmly and by conviction deeply attached to you and your house; and he therefore is in my eyes a living piece of the old tradition which always united our families for the benefit of our countries and by that for the whole world.

"I must congratulate you most heartily at the successful issue of your action at Port Arthur: we two will make a good pair of sentinels at the entrance of the Gulf of Petchili, who will be duly respected especially by the yellow ones. I think the way you managed to soothe the feelings of the 'fretful Japs' by the masterly arrangement at Korea, a remarkably fine piece of diplomacy and a great show of foresight; which is apt to show what a boon it was that by your great journey you were able to study the question of the Far East locally and are now morally speaking the master of Peking!

WITH RUSSIA IN THE FAR EAST

"Radolin reported to me your very interesting conversation about China and your wish about the instructions to the governments assumed as under the Russian sphere of influence. I have prepared an order to the German officers, but could not yet emanate it because of the question of the Far East, which was impossible to fix a certain limit of territory without an indication on the

map—a small pencil line on any piece of paper from you would put my mind to rest; because I would be most unhappy if by any misunderstanding the officers, without their fault, trespassed on Russian territory from want of a real well recognized boundary line. The idea which was beginning to be ventilated from over the channel (England) in the press that Chinese affairs were to be decided by an international conference has been sharply repudiated here by me, for the reason that I soon found out that it was a masked attempt to tie your hands in the Far East, the relations to whom I think are after all your own affair and not other peoples'. The news from (Prince) Henry are good, he is a Hong-kong refitting his ship. He made good friends with Selsay, Weliky and Navarin at Colombo and they sailed together in perfect harmony for some days to the great astonishment of other people! Ahem! Which amuses me much as at the same time it gives me pleasure as Russian admiral.

"Colonel Von Moltke, an aide-de-camp, and commander of your 'Alexandrine' (regiment) is the bearer of this letter and at the same time of a box with two hunting rifles of small bore caliber of exceedingly good hitting qualities and a most stretched trajectory. I hope they will be of good use to you and enable you to kill many a good 'Capital Hirsch' (deer). Now, goodbye, dearest Nicky, best love to Alix and Waldmannshell, from your ever affectionate and devoted friend,

"WILLY."

[The events mentioned in this letter have a bearing on the future war between Russia and Japan, the movement toward a treaty of alliance between Great Britain and Japan, the antagonism between Russia and Great Britain in the Far East and the seizure of Shantung concessions by the Germans, which became a disputed point in the peace conference of 1919. Germany having seized Kiauchau, and an Anglo-German loan

Edith Mason, Chicago Soprano, Scores Big Hit on Paris Stage

By Henry J. Smith

Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.
(Copyright, 1920, by Chicago Daily News Co.)
Paris, France, Jan. 12.—Edith Mason of Chicago, a soprano, has made a distinct success here in singing the leading role of the dashing opera, "Tarsa Bulba," at the Theatre Lyrique, which is the only opera house in Paris not under government subvention. Mary Garden sang "Cleopatra" recently in the same house, which disregards rigid tradition concerning the appearance of foreign singers in leading parts in French opera.

Edith Mason is the wife of Signor Giorgio Polacco, musical director of the Theatre Lyrique, and well remembered in Chicago as the conductor of Italian operas last season. Signor Polacco hopes to return to Chicago.
"I would gladly make my home there," he said. "It is hard to find anywhere more responsive audiences or a finer welcome for artists, whether celebrities or newcomers. Chicago's appreciation of great music must be counted one of the city's finest characteristics."

having been extended to China, Russia saw her far eastern outlet and terminals of the new Siberian railway menaced. On March 8, 1906, Russia made a peremptory demand for the session of Port Arthur and Tientsin on the same terms as the Germans held Kiauchau. Control of the Gulf of Petchili was virtually given Russia by the concessions concessions by the Germans, which became a disputed point in the peace conference of 1919. Germany having seized Kiauchau, and an Anglo-German loan



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