

# 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 czar 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 warring 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.

# SUGAR CONTROL SAVED MILLIONS

American Consumer Profited by \$180,000,000—French Situation Helped.

## HOME PRICE HELD AT 9 CENTS.

This Nation's Sugar Supply Reduced to Seventy Per Cent. of Normal, Java Stocks Unavailable.

Sugar control has saved the American public \$180,000,000, Herbert Hoover, United States food administrator, declared the other day.

He pointed out that sugar was selling for 11 cents a pound last August and that it would have advanced to 20 cents a pound, with the world shortage as a stimulus, had not the food administration secured the co-operation of the refiners and wholesalers and fixed a sugar price that today enables housewives to buy sugar at from 8 1/2 to 9 cents a pound.

"Every 1 cent raise in sugar from September 1 to January 1 means \$18,000,000 to the American consumer," Mr. Hoover said. "Numbers of gentlemen will tell you that 20 cent sugar would have prevailed and the public robbed of \$180,000,000 this year if we had not taken these actions." Later Mr. Hoover called attention to the fact that uncontrolled sugar advanced to 35 cents a pound during the Civil War.

### France Got Our Sugar.

Today the American public has been allotted 70 per cent. of its normal supply. Before the war the average annual household consumption here was 85 pounds a person. In England the annual consumption during the war is 24 pounds, and in France each person is allotted a little over one pound a month.

"In August the French government found itself unable to maintain even this ration," Mr. Hoover declared. "An appeal was made to America. France needed 100,000 tons. We agreed to fill this demand and up to December had shipped \$5,429 tons. In the meantime an appeal was made to the American public to reduce its sugar consumption, and requests were made to distributors to supply the confectionary and sweet drinks trade with 50 per cent. of normal supply. This has been generally followed, although such regulations were voluntary, as the food administration had no authority to impose them."

### Domestic Price is 8 1/2 to 9 Cents.

Retail grocers throughout the country are supposed to take a profit of no more than 50 cents a hundred—half a cent a pound—on sugar. By reason of food administration regulations, binding refiners and wholesalers, the retailer is able today to buy sugar at from 8 to 8 1/2 cents a pound. This enables him to sell to the housewife at 8 1/2 to 9 cents a pound.

There have been some violations of the sugar rulings. Mr. Hoover said recently: "Sales of sugar from 16 to 20 cents per pound have been reported and followed up vigorously and stopped and is evidence itself of the prices at which consumers would have been mulct had we not intervened. We have forfeited wholesalers' licenses in aggravated cases, and we have issued warnings to first offenders in a great many instances through our local administrators."

### Effect on Military Situation.

American sugar stocks could be filled to normal very soon if ships could be sent to Java, where 250,000 tons of sugar is waiting for shipment. But the shipping situation is so acute that the nation cannot spare the eleven ships needed to transport this sugar. It would take the boats one year to haul 250,000 tons. In the same time they could be used for transporting 200,000 soldiers to France.

The food administration believes that the American public will diminish its sugar consumption by 10 or 15 per cent. when it is made clear that such sugar saving is a patriotic act and which it is understood that there are plenty of sweeteners available to take the place of sugar, such as honey or corn syrup.

### Why Shortage Exists.

The three great sugar producing centers of the world are Germany, the West and East Indies. German sugar is, of course, used at home. The East Indian sugar is unavailable because of the ship shortage.

While U boats made big inroads on the world's shipping, France and Italy ceased to be self sustaining in sugar manufacture. England in the meantime was cut off from German sugar—1,400,000 tons a year—because of the war. The result has been that the allied nations have been forced to turn to America and the West Indies for their sugar.

### EVADE RIGID FOOD CONTROL.

Food is Bought in Germany Surreptitiously in Violation of Autocratic Rulings.

Even the autocratic food control of Germany has been powerless to prevent surreptitious sales, according to semi-official reports reaching the United States food administration. Illegal sales of butter are being made in Germany at prices ranging from \$1.75 to \$2.25 a pound. Eggs sold contrary to the German food regulations are bringing 10 to 15 cents apiece, according to these reports. And bacon or ham is bringing from \$2.25 to \$3.25 a pound.

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## EUROPE NEEDS FOOD

Food Administration Declares It is an Absolute Sin to Waste Food—Food Has Become Sacred.

Europe is still sending an insistent call for more food. We must send it if the war is to go on efficiently. If we eat it all we cannot ship it, and the food administration has already tried to picture how much that wheat is needed by people who will starve if they do not get it, the food administration states.

"For the least bit of heedlessness on your part in food conservation some one somewhere in the world must suffer privation," an official statement declares. "The food administration has mastered the problem of America's food in such a way that every ounce of food conserved and kept in the currents of trade goes to an empty stomach in Europe.

"It is an absolute sin to waste food. Food has become sacred.

"Food means life; it means somebody's life, and you cannot escape responsibility.

"There is no waste of food among the allied nations."

## WAR BREAD COSTLY TO BRITISH GOVERNMENT

Every year the British government pays \$200,000,000 toward the cost of that nation's war bread. That is the principal reason why English bread prices are lower today to the consumer than in America. Incidentally the British bread is much poorer than the American.

Great Britain has taken over all home grown grain, bought at an arbitrary price, and all imported wheat bought in markets of the world at prevailing prices. This is turned over to the mills by the government at a price that allows the adulterated war bread loaf of four pounds to sell at 18 cents. The two pound loaf costs 9 cents, and the one pound loaf sells for 5 cents.

In milling, however, 14 per cent. more flour is extracted from the wheat than in America. And there is a compulsory adulteration of 20 per cent. and an allowable adulteration of 50 per cent.

Compared with American bread, the British product is only about 65 per cent. pure at its best.

In France, under conditions somewhat similar, but with a larger extraction, the four pound loaf sells for 16 cents.

## AMERICAN SAVINGS WILL MEASURE WHEAT EXPORTS

"We have already exported the whole of the surplus of the 1917 wheat harvest, over and above the normal demands of our own population. It is necessary, therefore, for the food administration to restrict export of wheat so as to retain in the United States sufficient supplies to carry our own people until the next harvest.

"Therefore all exports of wheat from now forward are limited entirely to volume of saving made by the American people in their consumption of wheat and wheat products.

"We continued wheat shipments for December as far as our situation allowed, but even with all the conservation made we were still unable to food several hundred thousand tons of foodstuffs urgently required by the allied nations during the month of December alone."

HERBERT HOOVER.

## WHEAT-CORN YEAST BREAD.



Wheat-corn bread is more nutritious than bread baked with wheat flour alone. Thousands of American families today are using this mixed flour bread, and in so doing are enabling America to provide more wheat flour for the allies. Here's a tested recipe for this bread: Take one and a half cups of milk, water or a mixture of the two; one-half cake compressed yeast, one and a half teaspoons salt, one tablespoon sugar, one tablespoon of fat if desired, one cup cornmeal and two cups wheat flour.

Put one and a half cups of water, the cornmeal, salt, sugar and fat (if used) into a double boiler and cook twenty minutes. The water is sufficient only to soften the meal a little. Allow the meal to cool to about the temperature of the room and add the flour and yeast mixed with the rest of the water. Knead thoroughly, make into loaf, place in pan of standard size, allow to rise until nearly fills the pan and bake 45 or 50 minutes. It is hardly practicable to use a greater percentage of cornmeal than this even in emergencies, for bread so made differs very little from baked mush. Less cornmeal can be used and in such a case the general method given above may be followed.

It is impossible to make a yeast raised corn loaf without first cooking the cornmeal. In this case use more than one cupful of meal should be used to four cupfuls of flour. In other respects the bread is mixed and baked as in the above recipe.

## BIG HERDS GONE

World War Wastes Europe's Meat Supply.

American Stock Raisers Co-operate With Food Administration in Conservation Measures.

It is probable that Europe for many years after the war will look to a great extent to America for its meat supply.

Europe's herds are dwindling under war's demands faster than they can be replenished.

When the German armies retired from occupied portions of France and Belgium approximately 1,800,000 head of cattle were appropriated. This addition virtually safeguarded Germany from cattle shortage other nations now suffer.

In England some 2,400,000 acres of grass lands have by compulsory measures been forced into grain production, thus reducing pasturage and hay lands. A declining scale of maximum meat prices for live cattle was ordained in England, as follows: For September, \$17.78 per hundred pounds; October, \$17.28; November and December, \$16.08, and for January, \$14.40. The evident intent of this measure was to drive the beef animals into market as soon as possible.

According to official French figures, the cattle of France have decreased to a total of 12,341,900 as compared with 14,807,000 in 1913. Today, due to lack of forage principally, France is producing only one gallon of milk where before the war two and one-half gallons were produced.

Meantime the United States food administration has taken steps to conserve our flocks and herds and to increase their numbers. The stock breeders of this country show a disposition to co-operate with the government in this.

For many years it has been a practice among many of the dairy people of this country to kill male calves at birth and in many instances the females if not needed to replenish their herds rather than go to the expense of maturing them into veal. The high prices of meat caused the virtual discontinuance of this killing. Another encouraging fact is 75 per cent. of calves killed for veal this year were males.

Somebody has very aptly said that the wars of the world have been won with grease, meaning that bacon and lard have been as essential to success in war as powder, which is true.

The hogs of Europe have been very greatly sacrificed to present day needs. This makes the American burden all the more heavy and makes doubly essential an increased pork production in this nation. In Italy grain is now forbidden to be fed to hogs. In Denmark under a recent order one-fourth of the hogs were ordered to be killed. It is estimated that one-half have now been killed.

## SEIZURE OF HOUSEWIVES' FOOD STOCKS IMPOSSIBLE

The government has never considered any plan of seizing foodstuffs owned by householders. Nor is there any policy of this kind suggested for the future.

In spite of this fact, the United States food administration has been obliged repeatedly to issue official denials of rumors that the government intends commandeering preserves and canned goods put up in American homes.

These rumors were originated partly by pro-German propagandists and partly by conscienceless grafters, who sought to profit through buying from misinformed housewives.

The year 1918 will see home canning and preserving practiced on greater scale than ever before in the nation's history, officials in Washington believe. And they are assuring all patriotic housewives that foods so saved are theirs, and theirs alone.

## NUTRITIOUS CORN BREAD.



One New York hotel has arranged a thoroughly patriotic corn bread recipe. It combines cornmeal with rye flour, both of which are being consumed in greater quantities this year in order to release wheat flour for the allied nations. This recipe fills a large pan—16 by 22 inches—and contains the following ingredients: One quart milk, four ounces butter substitute, ten ounces light syrup or honey, three eggs, pinch salt, two pounds cornmeal, one pound rye flour and two ounces baking powder.

The butter and syrup are thoroughly mixed. Then add the eggs gradually, pour in the milk, then add the rye flour mixed with the cornmeal and baking powder. Bake in a hot oven.