

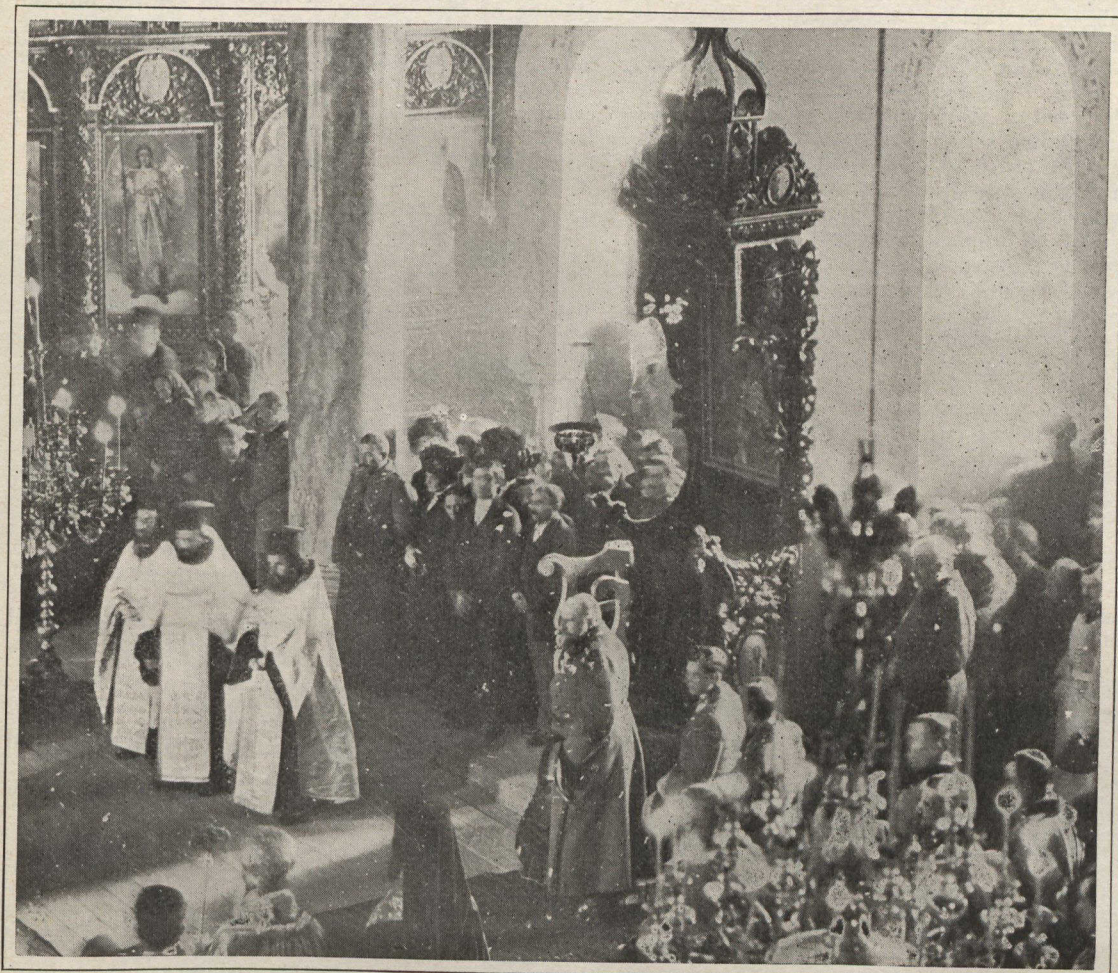


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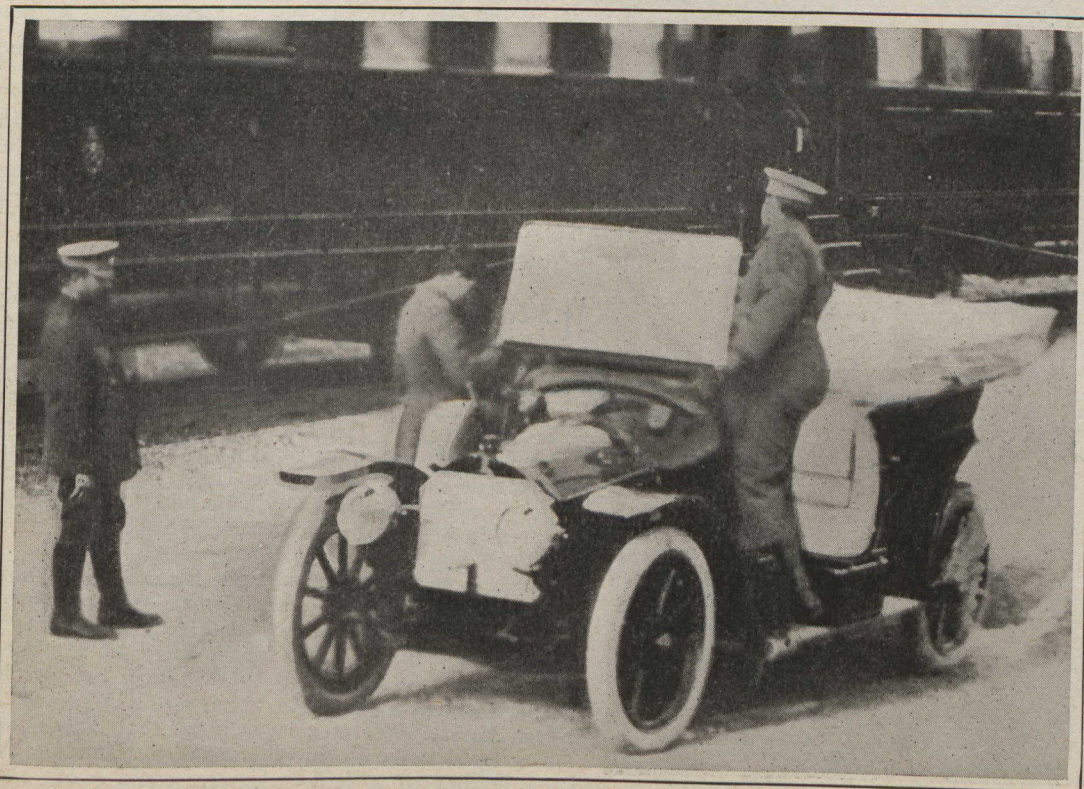
The Dictator of the Balkans



King Ferdinand Attending the Great Te Deum, Held in the Cathedral at Stara Zagora to Celebrate the Bulgarian Victory at Kirk Kilisse. Photos by L. N. A. Staff Photographer.



The King of Bulgaria Among His People—Taking a Stroll in the Town of Stara Zagora.



King Ferdinand in His Automobile, Leaving Stara Zagora for the Scene of Battle. Photo by Topical.

KING FERDINAND of Bulgaria was a junior among junior monarchs when he began to rule Bulgaria in 1887. He was so much a junior at that time that he was entitled only to the name of "Prince." But he was ambitious. He wanted a greater title and, as men are doing all over the world, he set out to get it. He had the preliminary training and he proceeded to make the opportunity. No old-world capitalist or new-world millionaire has ever pursued a goal with more skill, ability, determination and relentlessness than Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria. From being the head of a state tributary to Turkey and dependent for its existence on the say-so of the Great Powers he has made Bulgaria a kingdom. He studied European diplomacy and found favour in almost every court. He studied his own people and he raised them to higher national standards in order that he might raise himself. To-day King Ferdinand has led a victorious army against a worthy foe and defeated that foe in one of the greatest campaigns known to military history. He is a modern representative of Alexander the Great, Charlemagne, and Napoleon. Considering that he had behind him only a nation of five million people the achievement of putting an army of 360,000 men in the field is something out of the ordinary. And this army is well officered and well organized.

Whether we believe in peace or in war we must all recognize that King Ferdinand is playing a tremendous part in the destiny of the European people. When he has driven the Turkish armies into Constantinople and humbled the Ancient Oppressor, it will be his word which will decide as to further peace or war. It will be his attitude toward the Great Powers and his diplomacy which will make new national boundaries and give the key-note to the necessary international adjustments.