

**The Good Angel of the Balkans Is Coming To Study Our Hospitals - The First Reigning Queen Who Has Ever Set Foot On Our Shores - Othe Royal Visitors**

**T**HE first reigning queen who has ever set foot in the United States is to visit us the latter part of May and will remain for five weeks or more visiting various parts of the country east of the Mississippi river. Various royal visitors—princes, grand dukes and even reigning sovereign or two, have made official or unofficial calls upon Uncle Sam in days gone by, but Queen Eleanor of Bulgaria is the first feminine wearer of a crown to honor the republic with her presence.

Queen Eleanor is bound to interest the American people, as they come to know more regarding her. It is no too much to say that a canvass of all the ruling houses in Europe would not have disclosed another occupant of a throne who would inspire more interest and admiration than this journeyer from far-off Sofia. The explanation is found, of course, in the fact that Queen Eleanor possesses not only as the glamor that attached to royalty, but also the attributes of a remarkable woman who has done things worth while entirely outside and apart from her court life.

**The Queen's Life Story.**  
Eleanor of Bulgaria, although she

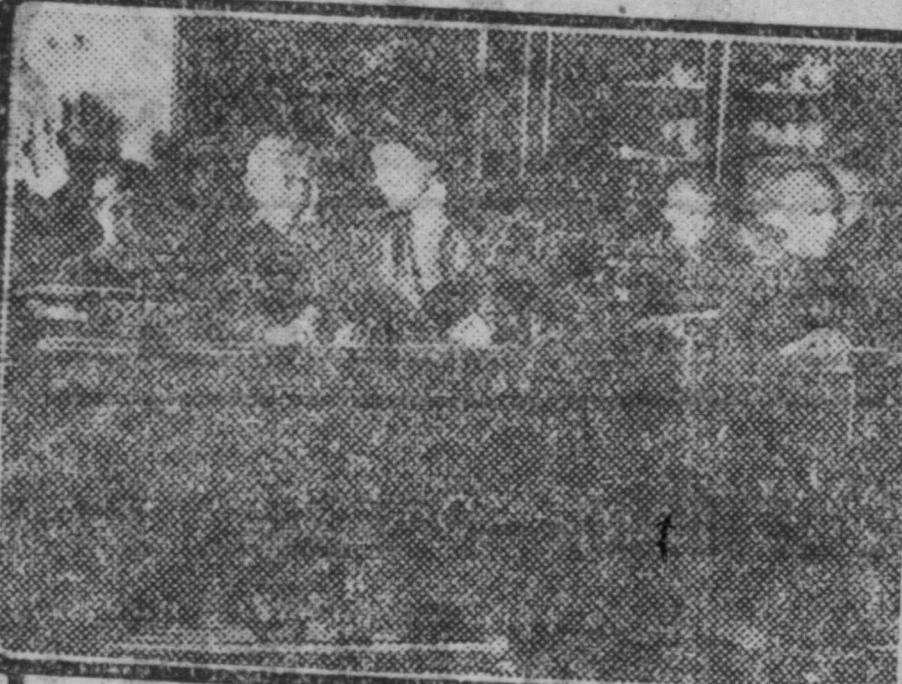
**Queen Eleanor of Bulgaria to Visit the United States**



Latest Portrait of the Queen



Queen Eleanor and the two Princesses of the Royal House of Bulgaria



Queen Eleanor Visiting one of her Bulgarian Schools



Orchestra Organized by One of her Schools



In the Role of a Nurse During the Balkan War

is about fifty-four years of age, is one of the latest additions to the list of occupants of European thrones. She was only in February, 1908, or little more than six years ago that King Ferdinand of Bulgaria married the Princess Eleanor, elder daughter of Prince Henry IV. of Reuss Kostritz, and thereby elevated her to her present position of prominence. The first wife of Ferdinand was Princess Maria Louise, daughter of the Duke of Parma, whom he had married in 1882 and who died in 1899, the day after giving birth to a princess, her fourth child.

As the story goes, she owes her crown to her long-time friendship with the Czar and Czarina of Russia. As a princess of one of the small German states whose rulers have been in power for centuries and have intermarried with all the great reigning houses of Europe, Eleanor was an inveterate traveler and spent much time in Russia, where she became fast friends with the Czar and Czarina. Naturally the bonds of this friendship were strengthened when, during the Russo-Japanese War, the Princess Eleanor in pursuance of the charitable ambitions which have always inspired her, organized and took charge of her own hospital. Through out the war she wore the uniform of

a Red Cross nurse and bore her share of the burdens of active service at the front. Back and forth she went with the armies in Manchuria, traveling on a hospital train that was frequently under fire. No wonder she received a popular ovation, as well as lavished court honors, when she returned to St. Petersburg at the close of the war. It was at this juncture that she attracted the attention of the widowed ruler of Bulgaria who was casting about as means to make secure his position on the Bulgarian throne and for opportunity to exchange his title of Prince or that of Czar. Russia had long exerted a dominant influence in Bulgaria but Russia looked rather coldly upon Ferdinand because of certain past incidents, the recital of which would make a long story. The Bulgarian ruler made frequent visits to the Russian capital, but seemed powerless to win the favor and support of his influential neighbor. One day, as rumor has it, the thought occurred to him that if he could form a matrimonial alliance with the Princess Eleanor—bosom friend of the Czarina,

he could accomplish in a day what he had striven in vain for in these many years. So thus this royal wedding came about in the very year that Bulgaria declared herself an independent kingdom and Prince Ferdinand was proclaimed Czar, and the royal couple have lived more or less happily ever since.

Probably Queen Eleanor could not be made to feel more at home in any of the world's capitals than she will in Washington, whither she will journey almost immediately upon landing from the steamer Kaiserin Auguste Victoria upon which she will journey from Hamburg this month. President Wilson has frequently confessed his dislike for the fuss and feathers of formal ceremonies, and in this respect he and the visiting Queen are of one mind. She cares not at all for pomp and plumage. Of course, the Queen has let it be known that she does not wish her tour of this country to be regarded as a visit of state, but for all that due honors must be paid to her, and Federal officials of democratic tendencies have sighed with relief when they found that the Queen is averse to all unnecessary ceremonial display.

**The Queen's Work During the Balkan War.**

When the full story of the recent Balkan War is written some of its brightest pages will be occupied by a recital of the heroism and self-sacrifice of Queen Eleanor in her efforts to carry relief to the wounded soldiers.

Her labors of love on the battlefield and in the cholera camp will entitle her to be known as the Florence Nightingale of the Balkans. It is related that even King Ferdinand was appalled by the lengths to which his kind-hearted wife went in her devotion to duty. As the story goes the King is in mortal terror of cholera and when the Queen returned from nursing the cholera patients at Adrianople the King placed the entire court under quarantine and would not see his royal consort for several weeks.

Nothing, however, could turn the Queen from her purpose to succor the injured and unfortunate. She organized Red Cross work in Bulgaria during the recent conflict and also took measures for the relief of the homeless and destitute who poured into the scenes of warfare. All the while she persisted in her educational work, not even allowing the exigencies of war to interfere with her management of institutions devoted to manual training, musical instruction, etc., etc. It is not too much to say that her unselfish labors in behalf of her adopted country have been largely responsible for making her husband's throne as secure as any in Europe—a marked contrast to the conditions of a few years ago, when it was considered one of the most insecure.

**Will Meet An Old Friend in America.**

Queen Eleanor, during her stay in the United States, will be much in the company of two remarkable American women. One of these is Miss Mabel Boardman, the feminine moving spirit of the American Red Cross, and the other is Madame Bakmeteff, the American wife of George Bakmeteff, Master of the Imperial Court and Russian Ambassador to the United States. In the case of Madame Bakmeteff the meeting with the Queen will be merely the renewal of an old friendship. Ambassador Bakmeteff was, for years prior to coming to the United States, stationed at Sofia as the representative of the Czar, and his influence at the Bulgarian court was so great that he was sometimes referred to as the real ruler of the little country on the Danube.

It was but natural that the Queen should be attracted to the American wife of the Russian envoy, particularly inasmuch as the two women had much in common in their broad sympathy for humanity in distress. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that Queen Eleanor, who is a persistent reader, has always manifested a strong preference for books in English and thus has gained an appreciation and understanding of American sentiment and ideals possessed by many women of her rank in the other hemisphere.

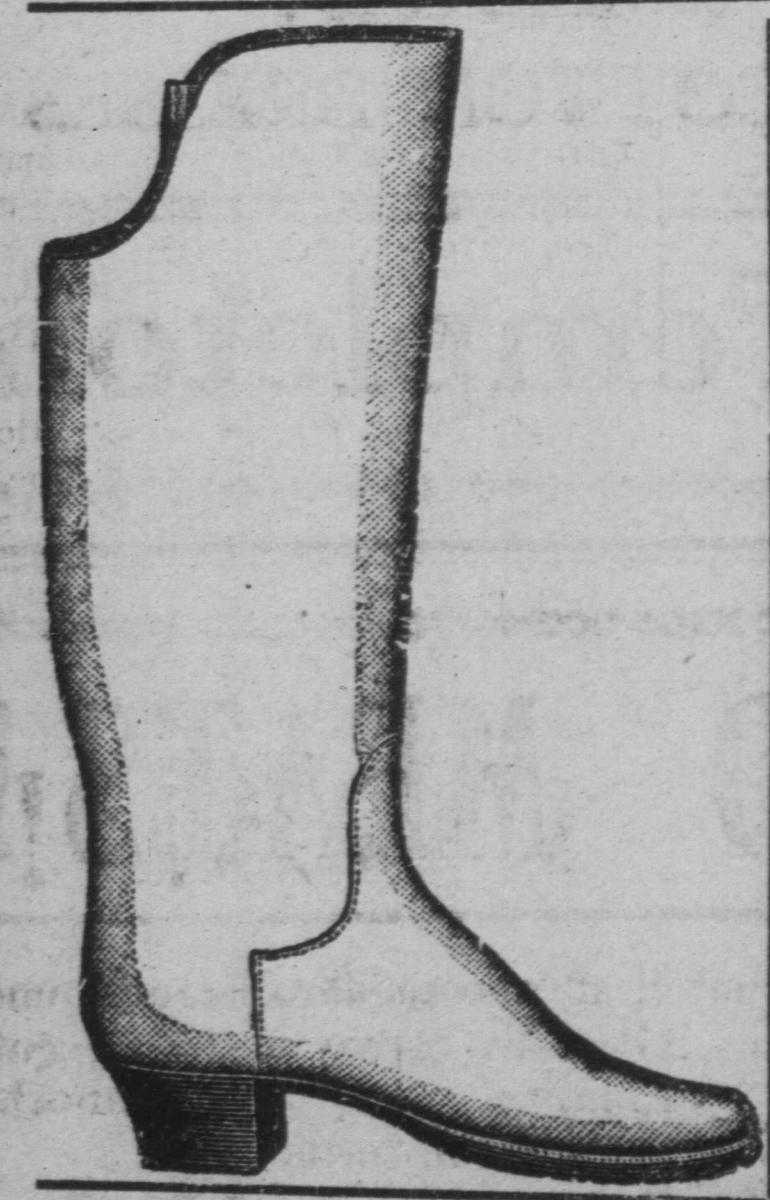
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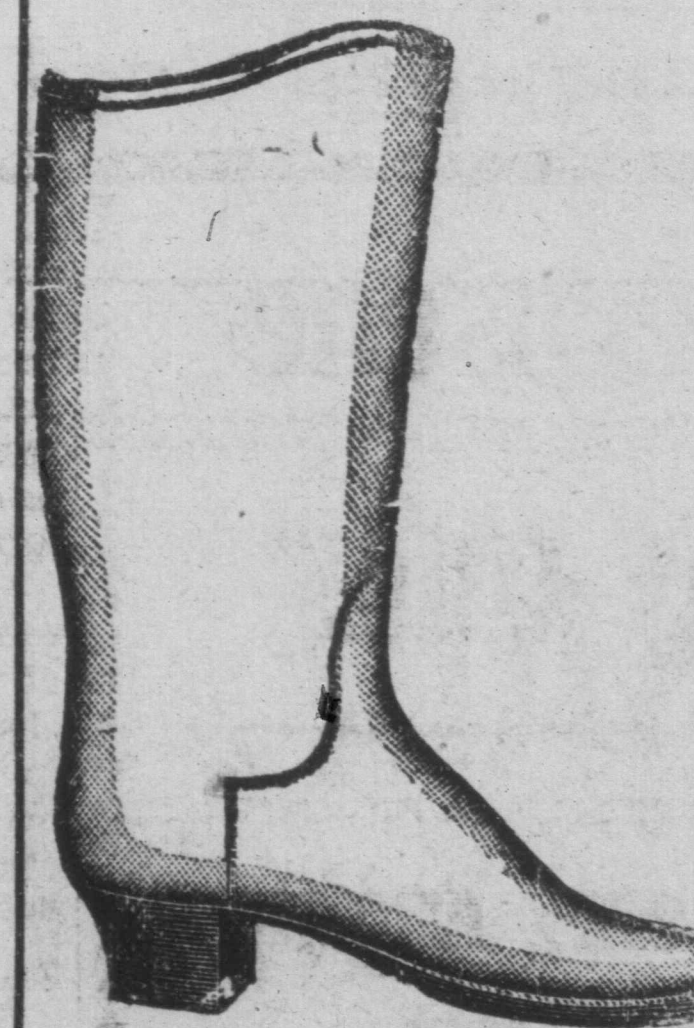
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