

RASPUTIN DEVIATOR

by The Princess Radziwill

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When Rasputin Returned to St. Petersburg After His Long "Exile," He Immediately Turned His Attention to Establishing New Acquaintances Who Could Help Him in His Enlarged Vision of Political and Diplomatic Importance.

The Balkan War Gave the "Monk" the Opportunity He Desired Once More To Become a National Figure—He Repeated to All Who Would Listen That He Had a Vision of National Disaster If Russia Drew the Sword.

Rasputin was far too clever ever to say one word capable of offending the Empress, whose proud temperament would never have forgiven him any familiarity had he dared to venture upon it. Whenever he was in her presence he kept a most humble attitude, and certainly never discussed with her any matters of state and never dared entertain her with aught else than religious questions. He was far less guarded with regard to what he told the emperor, with whom it is unfortunately true that he sometimes allowed himself remarks he would have done better to keep to himself. But the czar never looked upon him in any other light than in that of a jester, whose sayings were absolutely devoid of any importance whatever, but who amused the czar at times by the daring manner in which he would touch upon things and criticize people whose names only he would ever have dared to mention in a disparaging tone before Nicholas II. But between that and the possession of any real power and influence there was an abyss which, unfortunately, in view of the turn that events were to take, no one noticed among all those who lamented over the almost constant presence of Rasputin at Tsarskoie Selo.

Court Followers Use Rasputin.

All that I have said, however, refers only to the emperor and empress. In regard to some people who surrounded them it was not quite the same. It is certain that from the first day that the "Prophet" was introduced at Tsarskoie Selo some intriguing persons applied themselves to make use of him for their own special benefit and advantage, and tried to create around him a legend that had hardly anything in common with the real truth. It is useless to mention the names of these people, whose influence it must be hoped is now at an end. But it is impossible not to speak of their activity in regard to the spreading of these rumors which attributed to Rasputin an importance he was never really in possession of. This caused no small damage to the prestige of the dynasty. Rasputin ought to have been considered for what he was—that is, a kind of jester, "un fou du roi," who, like Chicot in Duma's famous novel, allowed himself to say all that he thought of his sovereign and whose words or actions no one could take seriously into account. Instead of this some ambitious men and women, mostly belonging to that special class of Tehinowniks or civil functionaries that has always been the curse of Russia and that, happily, is losing every day something of its former power, profited by the circumstance that the solitary existence led by the imperial court in its various residences did not allow any outside rumors to penetrate to the ears of the rulers of the country. They intentionally transformed Rasputin into a kind of deus ex machina, whose hand could be traced in every event of importance which occurred and who could at will remove and appoint ministers, generals, ladies in waiting, court officials and at last induce the czar himself to deprive his uncle the Grand Duke Nicholas, of the supreme command of the army and to assume it himself.

These different tales were repeated and carried about all over Russia with alacrity, and all the enemies of the reigning house rejoiced in hearing them. They were untrue nine times out of ten, and generally invented for a purpose. Rasputin did not influence the czar, who is far too intelligent to have ever allowed this uneducated peasant to guide or to advise him, but unfortunately he influenced other people, who really believed him to be all powerful. A kind of camarilla formed itself around Rasputin that clung to him and used him for its own purposes, and that went about saying that he was the only man in the whole of Russia capable of obtaining what one wanted, provided it pleased him to do so. One declared that he could persuade the empress, al ways trembling for the health of her only son, to discuss with her imperial spouse any subject that he might suggest. In reality no such thing ever took place. Alexandra Feodorowna always kept Rasputin at arms' length, and for one thing had far too much faith in his absolute disinterestedness even to imagine offering him any reward or gratification. But it is a fact that he was of ten called by her to pray at the bedside of the little boy, who represented the best hope of Russia. This circumstance was cleverly exploited. No one was ever present at his interviews with the czar or with the empress; it was therefore easy for him to say what he liked about them, certain that no one could ever contra-



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diet him, with the exception of the interested persons themselves, and these could never get to hear or to learn anything about the wild tales which it pleased him, together with his friends, to put into circulation regarding the position which he occupied at the court. Thanks to his persuasive powers and to the undoubted magnetic force he was possessed of, he contrived to imbue even earnest and serious people with the conviction that he was at times the echo of the voices of those placed far above him, and that they called upon him to say to others what it embarrassed them to mention themselves.

In Russia, as a general rule, the people in power were all cringing before the czar, whom they never dared to contradict. There were at the time I am writing about some ministers who believed, or affected to believe, in all the extraordinary tales which it pleased Rasputin to repeat, and who thought it useful to follow the indications which it pleased him to give to them. He was only too delighted to be considered the most powerful personage in the whole of the Russian Empire. He helped as much as he could to accredit all the legends going about among the public in regard to his own person, and he imagined that the best way to add to his reputation as a man who did not care for the opinions of the world was to treat this world with disdain and with contempt, and to transform into his humble slaves ladies belonging to the highest social ranks, just as he had transformed into his handmaidens the peasant girls who had fallen under his spell.

Rasputin Intrigues Against His Enemies.

That he magnetized most of the people with whom he prayed seems but too true. Perhaps they did not notice it, but this was done with the consent of those on whom he exercised his hypnotic strength—it is difficult to know exactly—but that his prayer meetings were the scene of spiritual and magnetic experiences all who have ever been present agree in saying. He made no secret about the fact and openly acknowledged the use which he made of the state of trance in which he liked to throw his disciples, especially those belonging to the weaker sex. He practiced to the full all the customs of the "Khytsts," but he added to them a cunning such as is but rarely found in a human being, and a rough knowledge of human nature which gave him the facility to exploit the passions of the many vile people who thought that he was their instrument while in reality it was they who were playing fiddle to his tune.

After his return to St. Petersburg he applied himself to the task of setting aside all his former patrons, such as Ildoré, against whom he contrived to irritate several important members

of the Holy Synod with false reports about remarks which the now disgraced monk was supposed to have made. He contrived also to bring about the exile of the archbishop of Saratoff, Hermogene, from whom he feared disagreeable revelations concerning his own past life and certain episodes connected with the days when he had preached his so-called doctrine in the town and government of Saratoff. On the other hand, he toadied to other ecclesiastical dignitaries eager for promotion, and in that way obtained their support in the synod. Very soon he turned his thoughts to more practical subjects than religious fervor or re-

"It is no exaggeration to say that there was a time when nothing of importance ever occurred in the political, social and administrative life of the Russian capital that not attributed to Rasputin."

It was natural that among the many people who crowded around Rasputin some secret police agents found their way. One of these who was later to become the hero of more than one scandal, a certain Mr. Manassewitsch Manuiloff, bethought himself of becoming the mentor of the "Prophet." He was in close relation with Count Witte, always eager for his own return to power and desirous of overturning every individual in possession of the posts which he had formerly occupied himself. The two men tried to imbue Rasputin with the idea that he had great political talents, and that it was a pity he had not yet turned these into account for the good and the welfare of Holy Russia. Rasputin did not believe in the sincerity of his newly acquired advisers, but he was shrewd enough to see that their help would be of wonderful value to him. He willingly entered into the plans which they unfolded to him between two glasses of brandy or two cups of champagne as the occasion presented itself. Count Witte was very well aware of all the secret influences which were paramount at Tsarskoie Selo, and he contrived to turn them in favor of Rasputin, suggesting at the same time to the latter the things which he ought to say, when in presence of certain personages. It was easy to throw in a word now and then, either in the shape of a jest, or of a remark uttered inadvertently and unintentionally, but yet sure to bear fruit in the future. The great thing was to give to Rasputin the idea that he was a personage of importance. This was not a very difficult matter considering the very high opinion which he already had of his own capacities, coupled with his set resolution to make the most hay whilst the sun was shining and never to miss an opportunity of asserting his personality no matter in what occasion or with what purpose.

The Balkan War Aids the "Monk."

The Balkan war gave Rasputin a golden opportunity for exercising his various talents, and it is pretty certain that he made at the time strenuous efforts in favor of peace, repeating to whomever wished to hear him that he had had visions which predicted that the greatest calamities were awaiting Russia, if she mixed herself up in it. This feeling was shared by a numerous party, and the sovereign himself was the most resolute adversary of any military intervention in this unfortunate affair. It is likely that even without Rasputin Russia would not have drawn her sword either for Bulgaria or for Serbia, but nevertheless it pleased his friends to say that without this would have most undoubtedly occurred. And it also pleased him to assert that on this occasion he had proved to be the saviour of his native land. We shall see him repeat this legend with great relish during a conversation which I had with him personally just before the breaking out of the present war.

There was also another incident in which Rasputin must certainly have been implicated. This was the dismissal of Mr. Kokovtsov, then prime minister and president of the council, followed by the appointment in his place of old and tottering Mr. Goremykine to whom no one in the whole of Russia had ever given a thought as a possible candidate for this difficult post. Count Witte was the personal enemy of Mr. Kokovtsov, whom he had never forgiven for his so-called treason in regard to himself, and he never missed any opportunity to attack him in the council of state, of which they were both members, criticizing his financial administration, and making fun of the splendid budgets which were regularly presented to the Duma. These Witte declared to be entirely artificial, reposing on a clever manipulation of figures. In some ways it was easy to find fault with Mr. Kokovtsov, whose name had been mixed up far too much for the good of his personal reputation in all kind of financial transactions and stock exchange operations. But, then, the same thing had been said about Count Witte with perhaps even more reason than about Mr. Kokovtsov whose wife, at least, had never been suspected of any manipulations with her banking account. Indeed, no finance minister in Russia had escaped accusations of the kind from his detractors for his adversaries, and it had never interfered with their administrative careers nor prevented them from sleeping soundly.

So far, so well; but then this was more the work of events as they had unfolded themselves naturally than the merit of Rasputin; yet he was openly congratulated by his friends, or so-called ones, on the success which he had obtained in driving Mr. Kokovtsov away. The ultra-orthodox party which hailed the advent to power of one of its members—Mr. Goremykine having always been considered as one of the pillars of the conservative faction—now only cheered the "Prophet" with enthusiasm but also started to proclaim anew his genius and clear understanding of the needs of the Russian people. Thus a ministerial crisis culminated in the apotheosis of a man whose only appreciation of the qualities and of the duties of a minister consisted in the knowledge of that minister's existence as a public functionary.

CONTINUED IN TOMORROW'S

ADVERTISER

M'COIG FIGHTING WAR PROFITEERS AND GRAFTERS

Rousing Meeting Was Held at Highgate Last Night.

CHALLENGE TO PLEWES

Dared to Attack Flavell and Lose Campaign Fund.

HIGHGATE, Oct. 24.—Archibald McCoig of Chatham, the fighting candidate of Westham, was cheered again and again tonight when he spoke to an audience from Highgate and vicinity that filled the town hall to capacity. Mr. McLaren was in the chair, and introduced Mr. McCoig, who started in right away to discuss the big issues at present before the country. He assured them that as far as Westham is concerned he intends to follow an independent trail, and fight as he has always done for the interests of his riding.

Round of applause greeted his telling tales against the profiteers and grafters, especially as he told of how he had received letters from some of

them asking him to make appointments with them in Toronto to talk things over, with a view of having him relinquish his fight against them. Mr. McCoig declared amid cheers that he was going to fight the profiteers and grafters to a finish.

Made the Fight. He outlined at length the fight he had made in Parliament in the interests of his constituents, and also told of the manner in which he had showed up the hovee deals in the east. Ex-Mayor Bracklin of Chatham paid a high tribute to Mr. McCoig's good work as Westham's representative. Speaking of his opponent, Mr. Plewes, he dared Mr. Plewes to expose Sir Joseph Flavell and others as Mr. McCoig had done, and offered to bet that if Mr. Plewes did and sent a copy of his remarks to Sir Joseph that the funds he is using to conduct his campaign would be promptly cut off.

Strong Resolution. The following resolution, moved by Angus Cullen, and seconded by James Webster, was unanimously carried: "That this meeting, and the meeting of the electors of Highgate and vicinity, having listened to an address by A. A. McCoig, one of the candidates for member of the council of Chatham, and the support he has given to the cause of the people of Canada in the present contest, and having heard his account of his past stewardship in Parliament, and the vote given by him, hereby cheerfully and heartily endorse his candidacy, and desire to express to him our high appreciation of his political conduct and unbounded confidence in him in his strong advocacy for good and honest government, and the support he has so cordially given to those measures of vital importance to the masses of Canadian people, and we, his electors, aforesaid, feel that we can confidently leave to the good judgment of Mr. McCoig the question of his support of such Government as will carry out a policy of progressive administration, and especially those measures as will bring about a speedy and satisfactory triumph of the Allies in this present deplorable war."

MANY APPLYING FOR EXEMPTION; NONE FOR SERVICE

Scarcity of Help Is Reason Given by Ingersoll Men.

INGERSOLL, Oct. 24.—The list of applications for exemptions at the post office is lengthening rapidly as the days go by. Today it was ascertained that 35 of the first draft of eligibles have applied for exemptions. The ground is the scarcity of help. As yet not one man has reported for service.

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Two Danish Ships and a Norwegian Swell "Lost" List

COPENHAGEN, Oct. 24.—The Danish foreign office reports that the Danish steamers Anglo-Dane, 308 tons, and Flynderborg, 1,400 tons, bound from England for Denmark, have been blown up by mines in the North Sea. One man on board the Anglo-Dane was killed.

THE Norwegian steamer Ramfoss is stranded on the Norwegian coast. The steamer is a total wreck. She had a cargo of six thousand tons of corn for the Belgian relief commission.

THE LEADER was a vessel of 3,963 tons. The Ramfoss registered 2,736 tons.

GENERAL BOUKHONIN AS CHIEF COMMANDER OF RUSSIAN ARMIES

Kerensky Finds Successor for High Office.

PETROGRAD, Oct. 24.—The newspapers state that Premier Kerensky probably will relinquish the post of commander-in-chief of the Russian armies to General Boukhonin at the end of the week.

PETROGRAD, Tuesday, Oct. 23.—An emotional address to the preliminary parliament today Premier Kerensky appeals to the delegates to endeavor to secure in the people the same sense of individual responsibility at the front and in the rear which carried the Russian to victory for a time in the post-revolutionary offensive early in July. The premier deplored the present demoralization of the army.

"If only we could re-kindle the enthusiasm of those July days in the heart of each man," he said, "we should have peace by Christmas, an honorable peace for free Russia, with the war fought to an honorable end."

The premier talked for an hour, running the gamut of emotions from despair to hope. He was applauded on all sides.

55,000 HORSEPOWER WASTED DAILY BY THE ELEC. DEV. CO.

Engineer Makes Startling Statement at Probe.

[Special to The Advertiser.] TORONTO, Oct. 24.—Fifty-five thousand horsepower is permanently lost to the country every day owing to defective design and inefficiency of the Electrical Development Company's plant at Niagara Falls, according to the evidence of G. Acres, hydraulic engineer of the hydro-electric commission, tonight, before the commission of judges who are investigating Sir Adam Beck's charge that Sir William Mackenzie's company is taking more water from the Niagara River than it is entitled to.

The Electrical Development Company's plant, according to Mr. Acres is only 65 per cent efficient, and this at a time when the hydro is up against it for power, when the munitions makers and other manufacturers are clamoring in vain for power, and when the cities of Western Ontario are being called upon to stop lighting their streets until 8 o'clock in the evening.

The hydro endeavored to show that it costs the Electrical Development Company no more to produce 150,000 horsepower than 125,000 horsepower. If the plant were efficient, said Mr. Acres, it would be capable of turning out 150,000 horsepower instead of 125,000. He estimated it would cost over a million dollars to remedy the defects, but it would be a small amount compared to the magnitude of the work, he said.

He decided to visit the plant on Saturday and get some notion.

Forty Per Cent of Farmers Claiming Exemption Can Go

WINNIPEG, Oct. 24.—Approximately 95 per cent of men in the country districts of the west are seeking exemption on the ground that they are of more use to Canada as agriculturists than fighters, according to exemption board members. Forty per cent of the farmers claiming exemption can be spared for service, according to the board which is investigating claims.

"At least one out of every five" is the exact way in which the situation is put by officers who are making a canvass of the farming districts. There is one case of a farmer with four sons. He has 250 acres of land. The chances are that three out of the four, maybe in whole four, will have to go," commented General Rulien.

WILL CONSULT DOMINIONS BEFORE TALKING PEACE

LONDON, Oct. 24.—Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.—In the House of Commons today Mr. Hunt asked for an assurance that no peace negotiations would begin without the full knowledge and assent of the representatives of the great dominions. Bonar Law replied that the Government would certainly not enter peace negotiations prior to consultation with the dominions.

CANADIAN WHEAT FOR U.S. WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.—Under an arrangement between the United States food administration and the Canadian food controller, large supplies of Canadian wheat are to begin moving at once by way of the Great Lakes to the Eastern American flour mills, as they may resume full capacity operations.

TORONTO LIBERALS DISLIKE MR. PARDEE FOR HIS "UNIONISM"

Will Contest Every Riding in Queen City "in Interests of People."

TORONTO, Oct. 24.—The central executive of the Toronto Liberal Association, in session here tonight, decided to contest every riding in the city in which Union Government candidates are placed. The committee has also appealed to all Liberal organizations outside the city to place at once their candidates in the various constituencies, as they phrase it, "to fight the battle of the people, and not allow the moneyed interests to become entrenched in Ottawa under the guise of a Union Government."

The organization placed itself on record as being opposed to the selection of F. P. Pardee in pleading his support to the new union party at the nomination meeting at Saratoga today is maintained that "the people should have the right to select and elect their own representatives, and that such representatives, after being selected by the people, should form a strong national government."

The members were of the opinion that the Union Government does not fairly represent the various sections of political thought in Canada.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIER ILL. SYDNEY, Oct. 24.—By Reuter's Ottawa Agency.—A cable from Melbourne states that the Victorian state election will be held on November 16. Premier Hughes of Australia is not well and has been ordered to take a complete rest.