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ASSASSINATION OF GRAND DUKE SERGIUS

A Bomb Was Thrown Beneath His Carriage While He Was Driving to Palace in Moscow.

The Two Assassins, One of Whom Was Wounded, Have Been Arrested—Victim Was Condemned to Death by Revolutionary Party in December.

London, Feb. 17.—A dispatch to Reuter's Telegraph Company from St. Petersburg says a telephone message has been received there from Moscow announcing that an explosion has occurred at the Kremlin, where Grand Duke Sergius has been residing, and that it is rumored that the Grand Duke was killed.

The dispatch adds that no confirmation of the report has been obtained, and that the population of Moscow is greatly excited.

According to another report a bomb was thrown into the Grand Duke Sergius's carriage, and that the latter was blown to pieces.

REPORT CONFIRMED.

The Grand Duke Killed by a Bomb, Which Was Thrown Beneath His Carriage.

London, Feb. 17.—Another dispatch to the Reuter Telegram from St. Petersburg says that a later telephone message from Moscow states that the Grand Duke Sergius was assassinated when driving towards the Kremlin and near the court of justice.

His carriage was followed by another vehicle containing two men. A bomb was thrown beneath the Grand Duke's carriage, there was a violent explosion, the carriage was shattered and the Grand Duke was killed.

The assassins were arrested. One of them was wounded dangerously. Several students have been taken into custody.

ANOTHER REPORT.

Carriage Was Blown to Pieces by the Explosion.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 17.—The Associated Press has received a dispatch from Moscow stating that the Grand Duke Sergius while driving in a carriage to the Kremlin at Moscow today was assassinated by a bomb, which was thrown beneath his carriage. The carriage was blown to pieces.

The assassins were arrested. One of them was dangerously wounded. Some students who were in the city were taken into custody.

NOT UNEXPECTED.

It Was Known at St. Petersburg That the Grand Duke Was a Marked Man.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 17.—4:50 p.m.—The news of the tragedy in which the Grand Duke Sergius was blown up created a tremendous sensation in St. Petersburg, where the announcement by telephone from Moscow arrived during the afternoon.

Owing to the intense excitement prevailing at Moscow, few particulars are ascertainable.

The tragedy in reality was no great surprise, as it was known that the terrorists had already condemned the Grand Duke to death, and ever since the affair of January 22nd, the inauguration of a bomb-throwing campaign had been expected.

The Grand Duke Sergius was a brother-in-law as well as uncle of the Emperor, and who had exercised immense influence at court.

As governor-general of Moscow the Grand Duke Sergius was intensely unpopular. His ascent as governor-general of Moscow was followed by expulsion of the Jews from the central provinces, and throughout his administration his rigorous and harsh measures aroused the greatest hostility, especially among the students. Two years ago, after the students' riot, in which many were killed or wounded, several hundred expulsions to Siberia followed under the orders of the Grand Duke Sergius and Gen. Trepoft, now governor-general of St. Petersburg.

but who was then chief of police of Moscow.

As there were many threats made against his life the Grand Duke was obliged to flee to his summer residence, 20 miles from the city. During the strike disturbances the Grand Duke left the Diskoutchny palace, on the outskirts of the city, where he had been living, and took refuge inside the ramparts of the Kremlin, where he had since lived in what is known as the little palace opposite the famous statue of Alexander II.

The trip to the Kremlin on that occasion was made at night between solid lines of troops.

The Grand Duke Sergius was the wealthiest member of the Imperial family. He was tall and handsome, and dressed in a manner, in spite of the ruthless fashion in which he exercised his authority as governor-general. He was childless, but had adopted two children of his brother Paul, who was banished on account of an insubordinate alliance.

Sergius's record as a soldier was not brilliant. He suffered a disastrous defeat at the hands of Gen. Kourapatkin during the famous Kourak manoeuvres.

PRIGHTFULLY MANGLED.

The Grand Duke's Head Was Blown From His Body—Coachman Was Also Killed.

Moscow, Feb. 17.—While the Grand Duke Sergius was driving to-day from the Nicholas palace through the Senate square his carriage was followed by two cabs. At the law courts a sleigh, in which were two men, one of whom was dressed as a workman, went quickly ahead of the Grand Duke's carriage. The sleigh then showed up to allow the carriage to pass, and at that moment a bomb was thrown beneath the carriage. The force of the explosion broke all the windows of the law courts, and the report was heard outside the city.

The carriage was blown to pieces, nothing but the four wheels remaining. The horses were not hurt, and bolted. The Grand Duke was instantly killed. His head was blown off, actually being separated from his body, which was frightfully mangled.

The coachman was also killed. He was so frightfully burned by the explosion with which the bomb was charged that he died while being taken to a hospital.

The murderers were arrested. On the arrest of the murderers, neither of whom was known to the police, one of them coolly said: "I don't care, I have done my job."

An immense crowd gathered at the spot, and made a demonstration against a number of students who commenced scattering revolutionary proclamations.

Within a few minutes after the explosion people might have been seen gathering up pieces of the wood and clothing as mementoes of the crime.

When the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, widow of the Grand Duke Sergius, was informed of the occurrence she went to the scene of the assassination without waiting to put on a hat or cloak.

The gates of the Kremlin were closed as soon as the news of the assassination was conveyed to the authorities, and the remains of the Grand Duke were taken to the Nicholas palace.

The assassination occurred at 3 p. m.

WHO WILL BE NEXT?

The Car Said to Be Among Those Whom the Terrorists Intend to Kill.

Berlin, Feb. 17.—The news of the assassination of the Grand Duke Sergius reached the Russian embassy here first through a newspaper correspondent.

on the outskirts of Moscow, retaining his position of commander-in-chief of the military district. Later in January, however, it was announced that the Grand Duke had sought refuge in one of the palaces of the Kremlin. He has been classed as the most reactionary member of the Imperial family, as the head of what is referred to as the war party, and has been stigmatized by the Liberals as Russia's evil genius.

The Grand Duke Sergius was born in 1857, and was married in 1884 to Princess Elizabeth, of Hesse-Darmstadt. They have no children.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 18.—1:30 p. m.—Oppression like the shadow of doom seems to be hanging over the Russian capital. Bells are tolling and the people in the streets are awestruck at yesterday's bloody crime. Everyone seems to shrink before the contemplation of what may happen next.

The tragedy has struck deep into the heart of the perplexed and tried Emperor, and many who were upspring in their criticism yesterday have only expressions of sympathy for his unhappy lot. The bitter cup, which during the past year has been pressed again and again to his lips is once more filled to the brim, and in almost pathetic words this morning he implored his subjects to pray for the repose of the soul of his murdered uncle.

Death is in the air, and no one knows when the next blow may fall. Although precautions have been doubled in every direction for the preservation of the lives of the members of the Imperial family and the ministers, and the secret police are seeking out and arresting those known to be associated with the fighting organization, the authorities realize their impotency to ward off the swift acts of the terrorists, murder in the streets being possible at any instant.

The only safety seems to lie in seeking refuge in the palace walls, and all the Imperial family have been warned not to venture out.

Only the official newspaper and the Grashdanin (the Citizen), a reactionary paper owned by Prince Meshchensky, a friend of the late Emperor Alexander II, appear with black borders. The editorials of all of them are strangely sober. Some of the papers, which in the past have been ready to lay almost any charge at the door of Grand Duke Sergius, are drawing back before the prospect of the inauguration of a reign of terror, fearing that it may nullify the bright prospects of a reform and lead to an era of repression.

Amongst the revolutionists, however, there is a sentiment of elation. They openly glory in the deed, proclaiming that it removes the most reactionary influence from court, and also proclaims a general theory that in the absence of armed resistance only by terror can concessions be wrung from the hands of the autocracy.

Expressions of condolence have reached the Emperor direct from practically all governments, those of President Loubet, Emperor William and King Edward being especially warm and sympathetic in tone. It is probable that several governments will send representatives to the funeral of the Grand Duke Sergius.

A solemn state requiem mass for the repose of the soul of the Grand Duke Sergius was celebrated at St. Isaac's here this afternoon, at which the Metropolitan of St. Petersburg officiated, and the representatives of the foreign powers, the ministers and other dignitaries were present in full uniform. Not a single member of the family attended the requiem.

The official explanation of Prince Friedrich Leopold's return to Berlin is that he has decided to go to Manchuria by water, but that his authority for the statement that the Prince was the bearer of a letter from Emperor William. In diplomatic circles there exists a suspicion, which amounts almost to conviction, that Emperor William has undertaken peace negotiations in some form.

EMPRESS THREATENED.

Alleged to Have Received Letter Warning Her She Will Be Next Victim.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 18.—According to reports in circulation, the Empress has received a threatening letter warning her that she will be the next victim.

At a meeting of Grand Dukes last night it was unanimously decided to withdraw all opposition to the assembly of Zemsky Zabor and to recommend its immediate summoning by the Emperor.

WILL CZAR CONSIDER PEACE?

Situation at Home Is Complicated by Trend of Events at Front.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 18.—In diplomatic circles the opinion is quite generally expressed that yesterday's tragedy may be followed by the decision of the government to conclude peace. For some time, despite the official attitude maintained by the government, there has been a growing appreciation of the difficulties of prosecuting the war in the midst of increasing complications at home, and, as announced by the Associated Press yesterday, the matter was actually the subject of formal consideration by the Emperor and his ministers on February 16th.

Strong influences, it is understood, in spite of denials, have been put forward by M. Witte, president of the committee of the ministry, have been working quietly in this direction. Gen. Grippenberg's revelations, followed by the murder of the Grand Duke Sergius, in the opinion of

some of the ablest diplomats, are not unlikely to lead the Emperor definitely to decide upon peace.

In this connection they are already alarmed by the new danger threatening the Manchurian army from systematic attempts made by Japanese bandits to cut the line of communications back of the army. According to reports about 1,000 men, split up into bands of several hundred each, are operating from Mongolia and are striking at the railroads. A Russian detachment following up the Japanese bands was cut out near below Harbin fell into an ambush of two regularly organized Japanese regiments and was almost cut to pieces, losing half its men and one gun.

The fear is that if the bands move further north or west they might interrupt communications to such an extent as to make it impossible to supply the army. This danger has already compelled the triple reinforcement of the railroad guards below Harbin.

The foreign offices assert that there is absolutely nothing in the rumors of peace negotiations, under way or in contemplation.

THE FUNERAL.

Remains of the Grand Duke Will Probably Be Interred at Moscow.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 18.—(3:24 p. m.)—Although no definite decision has yet been arrived at, it appears improbable that the Grand Duke Sergius's remains will be brought to St. Petersburg. It is explained that the Romanovs are buried in the cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul, which is undergoing alterations; consequently it is likely that the interment will temporarily be in the Church of Ascension in the Kremlin.

Three months has been fixed as the period for mourning.

FRENCH VIEWS.

Newspaper Comments on the Crime—The Dead Duke's Brother Prostrate With Sorrow.

Paris, Feb. 18.—President Loubet, Premier Rouvier, the entire ministry and all the foreign ambassadors here have forwarded expressions of sympathy to the Russian emperor on the assassination of the Grand Duke Sergius.

The Grand Duke Paul, the victim's brother and a resident here, is prostrated with sorrow.

The Echo says: "The abominable outrage calls forth the reprobation of the civilized world." The Petit Journal says: "This odious deed will complicate the crisis through which Russia is passing."

The Echo de Paris says: "The execrable act will effect nothing." The Petit Parisien says: "Regarded from whatever point of view, the crime must be deeply deplored." The Siecle says: "This tragic event evokes surprise and horror."

WELL KNOWN IN GERMANY.

The Emperor Did Not Attend Banquet Owing to Duke's Death.

Berlin, Feb. 18.—Emperor William was not present last night at the annual banquet of the Prussian House of Lords, absenting himself out of respect to the late Grand Duke Sergius of Russia. The Grand Duke was a well known personage in Germany, whose name had received many honors at the hands of the ruling family. He held the highest Prussian Order, the Black Eagle, and also the Order Pourle Merite, which was instituted by William the Great.

An hour after the news of the assassination of the Grand Duke Sergius reached Berlin, Emperor William drove to the Russian embassy and expressed personally to Von Astourasch, the Russian ambassador, his horror and requested him to confer his deepest sympathy to Emperor Nicholas.

COUNCIL SUMMONED.

Will Consider Situation Resulting From the Assassination.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 18.—An extraordinary sitting of the council of the empire has been summoned to consider the situation resulting from the assassination of the Grand Duke Sergius.

TROOPS GUARD PALACE.

No One Allowed to Enter the Kremlin at Moscow.

Moscow, Feb. 18.—The bells of Moscow's 500 churches are tolling to-day, requiem masses are being celebrated, and before many shrines priests are constantly chanting prayers for the repose of the soul of the murdered Grand Duke Sergius. His remains still rest in the monastery, whither they were removed yesterday.

COMMONS VOTED DOWN AMENDMENT

GOVERNMENT MAJORITY WAS SIXTY-THREE

Premier Balfour's Reply to the Liberal Leader—Lord Hugh Cecil's Brilliant Speech.

London, Feb. 17.—The majority of 63 by which Mr. Asquith's amendment to the reply to the speech from the throne was rejected by the House of Commons last night is regarded as giving the government the first move in the political game, and as finally disposing of any present prospect of dissolution of parliament.

The real event of the night debate was the brilliant speech delivered by Lord Hugh Cecil, which is stated, both by friends and enemies, to be his finest oratorical effort and one of the best speeches ever delivered in the House since the Gladstone-Salisbury period, and as placing Lord Hugh Cecil in the forefront of possible leaders of the Conservative party. Lord Cecil is the leader of the Conservative free traders, and the Liberals had placed their hopes in him to turn out the government. He distinguished himself by contending that the free trade cause would gain by keeping the present government in office still longer, and whilst he mercilessly pulled to pieces the Liberal's position, he displayed an attitude on the fiscal questions, he declined to vote for the Asquith amendment.

The majority of Conservative free traders will follow Lord Hugh Cecil's lead, and apart from the possibility of some unexpected subdivision, the government's position is considered safe.

The scene during Lord Cecil's speech was somewhat curious, and was intensified by his peculiar gestures, recalling the appearance of his father, the late Lord Salisbury, at the same age. A couple of yards separated him from Premier Balfour, sitting alone in his treasury bench. "It is the business of a premier to make himself understood," said his Lordship. "If he confesses that he is not understood, then he throws up the sponge."

Then he laughingly said that if Mr. Balfour would give him an office without a portfolio, he would undertake to make his policy perfectly clear to the whole country. He feared, however, that his own ministerial career, though sensational, would be brief and that the government would soon be defeated.

In conclusion, Lord Hugh declared that the free traders were winning all along the line, and that the Conservative party, the inheritors of true Conservative traditions, "in time," the speaker said, "you will see the Conservative party's future in its hands. It is needless that we secede from the party. Why should we symbolize mental stability by an act of physical motion?"

The speech practically concluded the debate, and members trooped out to the lobbies, dismissing it with admiration.

Shortly before the time for division, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman attacked Premier Balfour, charging that he was afraid to face the House of Commons or the country with a definite statement of his position with regard to Mr. Chamberlain's programme.

Mr. Balfour referred to dissolution of appeal to the country and taunted the government with filibustering in order to gain time and delay inevitable defeat.

Mr. Balfour, in reply, said that the discussion, if prolonged, might possibly dissipate some of the fallacies concerning his views, and certainly discussion of the question of the government's right to negotiation already is having an effect on the attitude of other nations.

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WORLD'S BOWLING RECORD.

Chicago, Feb. 16.—The Bensingers, of Chicago, have established a new world's bowling record for three games by rolling an average of 1,031½. The previous record was that of the Bensingers, of this city, when they rolled an average of 1,006½.

CONTRACT FOR NEW C.P.R. HOTEL

WILL PROBABLY BE AWARDED NEXT WEEK

Receiving Attention of Officials of the Company, Who Are Now in Winnipeg.

(Special to the Times.)

Winnipeg, Feb. 18.—No awards have yet been made in the various large contracts, which are at present being considered by W. Whyte, second vice-president of the C. P. R., and General Superintendent Jamieson and Marpole. It is probably that within the next few days two of them, the double tracking from Winnipeg and the new hotel at Victoria, will be let.

Before the acceptance of the tender for the Victoria hotel, it was decided to make several alterations in the ordinary plan, and to prevent complications new tenders were called for, and it is expected that a decision on these tenders will be made before Mr. Whyte leaves for the South, which he now expects to do in the early part of next week.

The settlement of the schedule with the telegraphers has not been completed, but it is expected that it will be ready to announce by Monday.

Negotiations are still proceeding regarding the closing of the deal for the purchase of the E. & N. railway, but there are several legal points which are under consideration.

FOUR WERE KILLED.

Further Details Regarding Explosion on a British Submarine Boat.

Queenstown, Ireland, Feb. 16.—Four men killed and fourteen injured, of whom three are in a critical condition, was the result of two explosions on board the British submarine boat "A 9" in the harbor to-day. The killed included Engineer-Artificer Caffie, a leading stoker and a stoker. Lieut. H. H. Good, commander of the vessel, was blinded. His condition is critical. Lieut. Skinner, an officer of the submarine boat, subsequently died of his injuries. Only one man of the entire crew escaped uninjured.

Was a New Boat.

London, Feb. 17.—The "A 9" was a new boat and only left her builders on Saturday. After extensive and satisfactory trials, she was ordered to Queenstown to familiarize military officers with the appearance of a submarine boat.

Sixty army officers were present to witness the diving experiments which led to such a tragic result. The crew were entirely volunteers. The explosion was heard ten miles away, and shook the convoy Hazard from stem to stern. Dense volumes of smoke were seen immediately pouring out of the only outlet in the helpless submarine. The rescuers report that it was only by superhuman efforts that they were able to force their way through the stifling fumes. They were repeatedly driven back, and when finally they reached the lower part of the boat they encountered a terrible spectacle. Of the wounded and dying crew only one was able to speak coherently, and he was begging to be saved. The rescuers were forcing up the second manhole forward when the second explosion occurred, blowing one of them twenty feet upwards. He fell in the water and was

rescued. Others were slightly wounded. The Hazard sent a fresh rescue party, and one by one the dead and injured were brought up, the rescuers in each case returning prostrated and faint with the fumes of gasoline. Lieut. Skinner was delirious and tried to tear himself away from his rescuers.

As the submarine was on fire, she was towed to the dockyard basin, where bluejackets made gallant efforts to get the only body remaining below, that of an engineer. They were almost exhausted before they succeeded. Afterwards the fire was extinguished. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

King Edward has sent a message expressing deep regret and heartfelt sympathy to the relatives.

SIEGE GUNS ARRIVE.

Have Been Mounted by Japanese Below Mukden.

Mukden, Feb. 15.—(Delayed in transmission.)—The Japanese fired Tuesday and are firing to-day on Putloff hill, with eight-inch guns carrying 250-pound projectiles, indicating that they are siege guns used at Port Arthur and the first to be mounted in position before the Russian lines below Mukden. A new situation therefore confronts the Russians' centre and the general situation appears to have been rendered more uncertain and complicated by the battle of Saugpas and the arrival of open warfare, indicating an early spring.

Gen. Oku's headquarters, Feb. 14, via Fusan.—(Delayed.)—A group of Russian cavalry apparently has again begun activity on the Japanese left. Details regarding the strength and movements of the cavalry have not yet been obtained, yet the utter failure of the last raid gives rise to the belief that nothing is to be feared from the present attempt. The weather is rapidly moderating and the snow is almost gone.

TORONTO NOTES.

Toronto, Feb. 10.—At the King Edward rink to-night, Morris Wood, champion amateur skater of the United States, easily defeated Fox I. Tolson, of Toronto, in their races.

E. F. Clarke, M. P., has expressed his willingness to accept the position of commissioner of assessment, and property in this city in succession to R. J. Fleming. This indicates that Clarke is willing to retire from politics. The appointment, which is by no means certain to go to Clarke, will be made by the city council next week. The position is worth \$5,000 per annum.

Robert Reilly, furrier, Yonge street, assigned with liabilities of between ten and twelve thousand dollars.

MURDERED BY BOARDER.

Fred. Bond Found Guilty of Killing Man Whose Wife He Loved.

Edse, Idaho, Feb. 16.—A verdict of murder in the first degree has been returned by the jury against Fred. Bond, on trial for the murder of Charles Daly, in this city, last October. Bond was a boarder at the house of Daly, and appears to have been in love with the latter's wife. Daly was shot and struck with a hatchet. Mr. Daly at first represented that she had killed her husband, but it developed that she was persuaded by Bond to tell that story. She is held as an accomplice and was the principal witness against Bond.

BETROTHED.

Coburg, Duchy of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Feb. 16.—The betrothal is announced of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha to the Princess Victoria, eldest daughter of Duke Frederick of Schleswig-Holstein, Sonderburg-Glücksburg. The Princess is a niece of the German Emperor, while the bridegroom-elect is a nephew of King Edward of England.

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partly destroyed to-day, causing building and hotel 50 guests to make

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DRAWN.

14.—Kid Herman over Billy Flan twenty rounds. This is the sixth others ending in