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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR.

PART TWO.

## The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.

### LIFE OF SPAIN'S EX-QUEEN IN PARIS

The Very Queen Uses the Eccentric Old Lady Makes of Her Enormous Wealth.

### ABOMINATES HER GRANDSON.

No Use for King of Spain—Only Feeling They Have in Common is Hatred of Americans.

Special Correspondence.

PARIS, Feb. 25.—Though fallen from power, and living in exile for 35 years, ex-Queen Isabella of Spain, still keeps up the semblance of a court in Paris, and surrounds herself with chamberlains, and secretaries, and gentlemen of the royal household to say nothing of courtiers and petty officials of all descriptions. At her bi-monthly levees, she receives as a reigning queen at her residence, the Palais de Castille in the Avenue Kléber—and nothing in the world could induce her to return a call. She even judges her decision of power to the extent of conferring decorations on her favorites, and as she is too dignified an old lady to invent decorations of her own, she confers authentic Spanish decorations, which only the ruling monarch is supposed to have within his jurisdiction, and which she calmly refers to the Spanish legation in Paris for confirmation.

Several hundred such appointments are made each year by her, causing untold tribulations to the Spanish ambassador, the Marquis del Duero, an old friend of Isabella, whom he does not like to assuage, while at the same time he is compelled to respect the authority of his young liege lord, Alfonso XIII. But Alfonso, while brought up to consider his royal grandpapa as a holy horror, is nevertheless indulgent towards her, and, prompted by del Duero, generally confirms a limited number of decorations for her.

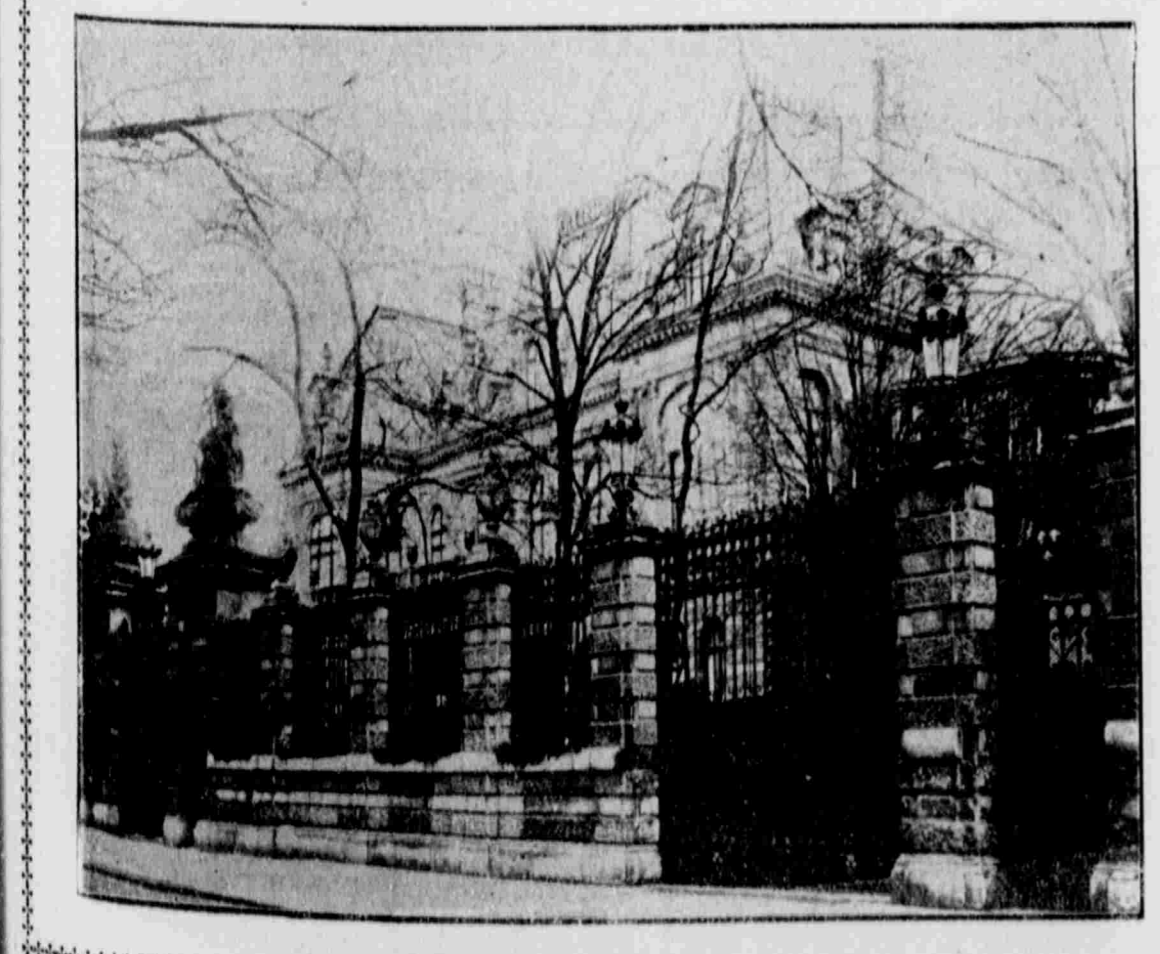
### NEUTRAL GROUND.

The ex-queen's salon is one of the few neutral grounds in Paris, where representatives of the uncompromising "ancienne noblesse" of France, most members of the Republican set in society. Isabella has never been officially recognized by a French president, and has never been received at the Elysee—the French White House—and is the hope of improving her relations some day, she has formed a close intimacy with Madame de Saint-Prix, Loubet's daughter.

President Loubet, for himself, has retained his simple country tastes, but his wife has social ambitions. When Loubet was elected president, she, the senate, which was the first step towards the presidency of France, Madame Loubet devoted two solid months to a study of the French language and protocol laws. The latter have been most useful to her, but she has never been able to profit by her knowledge of the former, and that is her greatest cross in life. Wherefore it is just possible that the rise of the old ex-queen may succeed, and that through the good graces of Madame de Saint-Prix, succeeded by Madame Loubet, Isabella may one day find diplomatic relations established between the Elysee and the Palais de Castille.

Cabinet ministers have followed the lead of their chief, and have never officially recognized Isabella, but their wives are sometimes glad to call, and there is not an aspirant or a has-been in the political world who does not seek admission to the ex-queen's court circle, and Isabella receives them all in view of the fact that they may some day come to power and will not forget her. As for the French aristocracy, it cannot afford to slight a Bourbon, however little it may approve of the old queen and her mode of life. And thus it is that the Republican element stand as Isabella's levees elbow to elbow with dukes and marquises such as the dukes of Robans, de la Rochefoucauld, de Luchan, de Lamoignon and other princely houses of France.

In spite of her great age—she was 73 at her last birthday—Isabella leads a comparatively active life. Colossally rich she nevertheless believes in household economy, and while not stinting herself for anything which may add to



EX-QUEEN ISABELLA'S EXILE HOME IN PARIS.



EX-QUEEN ISABELLA OF SPAIN.

her comfort or enjoyment, she personally inspects every detail of domestic expenditure and sees that it is reduced to a minimum. But while careful almost to the point of stinginess in this respect, she entertains lavishly, she loves the Luxes and carriages for her daily drives, and her charities are enormous.

However, in regard to her charities as in other respects, ex-Queen Isabella has her own ideas. She never responds to any petition for pecuniary assistance, and rarely adds her name to any subscription; but she has two weaknesses, Montmartre musicians and Latin quarter artists, on whom she will squander her wealth in unlimited quantities, provided they be young, handsome and talented. She herself always judges these qualities. She has a special detachment of secretaries who have no other duty but to inform her of new discoveries among the meritorious, and to report the conduct of those already under the queenly wings.

### QUEEN PERSONALLY EXAMINES.

When the secretaries have reported favorably on the subject of anyone, the queen sends for the person in question and proceeds to examine him. If he is female in the royal eyes or if a gray hair or two gives an impression of premature age, Isabella has her ushered out without parole. If, on the contrary, he passes inspection, the queen then sits down at the piano and interprets classical pieces and her own compositions, or else produces specimens of his drawing and painting. If the ex-queen approves, he is put down on a list, and a check is sent to him for his current expenses, and ever after he is supposed to call at fixed intervals at the Palais de Castille. Once in a while Isabella gives an entertainment for her proteges, and, omitting all her usual society friends, she invites local Latin quarter or Montmartre belles to meet her artists and musicians. And it is said that the old queen enjoys these unconventional balls and receptions far more than she does her staid court functions.

### LIKES POLICE-MEN.

Isabella has another weakness besides artists and musicians, and that is for policemen, provided they be young and handsome. Isabella is very particular about her body-guard, and finds it difficult to fill its ranks with men who are both effeminate and good-looking. She has been known to stop her carriage in the Champs-Elysees to call a policeman and invite him to call at the Palais de Castille if he wanted to enter her royal service, and on one occasion, sitting in her box at the opera, she sent one of her secretaries up to the pea-nut gallery to make similar overtures to a pleasing young policeman whom she had spied through her opera glass. The policeman was naturally compelled to refer her gracious majesty to the prefect of police; and Isabella bears a serious grudge against Monsieur Leprieux for the fact that he has never granted the transfer of a man from his staff to hers.

In summer, ex-Queen Isabella has no fixed residence, but leases for the season some historic chateau. One year, it will be on the Riviera, and the next in Normandy or in Touraine. Last summer, she was near Fontainebleau, where she received her daughter-in-

### FORGOT THE KING'S ELECTRIC BATH.

Hurried Changes in Castle of Duke and Duchess of Manchester For His Majesty.

### HE MUST MISS NO LUXURY.

How Carnegie's Gorgeous Baths Are Being Made Still More Gorgeous—American Women Starving.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Kilmore Castle, the recently acquired Irish home of the Duke and Duchess of Manchester, is competing with Windsor Castle and Buckingham Castle in the matter of equipment. In the accounts of the extensive alterations that have been proceeding there for months past, one important detail has escaped observation. The fact that the king has had recourse to electric light baths since his coronation illness had been overlooked by the duke and duchess when the specifications of the alterations were submitted to them. When it became known that his majesty would stay at Kilmore during his tour in the west of Ireland, and the duchess being acquainted with the fact that Windsor and Buckingham Palace were supplied with the electric baths from which King Edward had received so much benefit, she gave instructions that a similar bath must be installed at Kilmore. The alterations originally planned were nearing completion when the new order was issued, and the builders had some difficulty in finding a room that to their view could be conveniently converted into an electric bath to accommodate such an important personage as the king. The duchess met the difficulty by insisting that if her own boadroom had to be sacrificed the bath must be constructed. Luckily the late owner of Kilmore had the castle supplied with its own electric light installation, otherwise the duke and duchess would have to spend some thousands of dollars now to fit up a bath for the king.

### ATTRACTED THE KING.

Nothing attracted King Edward's attention so much during his last visit to Skibo castle as Mr. Carnegie's luxurious swimming baths. He insisted upon having a plunge and after he had emerged he expressed a wish that he could have a similar luxury at any of his own palaces. But in spite of the fact that the Skibo baths are acknowledged to be the most luxuriously equipped in Europe they do not satisfy Mr. Carnegie. Since he left for the United States a number of workmen have been overhauling them, giving an additional polish to the beautiful marble of which they are constructed. A service of Russian and Turkish baths is being installed.

### POOR WILHELMINA.

From the Netherlands come renewed reports that poor little Queen Wilhelmina is looking sad and greatly different from the radiant girl whose wedding is still fresh in the memory of all. It is true that her face is round and chubby, but the girliness has vanished, and in its place has appeared a set expression of forced calmness. The sturdy, phlegmatic Hollanders shake their heads dubiously when they speak of her. They will not admit that their idolized young sovereign can be at all in fault. All is set down to the score of the Prince Consort who is said to be dogged of temper and somewhat devoid of tact.

### AMERICAN WOMAN'S TACT.

Although it is common enough for Americans to hear of cases of want and suffering among the Italians who fit to their shores, it is almost unprecedented that such a thing should happen to an American in Italy, and in consequence, says my Rome correspondent, the Italians are deeply interested in the sad story of a woman now in detention in Rome. Hannah Jackson Stevens, or Stevens Jackson, of Raleigh, N. C., a woman about 35 years of age, who must once have been comely, finding herself without means or friends at home, and having heard in a vague way of the sunny skies of Italy, and that the people could live happily on a few cents a day, determined to try her luck here. No one knows how she got to Naples, and the next link in the story, is when a peasant near Capri, having been just been one of the worst storms of the season, while her matted hair was full of leaves and twigs, masses of it being between her fingers pulled from her hair in her agony.

### KINDNESS OF PEASANTS.

When somewhat recovered, feeling that the poor peasants were denying themselves the necessities of life to feed her, she endeavored to thank them, but her friends near, and left, blessing them for their kindness. She, poor thing, who has nothing for herself, is now looked upon as a kind of mascot by the family who took her in, as from the time they saw her their worldly affairs have improved.

### GEN. LENEVITCH, ONE OF THE CZAR'S CHIEF WARRIORS.



GEN. LENEVITCH

The present war is bringing to the front many Russian army officers of high rank, whose commands will prove important and whose achievements, for better, for worse, will doubtless, as the campaign develops, render them still more conspicuous in the public eye. Notable among these is General Lenevitch, a soldier of wide experience in Siberia and elsewhere.

looked upon as a kind of mascot by the family who took her in, as from the time they saw her their worldly affairs have improved.

The next that was heard of Hannah was when the American consul, Mr. de Castro, was told by the police that they had found a woman lying in the streets of Rome, who seemed to be an American. The unfortunate was again dying of hunger and exposure and to repeated appeals would only reply, "Let me die, let me die!" The authorities cared for her, but it only took a moment for one of her own nationality to understand that suffering had had its effect, and that she was no longer capable of giving a connected story. She was put in a house of restraint, but being so gentle and melancholy, was not sufficiently well watched, she escaped, fled into the country, about two miles from Rome, and laid herself on the railway tracks. The searchers found her just in time to drag her off as a train thundered by. Again her wail was, "I want to die, why have you prevented me!" She is quite incapable of giving a connected story, but it is certain that she comes from Balaigh, and she says she is alone in the world.

### WILLED TO HIS MOTHER.

It is to his mother, Helen, Lady Abinger, that the late Lord Abinger has willed the property of the family, Helen, Lady Abinger, was the daughter of Commodore Magruder of the United States Navy, and niece of Major-General J. B. Magruder of Texas. Not only Cockley in Surrey, the little property of which she had the use during her son's lifetime has now come to her, but also the London house in Cornwall Gardens, and Inverloch castle in Inverness-shire. One of the reasons for this curious bequest of the family possessions is that the late Lord Abinger's kinsman and her presumptive heir could not endure the idea of a Roman Catholic reigning at Inverloch, so having the power to do so he willed to her mother, Lady Abinger, was one of the pioneers of Christian Science in England, and is still one of its most ardent supporters. Her husband was the Lord Abinger who served with such distinction in the Crimea.

### STUDYING ART IN PARIS.

Albert Graves of Boston is again in Paris studying art. He is a very prominent member of the American Art club in the Latin quarter of Paris, being on the board of governors, chairman of

### DRAMATIC RISE AND CERTAIN FALL.

How One of the Czar's Ministers Did His Best to Bring on The Japan War.

### IT WAS FOR SPECULATION.

Was Notified to Leave Russia Forever—Another Minister Was Fomenting Revolution at Home.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Too late to stop the war, the man who did most to cause it and expected most profit from it was thrown out of his high office by the czar and bidden to leave Russia forever. He fled to the South of France, where he is living on the millions he amassed in the region that is to become a bloody battleground largely because of his speculations. This man is M. Besobrasoff, until lately Russian secretary of state, and the way in which he fomented the Russo-Japanese conflict is here described in detail for the first time.

Besobrasoff is a scion of a noble family, but his parents were impecunious and were glad to obtain for their son a post as page in the imperial household, a position which in Russia can only be filled by lords with blue blood in their veins. Young Besobrasoff entered the imperial service at the age of 16 and served as a page in the palace for two years, when he obtained a commission as lieutenant in the crack regiment of guards. His military rank procured him access to the best circles of society in the Russian capital, and for a few years he was one of the favorites of the fashionable drawing rooms of St. Petersburg.

The young man, however, was of an enterprising turn of mind, and soon after he had attained his twenty-second birthday he threw up his commission in the army, abandoned the pleasures of society, and proceeded to Eastern Siberia to make his fortune. Nothing was heard of him for a decade, when suddenly he reappeared in St. Petersburg and announced that he had become a millionaire through his enterprises in the far east. He had bought up mines, pastures and arable lands besides property in the neighborhood of Vladivostok, Port Arthur and Dalny. He had acquainted himself with the intricacies of the administration and development of Manchuria and Eastern Siberia. He gained the ear of the czar, who discussed all these questions with him by the hour.

### SUDDEN RISE TO POWER.

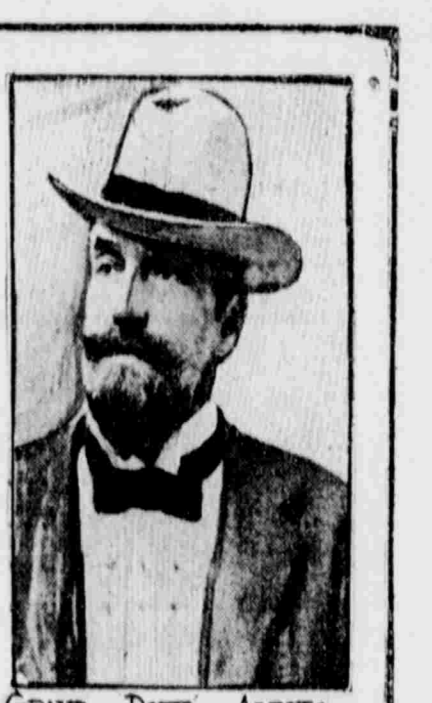
Besobrasoff returned to the far east as the confidential adviser of the czar, to whom he revealed many weak points in Russia's management of far eastern affairs. At this period he purchased extensive tracts of land in Korea and persuaded the czar, the dowager empress of Russia and several grand dukes of the imperial family to invest money in similar purchases of land, with the result that the emperor of Russia and his relatives have been freely accused of shaping Russia's policy in regard to Korea in accordance with their own private interests. Other investments which Besobrasoff advised the czar and his mother to make in Siberia turned out to be brilliant successes, and his power at court grew proportionately.

M. Besobrasoff was the direct cause of M. de Witte's retirement from office. M. de Witte, whose power was thought to be unassailable, was summoned to the czar to explain certain defects in the construction of the Transiberian railway discovered by Besobrasoff and reported by him to the czar. M. de Witte assured the czar that there were

### GENERAL KURAPATKIN, RUSSIA'S ARMY AUTOCRAT.



GENERAL KURAPATKIN



GRAND DUKE ALEXIS

Head of the Russian war office, and with a long and distinguished military career, General Kurapatkin is now appointed commander-in-chief of the Russian forces operating against Japan on land. His aristocratic aide, the Grand Duke Alexis, is representative of the Russian imperial family on the staff of the great general.