

## Mentioned in Despatches . . . . .

**PROFESSOR MILUKOFF**, Russia's new Foreign Minister and real instigator of the Revolution, is probably the most progressive and enlightened public man in Russia. Twenty years ago he was a political exile in Siberia, later he was professor of Russian literature in the University of Chicago, where he imbibed Republican tendencies. He is familiar with the English parliamentary form of government, and during recent years has been an active advocate of responsible government for the Russian people. For the past few years he occupied a professorial chair in one of Russia's largest universities, and at the same time was the leader of every reform movement in the Duma.

**LI-YAN-HUNG**, President of the Chinese Republic, is not going to declare war on Germany, but will remain content with the breaking off of diplomatic relations, in which respect he follows the more or less lukewarm policy of President Wilson of the United States. The President of the Chinese Republic succeeded the late Yuan Shi Kai and is entitled to hold office for another five years. He is fifty-two years of age, and has had both a military and a naval training, which included two years of residence in Japan. He was an active participant in the revolution which drove the Manchus from the Chinese throne, was made vice-president of the new republic and re-elected to that office three years ago, and succeeded to the presidency on the death of the former holder of the office. Li-Yan-Hung is undoubtedly very much under the influence of the Japanese, but is also very largely guided in his diplomatic proceedings by Dr. Morrison, the famous British adviser to the Chinese Government.

**SIR ADAM BECK**, the apostle of hydro-electric development throughout Canada, has made a bitter attack on Mackenzie and Mann in the Ontario Legislature which may have far-reaching effects. Sir Adam Beck is known as the Minister of Power, as a result of the constructive work he did in furthering the interests of the hydro-electric movement. He represents London as the Ontario Member of Parliament, and for several years was minister without portfolio in the Whitney Cabinet, but resigned when Premier Hearst took office. He is head of the Beck Manufacturing Co. in London, was a former mayor of that city, and is known all over the continent as an enthusiastic horseman. During the war he has been acting as Chief Remount Commissioner for Eastern Canada. His fight with Mackenzie and Mann is over the latter's efforts to secure additional subsidies from the country for the building up of their privately owned railways, while Beck is anxious to build electric lines throughout Ontario—lines which will derive their power from Niagara Falls. Already some seventy Ontario municipalities are using the hydro-electric power.

**RASPUTIN**. It now transpires that the real commencement of the revolution in Russia was connected with the assassination of Rasputin, the notorious Russian monk. This charlatan and imposter exercised a most unwholesome influence over the Czar, Czarina, and many of the Court officials. The monk was born as a peasant on a small farm and lived as a peasant until he was thirty, when he was seized with a quasi religious mania and became a lay monk. He was extremely clever, and by means of intrigue and scheming of all kinds managed to get himself appointed to an important clerical position in Petrograd. He possessed a hypnotic influence over women and used them to further his schemes. He also posed as a healer, and as such was welcomed by the Czar and Czarina, as he claimed to have power to heal their delicate son. He made and unmade ministers, defeated the military powers and thwarted the Duma. He was an ardent pro-German, a bitter enemy of the Grand Duke Nicholas, and a foe to all real progress. His assassination was carried out by a group of progressives.

**BARNEY FARTHING**, the original of Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn," has just died in poverty in an almshouse at Paris, Mo. Although a man of eighty years, he was still called Huck Finn by everyone who knew him, the old man carrying into his latter years many of the eccentricities which characterized him as a youth when he was immortalized by Mark Twain. Among other things he made with his own hands the coffin in which he was buried, as a protest against the outrageous prices charged by the coffin trust, and supplied nearly all his friends with similar vehicles for transmission into the next world. A good story was told shortly after the presi-

dential election of 1912 regarding some of the characters made famous by Mark Twain. A well known American author visited the scene of Mark Twain's book and sought to get some local color through questioning the natives. One old timer was approached and asked if he knew Huckleberry Finn. "Naw, never heard of him," was the reply. "Did you ever meet Tom Sawyer?" "Naw." "Did you know Puddinhead Wilson?" "Hell, yes, I voted for him at the last election," was the surprising rejoinder.

**PRINCE RUPPRECHT**, who is in command of the German forces on the Western front, is likely to have his military reputation suffer within the next few months. He is a Bavarian prince and was generally credited with being one of the ablest of Germany's generals. The Western front has been the graveyard of German military reputations, Von Moltke, Von Kluck and others being placed on the retired list because of their failure to break through to Calais and Paris. Prince Rupprecht has been in charge for the last year and a half, or almost since trench warfare commenced. The progress made by the English and French last fall indicates pretty clearly that when the weather clears up they will be able to shove Prince Rupprecht and his cohorts back to the Rhine. Here's hoping, anyhow!

**MANUEL DE ARRIAGA**.—Portugal, one of our Allies in the conflict, has lost through death its first president, Manuel de Arriaga. When Portugal decided to adopt the Republican form of Government and chased King Manuel from the throne some six years ago, the country was very much broken up into factions and for a time it looked as if it would be impossible to unite the discordant elements. Happily for the country, it possessed in de Arriaga a man that all could trust. He was chosen president because of his ability to conciliate and work harmoniously with the various factions. For years he had been a professor at Coimbra University, and had been the tutor in English for the late King Carlos and the Duke of Oporto. De Arriaga and his successor, the present president were both warm friends of the English.

**SIR PERCY SYKES**, one of the men who make history for the British Empire, has been carrying on a splendid campaign for the past year in Persia. Like so many of Britain's able pro-consuls, he knows his country like a book. Sykes is the author of at least three books dealing with Persia, Ten Thousand Miles in Persia, The Glory of the Shia World, and a History of Persia. For the last year he has been in charge of an army which has been policing southern Persia for the British Government. The fact that he went in with only 800 British and Indian troops, and was able to organize the native constabulary and maintain order speaks volumes for his administrative and military ability. Among other things, Sykes made a thousand mile march to Teheran, which rivals in some respects Lord Roberts' famous march to Kandahar. As a young man at college Sir Percy Sykes was a sprinter, and won all kinds of medals as a runner, a practice which probably stood him in good stead during the last twelve months. He saw a great deal of service in India and in Persia, and also fought through the South African War, where he was wounded and received decoration.

**CAPTAIN RYDER**. Something of the indomitable spirit which has made Britain Mistress of the Seas is furnished in a series of letters received from Capt. Ryder, of Port Wade, N.S., who has been captain of a freighter cruising about the submarine zone for the last year and a half. His letters show that the men of the Maritime Provinces are made of just as good stuff and are ready to do their bit as cheerfully as any Jack Tar from the Mother Country. Extracts from two letters received illustrate this spirit of optimism and courage better than anything else. "One week out—Fresh water gone, but plenty of the briny all over us. Six sailors for crew—'Did I say sailors? Three of them never saw a ship before, and the other three cannot steer yet. We go six knots an hour—A good target, and in the most serious place. The bally Huns do not seem to succeed in frightening the merchant shipping, though they are doing all they can at present. I wish I could remain at home, but, old boy, the double object I have in being here is to keep the wolf from the cottage door at Port Wade and help keep the war hog at bay over here. Don't worry, I'll float ashore on a plank, or some other way." A man who could write like that is not going to let England starve.

**SIR JOSEPH WARD**.—Little New Zealand, which has led the world in its contributions to Belgian Relief, and led the British Empire in the number of soldiers enlisted in proportion to the population, has as one of its representatives at the Imperial Conference its former premier, the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Ward. Ward has long been known as an ardent Imperialist, and in his little overseas Dominion contributed in no small way to the growth of the imperial spirit, and to national defence.

**KING FERDINAND**.—At a time when the United States is asking pertinent questions of Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey as to what they intend doing in regard to Germany's submarine policy and other matters, it is interesting to note that the German Emperor seems to be having some difficulties in holding his partners in crime in proper submission. It is said that King Ferdinand, of Bulgaria, the Fox of the Balkans, is keeping himself hiding somewhere in Hungary and is looking for the first chance to run to cover. He is not at all anxious to have more countries at war with him, and altogether is said to be sorry that he linked up his interests with those of the Central Powers. Ferdinand is the man primarily responsible for the two Balkan wars, and probably joined in this present conflict in an effort to get back what he lost in the two other struggles. The King has both French and German blood in his veins, but the German blood predominates, while he is married to a German princess, and is also an Austrian-Hungarian nobleman, and has extensive estates in that empire. He has just celebrated his fifty-sixth birthday, but no one knows where the festivities took place.

**EMPEROR NICHOLAS**.—While the retirement of Nicholas from the throne of Russia may be the forerunner of greater liberty for the people of that country, there is something pathetic about the former Czar and he calls for a large measure of sympathy. Nicholas was a weak ruler rather than a vicious tyrant. He gave his people a large measure of freedom, as it was in his regime that the Duma was called into being. On the other hand, however, he was under the influence of the reactionary autocratic nobility, and especially those with pro-German tendencies. It is also somewhat tragic that the man who was instrumental in bringing about the first international peace conference at the Hague should have taken part in the two greatest wars of the world's history—the Russian-Japanese and the present titanic struggle. Czar Nicholas has always been a man of peace and in his limited way must be credited with a wholehearted desire to further the interests of his country. He came to the throne in 1894, formed an alliance with France two years later, and some half dozen years ago brought about the formation of the Triple Entente.

**DR. GEORGE E. MORRISON**.—The breaking off of diplomatic relations between China and Germany has been accredited to the influence of the Japanese, but as a matter of fact the real power behind the throne, or presidential chair, is a Britisher, Dr. George E. Morrison, the most influential man in China. Morrison is one of the most unique characters in the world. Born in Australia, he has explored practically every country in the world and attained power seldom possessed by any one individual man. As a young man he walked across the continent of Australia; followed that with an exploring trip through New Guinea, and carried away as souvenirs a couple of spearheads in his body; went to Britain, where he graduated as a doctor; studied in Paris; acted as Court Physician to a Morocco Chieftain; journeyed from Liverpool to New York as an immigrant in the steerage; served as a purser on a ship engaged in the West Indian fruit trade; then sailed around the world as an ordinary sailor before the mast; and finally settled in China as an employee in the Imperial Customs Service. In China he fought through the Boxer Rebellion, explored the whole of Indo China, and took a 3,000 mile walking trip through China dressed in native dress, later writing a book about his trip. After some years in China he became the resident correspondent for the London Times, and furnished that paper with a great deal of interesting inside information regarding affairs in China. On the formation of the Chinese republic a few years ago he was made chief political adviser to the Chinese Government, a post he still retains. He enjoys to a marked extent the confidence of the Chinese people, and it is no exaggeration to say that his influence in China has been of greater assistance to Great Britain than a dozen army corps would have been.