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A CZAR OF RUSSIA

Eccentric Alexander II., Who Gave Freedom to the Serfs.

AND THEN CRUSHED POLAND.

Out of the Reform He Started by the Liberation of the Masses Grew the Nihilist Movement, Which Brought About His Own Death by a Bomb.

It is a curious fact, says the Kansas City Star, that one of the greatest reforms that ever came to Russia—the liberation of the serfs in 1861—came through Alexander II., a man educated under the Prussian military system. Born in 1818, the son of a sternly autocratic father, growing up in an atmosphere in which it was looked upon as treason to criticize the corner policeman since he was a representative of the government, Alexander persisted in cherishing an interest in all sorts of humble people.

He came to the throne in 1855, when Russia was floundering waist deep in the Crimean war. Russia was defeated and demoralized, and it was an unusually auspicious time for men with reform ideas to get a hearing. Peace was made at the end of a year and new laws passed encouraging industry and commerce. Plans were laid for an extensive railway system partly to develop the natural resources of the country and partly to increase its military efficiency.

Then in 1858 Alexander received a petition from certain great landowners in Lithuania praying for a more satisfactory adjustment of relations between themselves and their serfs. The czar replied with lavish praises of their public spirit and assumed that what they wanted to do was to improve the condition of the serfs, which in point of fact was not true at all. Their petition had given him an opening.

Without consulting his ministers the czar caused copies of his instructions to the governor general of Lithuania to be forwarded to the governors of all the other Russian provinces, "suggesting" that the landowners of their provinces might also care to consider emancipation of the serfs. Local committees went to work on the subject.

There were in Russia at this time some 23,000,000 serfs, slaves of the soil. They could not be sold away from the land on which they were born, but in all other respects their bondage was virtually complete. The czar set the ball rolling by freeing the 3,000,000 serfs on the imperial estates. The abolition of serfdom was inevitable, but the landowners tried to stave it off as far as possible. They submitted a plan for making the serfs agricultural laborers, entirely dependent upon them economically. The czar refused to accept it. If the serfs were really to be free he decided they must be able to own land. A state loan, payable annually at 6 per cent for forty-nine years, enabled the former serfs to buy a certain share of farm land of Russia and become peasant proprietors. The land was held by the village communities and by them apportioned to their members. The ukase freeing the serfs was published March 3, 1861.

Hope flamed very high in Russia at that time, and men of the more visionary sort looked forward to an immediate Utopia. They were disappointed, of course, and they found that freeing the serfs did not cure all the ills to which Russian flesh was heir. Out of their disappointment and their impatience that Alexander did not make Russia into a Socialist community there developed the nihilist movement, whose passion for revolution involved a passion for assassination.

The czar in the meantime was endeavoring to steer a middle course. It is one of the curious contradictions of his character that this man, who carried through the freeing of the serfs almost single handed, should have looked with entire coldness and disfavor upon Poland's aspirations for freedom. "Embrace the union with Russia," he told the Polish delegates, "and abandon all thoughts of independence, now and forever impossible."

And in 1863 when revolt broke out in Poland he was relentlessly repressed under Alexander II., and thereafter every step was taken to crush the national spirit of Poland, destroy its language and traditions and make of it an integral part of Russia. The doctrine of Pan-Slavism took a strong hold on his imagination, and he went to war with Turkey in 1877, feeling himself the chivalric liberator of the Christian peoples of the Balkan country. But his hopes of a confederation of Slav states under Russian rule in the Balkan peninsula were dashed by the congress of Berlin next year.

The last years of Alexander's life were dreary ones. More and more he yielded to depression as he saw his high hopes for Russia fall to materialize. Numerous attempts were made upon his life, and after the explosion in the Winter palace in 1880 the czar gave practically dictatorial power for six months to General Loris Melnikoff, a distinguished liberal officer. Melnikoff advised the granting of a constitution to Russia, and Alexander was on the point of issuing a ukase to that effect—had indeed signed it—when he was slain, March 13, 1881, by a nihilist bomb.

Vanity. Vanity isn't on the official list of virtues, yet unless a man has a good opinion of himself he will never amount to much.—Chicago News.

Regard all new ways in the light of fresh experience for you; if you see any honey, gather it.—Charlotte Bronte.

IT WAS A NOISY CARGO.

But It Completely Cured the Skipper of His Fear of U Boats.

A skipper who took a cargo of locomotives across the Atlantic when the U boat warfare was at its worst gave this ringing story of the trip:

"We left Philadelphia with sixty locomotives, all incased in huge wooden boxes, intact and ready to be taken off the ship and placed immediately on the tracks to start dragging ammunition trains to the front.

"The Delaware was as smooth as a pond as we made our way down to the bay, but the first wavelets that struck us at the capes started something that made me want to take a header off the bridge. Every one of the sixty locomotive bells in the hold began to ring! And they all kept ringing all day and all night all the way across the Atlantic.

"At first I thought of going back to dock to have the bells taken off. But that would have amounted virtually to unloading the whole cargo because of the manner in which the locomotives were stowed. It would have meant a week's delay, and I was supposed to get to sea as quickly as possible. So we put out that night with those sixty mad bells going hammer and tongs continuously.

"I thought we would all lose our senses. Sleep was out of the question. It was like ringing 'eight bells' eighty times a minute in sixty different keys. You've seen Sir Henry Irving in the play 'The Bells' Well, it was like that, only this was no play, but real life. It seemed, as one member of the crew who is by far too imaginative said, as if the ghosts of all the murdered ships were clanging up at us out of the depths of the ocean, warning us of the U boats that had littered the sea floors with their bones.

"We fell in with some nasty weather as we neared the other side. The vessel rocked and tossed, and every time she plunged a whole cataract of bells went tearing down toward perdition. 'We're in the U boat zone,' remarked the man at the wheel to me one night. 'Good!' I cried. 'I hope a torpedo hits us soon. Then perhaps I'll get some sleep.'

"The destroyers that met us didn't know what to make of us. They thought we had all gone crazy drunk and were trying to tell the U boats exactly where we were. But I told them I was cured of the fear of U boats forever."—Philadelphia Ledger.

What Is a Sapling? The soldier who thought a "sapling" was a young pig was evidently a Somersetshire man, for a correspondent writes: "Highly amused, I read aloud your 'sapling' story to friends. When I had finished a Somersetshire woman who was present asked, 'Well, what do you call a sapling?' 'A young tree,' I replied. 'Is it?' she replied. 'Now, I've always heard a young pig called a sapling in Somersetshire.' Further inquiry revealed that others say the same." From which we gather that the soldier came from Somerset, while evidently his officer did not.—London Chronicle.

Foiled Both Ways. A sportsman came to grief at the first fence. Pluckily remounting, he met the same fate at the second attempt. Asked the cause of his disasters, he said: "It vos like zis. Ven ve koms to ze first fence I did zink my horse vud jump, but he did not jump, so I vent over his head. Ven ve koms to ze second fence I did zink he vud not jump, and he did jump, so I vent over his tail."—Milwaukee Free Press.

Political Assassinations. The first three months of 1913 were notable for their political assassinations. There were five—the Turkish war minister, Nazim Pasha, Jan. 23; the premier of Salvador, Manuel E. Araujo, Feb. 4; the president and vice president of Mexico, Francisco I. Madero and Jose Pino Suarez, Feb. 23, and King George of Greece, March 18.

Round the Circle. Friend—Why do you maintain such a large office force? Financier—To prevent outsiders from bothering me. "But I thought that was what your executive secretary was for." "Oh, no. He is here to prevent the office force from bothering me."—Life.

Time and Place. "There is a time and a place for everything." "Yes," answered Senator Sorghum sadly. "And it's rather unfortunate that one of the most reliable ways to attain publicity is to say something at the wrong time in the wrong place."—Washington Star.

A Gaudy Vulture. In the South American forests is found the most beautifully colored of all vultures, and it is the true king over the black vultures and turkey buzzards. Its plumage is of a delicate cream, with black quills, and the head is brilliantly colored with red and orange.

The Signs. "Miss Gladys got no fewer than six gold headed umbrellas for birthday presents." "She must be something of a reigning belle."—Baltimore American.

Father Knew. Tommy—Pop, what is a glutton? Tommy's Pop—A glutton, my son, is a grown man who can eat almost as much as a small boy.—Philadelphia Record.

The wise prove, the foolish confess by their conduct, that a life of employment is the only life worth leading.—Paley.

Russian Democracy's First Envoy to America

When the Russian special war mission to the United States came to this country it was headed by Professor Boris A. Bakhmetieff, who is to remain as ambassador, the first to represent the new democracy at Washington.



Photo by American Press Association. BORIS ALEXANDER BAKHMETIEFF.

Although under forty years of age, Ambassador Bakhmetieff has had a varied career. After graduating as a hydroelectric engineer he became an instructor and later professor in the Petrograd Polytechnic Institute.

About thirteen years ago he came to this country and took up practical work in hydroelectric installations. He returned to Russia an American enthusiast. Under the old regime Professor Bakhmetieff was chief representative in America of the Russian central war industries committee. Officially he is still head of that committee. He left this country six months ago for a temporary absence. After the revolution last March he was appointed assistant minister of commerce and trade. The new ambassador speaks English fluently.

Produce Rabbits to Increase Meat Supply

Rabbits, which have proved a valuable source of food in Europe during the present war, may well be raised more extensively in America by way of reducing the drain on the ordinary meat supply, according to biologists of the United States department of agriculture. The business of growing rabbits, the specialists point out, can be carried on by youths and adults not engaged in military or other national service or in regular industrial employment. The animals may be raised in back yards of cities and towns as well as on farms.

The Belgian hare breeds rapidly, matures quickly and produces a palatable and highly nutritious meat. The cost of production is less than that of any other meat, not excepting poultry. The Belgian and Flemish giant rabbits are recommended for meat production, as the ordinary tame rabbit is smaller and develops more slowly.

Rabbits are easily kept. They eat hay, grass, lawn cuttings and green vegetation of many kinds. Females should be allowed to breed when eight or ten months old and during the year should raise four litters of about six

young each. Well fed, the young reach marketable size when three to four months old and average from five to six pounds live weight.

Mother's Doll Story

The Green Frog

Once upon a time a little girl had a birthday party, and one of the presents that one small friend brought her was a nice green paper frog.

The little girl had so many dolls that she took a fancy to the frog. She tied a string to one of his long legs, and everywhere the little girl went her green paper frog was sure to go.

Now, one of the tasks that the little girl did every day was to feed her kitty a saucer of milk. Just outside the kitchen door stood a small brown dish. In this dish every morning the little girl used to pour a cupful of milk for the kitty's breakfast.

"Would you like to help me feed the kitten, dear?" the little girl asked her pet frog. And froggy jumped three inches and then squatted down on his green paper legs.

Plump, plump, he went across the grass till he came to the brown dish of milk. Then right into it he jumped, because he had not seen any water in so many days that milk looked too inviting to him.

When the little girl saw her pet sitting in the milk of course she was glad she had him at the end of a string. So she quickly pulled him out of the milk and hung him up to dry on the clothesline.

The Whippoorwill. The whippoorwill does not build a nest for its eggs, but lays them on the ground, usually on fallen leaves.

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS

Some of the sidewalks of Falls City are in a deplorable condition and unless they are repaired by the owners of the property the city will be obliged to repair them, which requires considerable extra expense to proceed according to law. If anyone is injured on account of defective sidewalks, the city is liable for such damages and the taxpayers of Falls City must pay them. Please repair your sidewalks.

Street Committee.

The Oregon Agricultural College

Where trained specialists with modern laboratories and adequate equipment give instruction leading to collegiate degrees in the following schools:

AGRICULTURE, with 15 departments; COMMERCE, with 4 departments; ENGINEERING, with 6 departments, including Civil, Electrical, Highway, Industrial Arts, Irrigation and Mechanical Engineering; FORESTRY, including Logging Engineering;

HOME ECONOMICS, with 4 major departments, including training in the Practice House;

MINING, with three departments, including Chemical Engineering;

PHARMACY;

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, offers instruction in the principal departments of vocal and instrumental music.

THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT, enrolled 1085 cadets in 1916-17, and won recommendation for O. A. C. from the Western Department of the U. S. War Department as one of the fifteen "distinguished institutions" of higher learning. All cadets will be furnished complete uniforms by the U. S. Government and the junior and senior cadets, enrolled in the R. O. T. C., will be given commutation for subsistence, as well as all transportation and subsistence at the six weeks' Summer camp.

REGISTRATION BEGINS OCTOBER 8, 1917. Information on request. Address, Registrar, Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Oregon.

Deafness Cannot Be Cured

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, Deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by Catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by Catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars free.

F. J. CHENEY, & CO., Toledo, Ohio. Sold by Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

As Usual.

Willis—How did the automobile accident occur? G.H.'s—In the usual manner; the road turned one way and the car the other.—Town Topics.

Only the man who is in the wrong must win at once. Those who are right can afford to wait.

STORE TALK

You wonder when Advances will ever stop We likewise wonder.

We consistently believe it is to your interest to buy what you reasonably expect to use for sometime ahead. In certain lines the jobbers are now limiting the amount a merchant can buy. It won't be long a matter of price--It will be--

CAN WE GET THE GOODS

We are reasonably well supplied at present, and are bought up for fall requirements in part. Again we suggest early buying this year.

SELIG'S, Cash Price Store,

"Meeting and Beating Competition".

The way to have a Bank

Account is to start one.

There must be a Beginning sometime. Delays are only a waste of time. One Dollar will start. Every additional dollar will help. This bank invites you.

We pay interest on time deposits.

BANK OF FALLS CITY.

Family Seashore Resort

People seeking rest and quiet recreation will find them at

Newport Beaches

Good hotels, cottages and tents provide pleasant abiding places for summer guests. Surf bathing, boating, fishing, and hunting.

Week End Fares

Are on sale Saturdays and Sundays, limited for return on the following Monday.

Season Tickets on sale daily.

Ask your local agent for tickets and descriptive booklet John M. Scott, General Passenger Agent Portland

Southern Pacific Lines