



The lad is at present happy with his dog and a cat. In future years his responsibilities will be greater—the affairs of the Russian Empire no less, for he is the Tsarvitch. He is said to be a sturdy and likeable lad. He is still too young to take part in the work of Brusiloff, but his interest is said to be very keen.



We have many Generals in Canada's forces. Switzerland has only one, General Ulriche Wille. He will command the forces of his native land in case the Central Empires try any invasion of France or Italy across Switzerland. The government of the Swiss has made it very clear that it would resist to the last man if any attempt to violate Swiss neutrality should be made. Whether this threat would deter the Huns if they saw a chance to strike, is problematical.



Black for a wedding dress! That is the startling innovation introduced when Miss Eleanor Klinger, fashion model, wed Ora One, fashion designer in New York, recently. The costume shown in this picture was designed by "The House of Black," on Madison Ave. Even the flowers were black—ribbon daisies.

# THE NEUTRALITY OF SPAIN

IN the same column of a recent issue of the New York Times appeared two statements. From London it was reported that Lord Northcliffe had printed a long and pessimistic article on Spanish hostility to our cause, and the faithful, ever fervid, admiration of church and aristocracy for Prussian methods and Kultur; while the next paragraph announced from Bilbao that a conservative ex-premier, Maura, leader of a firmly reactionary party, had openly declared that the friendship of France and England was essential to the progress of Spain. That is encouraging, because it means that the Mauristas have seen which way the cat is going to jump, and in Spain, as elsewhere, opinions must bow to politics. The Liberals have been with us from the first, and now that the party is in power, the official friendship of Spain seems assured by Romanones speech of April, 1915, a year before he returned to power.

At a meeting in the Balearic Islands, he said: "Spain's foreign policy since 1907 has been more and more favourable to the Triple Entente. The present hours are so grave and important that it is necessary for Spain to make a solemn declaration. Without violating our neutrality we must say who among the belligerents we consider our friends. The Government is obliged to be silent, I am not."

This statement, contrasting pleasantly with the American recommendation to "neutrality in thought and deed," is probably endorsed by the intellectual and industrial section of the nation, while we have in confirmation the saying attributed to Alfonso, "I and the Republicans are for France." If the King never said this, which is probable, there is no doubt that he has been commonly spoken of, for the past decade, as the "only Liberal in the Palacio Real."

But what of private sympathies? We know what the Germans thought about Spain's attitude towards them, because the Captain of a U-boat was quite petulant when Cartagena omitted to receive him with bull-fights and jotas and serenades. His imperial master-butcher had given him a letter to post in Spain, and told him that Germans were even more popular in Spain than elsewhere; but then Cartagena is a sea port and full of all sorts of audacious folk who go to sea in ships and know exactly what they think about submarine captains. In Castille, he thought, it would be different. And it is. The ugly fact is, that Germans have been very accurate in their estimate of Spanish psychology, and having pigeon-holed and cross-docketed its various weaknesses,

## *Is a Complex Issue Not Without Points of Resemblance to a Certain Quebec "Neutrality"*

By R. KEITH HICKS

have selected as the target of their propaganda a certain self-consciousness that is found in the very young and the very old.

Spain, conscious of her present poverty and small estate, lives partly in the past; the ghosts of Drake and Napoleon are not laid; there is also Gibraltar. Hence it is difficult for England and France to approach with cordiality; not because of the bitterness of old hostilities, but because of the greater bitterness of lost prestige. Spain has seen better days. And this identical reason is a cause of stumbling if France and England stand aloof. They become then contemptuous and critical. Here lay the German opportunity, and the would-be world-conqueror came with feigned humility as a young nation to learn from the late mistress of continents. That, of course, was away back in the last century, and the pose has changed to one of friendly protectiveness, but meanwhile the propagandists and the merchants have so leavened and kneaded the mass of aristocratic opinion that in 1914 the army was cynically sneering at Belgian resistance as an act of quixotic folly. That is the Prussian point of view, which Alfonso's officers have appropriated along with the Prussian attitude and swagger. But there is another and peculiarly Spanish characteristic which makes them less accessible to sympathy for human suffering. Whether developed under the iron harshness of the high Castilian plains, where black is the gala dress of the peasants, or inherited from their Moorish conquerors, the central-Spanish temperament has a fatalistic tendency which produces cold indifference to pain and discomfort, either personal or in a fellow-being. It is not cruelty as we understand cruelty, not the indifference of German ravagers, but something deeper and more permanent. It is the spirit of the diestro as he faces the bull (and it must not be forgotten that the true aficionado of the ring is interested in slaughter only as a means of displaying courage and force and skill; but he does not regret the slaughter). It is the spirit of the Spanish infantry fighting in little round forage caps under the Moroccan sun, of Cervera leading his fleet to certain destruction from the harbour of Santiago de Cuba.

Given this temperament, united with a supreme

admiration for energy and force, we can see that the deeds of Aerschot and Louvain would not evoke national condemnation, though there are millions of Spaniards whose feelings are as strong as our own.

The Kaiser, in his ambition to become, like the strenuous apostle Paul, all things to all men, has presented himself to the ruling and military class as a kind of colossus of energy, having clearly in mind that such are the national heroes of the Peninsula from the Cid to Pizarro, and Palafox of Saragossa, and not forgetting that Spain has long been pathetically in need of a friendly flattering hand. Louis Bertrand, writing in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, finds that William's greatest claim to Spanish allegiance is that "il s'est occupé de nous"—he has been interested in them at a time when the English were undemonstrative and the French suspected of being superior persons. The scholar knows that Germans discovered the treasures of Spanish literature, the imperialist believes, poor trusting lamb, that the Kaiser will protect him from French encroachment in Morocco, will even restore the Rock of Gibraltar and foster his dreams of a Spanish federation with South America once more subservient to Madrid.

While busy establishing the cult of Kaiserism, the German agents have done their utmost to foment the old feud with France. Afrancesados, or Francophiles, have been in bad odour with the administration since Napoleon allotted the throne of Spain to his brother Joseph, except, perhaps, when the Duke of Angoulême steadied the wobbling crown of Ferdinand in 1823, but the main source of German influence to-day is the Church's enmity for republican France. Prussianism stands for that absolute control which is the essence of Spanish Catholicism; and it is not a hundred years since the mob was howling for restoration of the Inquisition and absolute monarchy. "Vive el Rey Absoluto! Vive la Inquisición!" The Bavarian Premier must have had definite orders with a set purpose when he announced that the Teuton would restore a measure of Temporal Power to the Papacy. French anti-clericalism has brought upon the Republic the enduring mistrust, even hatred, of Catholic Spain. And this cannot fail to tinge the thought of the whole nation, for those who are not actively devout are so surrounded and shadowed by the power of the Church that it is difficult for them to escape its influence. So strong is this that a mob of Catalan Free-thinkers, fresh from a meeting of protest against the industrial competition of the