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dukes and princes of the Russian im-perial house thus amounts to a total of 315,009,000 per annum. As a matter of fact, however, the grand dukes have no need whatever of feeding on public taxes, for in the course of fime, BR most other im-perial and royal families, they have contrived to accumulate immense es-tates all over the country. Between them these thirty-three grand dukes them these thirty-three grand dukes and princes own 50,000 square miles of land, or about one-fortieth part of the entire territory in European Russia. Besides these vast estates they possess no less than 325 palaces and castles and employ some 20,060 domestic servants, flunkeys and retainers.

It is a traditional rule that every male member of the Russian imperial house shall be trained as an officer in the array or navy, and that he shall serve in one or the other of them.

MIGHTY PERSONAGES.

MIGHTY PERSONACES. The grand dukes enjoy many legal and social privileges in Russia. They cannot be arrented, they cannot be sued in a public law court, nor can they be subpoended to rive evidence in a public trial. If any one desires to bring an action at law against a grand duke he must lay his case before a special tribunal constituted exclusive-ly for the purpose of dealing with liti-gation in which members of the im-perial family are involved. If the evi-dence of a grand duke be required in a perial family are involved. If the evi-dence of a grand duke be required in a public trial, a commission of judicial officials must wait upon him in his pri-vate residence and take down his testi-mony there. A grand duke is not re-quired to swear to the truth of his de-positions, but his simple signature gives the evidence the same weight and value as statements made on oath by ordina. as statements made on oath by ordina. Ty folk.

In society the grand dukes receive as their due many marks of respect and honor equal to those enjoyed exclusivehonor equal to those enjoyed exclusive-ly by monarchs in other European countries. In the army and navy, too, they occupy a position which does not depend on their rank, but which is their birthright. If an officer, even if his rank is the highest, meets a grand duke in the street he is obliged to take three steps backward, make half a right or heft furn about as the case may he left turn about, as the case may be, and stand at salute in a perfectly rigid position until his imperial highness is ten steps away. On the other hand, the grand dukes

On the other hand, the grand dukes have to submit to certain disadvantages and drawbacks arising from their high rank. The czar has absolute power over them, so that with all their rights and privileges they really live in a con-dition of gilded bondage. They cannot choose their own place of residence, they cannot leave Russia on a tour of pleasure, and they cannot marry without the consent of the czar. If they disobey and defy the czar's wishes be can imprison them, confis-cate their estates, and banish them from the country according to his un-restricted imperial pleasure. REBELLIOUS HEIR TO THE

REBELLIOUS HEIR TO THE THRONE.

Nevertheless there are rebels in the imperial family, for at present there are seven or eight grand dukes who have either married in opposition to the caar's wishes or who desire to be wed-ded to women of whom the caar disap-proves, Foremost among these is the Grand Duke Cyril, the caar's eldest covsin of the first degree. Grand Duke Cyril's matrimonial Intentions possess a special importance owing to the proba special importance owing to the prob-ability that he will succeed to the Rus-sian throne at a date not very far distant. At the present moment three lives stand between him and the crown --those of the czar, the czar's brother, who is the heir-apparent, and Cyril's own father, Grand Duke Vladimir. The czar himself has not only a fee-bel constitution and extremely poor

a good chance of rising to the throne. Now the grand duke is anxious to marry the divorced grand duchess of Hesse, who, before her marriage, was Princess Melita of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. She is a niece of King Edward of Great Britain. Princess Melita was married to the Grand Duke of Hesse when she was a failure. The Hessian grand duke is a cold, serious man, who is as high-principled and conscientious as he is uninteresting. Melita is gay, unconven-Is a cold, serious man, who is as high-principled and conscientious as he is uninteresting. Melita is gay, unconven-tional and overflowing with life and spirits. When the grand duke wanted his wife, not yet out of her teens, to be a mother to his people, to visit the sick in the hospitals, and to superintend soup kitchens for the destitute. Melita preferred hunting, riding and other kinds of healthy amusement. Truth makes it necessary to record the fact dashing young officers of the Hessian families of nobility to the dry old fos-sils of both sexes who were her hus-band's courtiers. Throuble arose and increased from incompatability of tem-perament. After seven years of mar-riage a divorce was pronounced in De-comber, 1901. The Grand Duke of Hesse angreed to pay to his divorced wife an annual allowance of \$200,000, and their only daughter was to spend half the year with each parent.

CHIEF OF STAFF TO MARSHAL OYAMA.



Gen. Kodama stands next to Marshal Oyama as commander-in-chief of the Japanese armies. They are to assume entire charge of all the operations of the armies in Manchurla,

s contrary to the laws of the orthodox state church in Russia. The orthodox Greek church, moreover, like the Ro-man Catholic church, regards marriage as indissoluble and prohibits the sec-ond union of a divorced man or woman. A grand duke who married in direct pposition to fundamental principles the orthodox style church would out-rage the feelings of the millions of Russia and inevitably would weaken the authority of the imperial house. The committal of this error by a grand The committal of this error by a grand duke who stands so near to the throne would be suicidal from a dynastic viewpoint. Grand Duke Cyrll was, therefore, informed that if he persist-ed in marrying Melita, the czar would, first of all, declare the marriage to be invalid in Russia; secondly, degrade Cyrll from his rank as an officer; third-ly, confiscate all his estates; fourthly, ately in Ly, confiscate all his estates; fourthy, banish him from Russia forever, and fifthly, deprive him of his right of suc-cession to the Russian throne.

who is the erfused partent, and cyril's cossion to the Russian throne. The czar himself has not only a fee-bel constitution and extremely poor health but he is exposed to the per-manent danger of a sudden death by assassination. His brother, Grand Duke Michael, is a weakling who is tuberculous. No life insurance com-pany in the world would do business either with the czar or the helr-appar-cnt of Russia. Grand Duke Cyril's fath-er is 57 years old and enfeebled out of all proportion to his years by life-long dissipation. So Grand Duke Cyril has a good chance of rising to the throne. Now the grand duke is anxious to marry the divorced grand duchess of riage ceremony. indifference to him. what he reliesed before, at any fact, Cyril had not been in St. Petersburg 24 hours before he rushed off to see Meilta at Coburg. It was then announced that Melita had notified her former that Melita had notified her former husband that she would no longer ac-cept his annual allowance of \$200,000. It was further announced that the mar-riage of Cyrfi and Melita is to take place before the end of this year. It remains to be seen whether Cyrfil has been obliged to renounce his right of succession in order to marry the wo-man of his choice. If he does not re-nounce his rights and brings Melita to St. Petersburg as the wife of the prenounce his rights and brings Melita to St. Petersburg as the wife of the pre-sumptive future emperor, a piquant sit-uation will be created. The present czarina is the sister of the Grand Duke of Hesse, and she would hardly wel-come her former sister-in-law as the wife of her husband's presumptive fu-ture successor. However, this may be ture successor. However this may be, Cyril's pluck and unconventionality, and the determination with which he is carrying his romantic love affair make him the most interesting and sympathetic figure among the grand dukes of Russia.

out of the country. ince of Volhynia. She left St, Petersburg for some years, and returned only when the death of M. Valerianovna had eft her a widow. Quite b ychance she attracted the at-tention of the Grand Duke Paul when she was walking in the street and his imperial highness made inquiries re-garding the identity of the beautiful, fascinating, stylishly-dressed woman. He obtained an introduction to her in a none too conventional way, and soon the 42-year-old widower was so desperitely in love that he was determined to make Madame Valerianovna his vife at all costs. He communicated his intention to the czar, who threat-ened him with the usual list of dire penalties if he persisted in his inten-tion. Grand Duke Paul left Russia and took Madame Valerianovna to Liverno, in Italy, where he was wedded to her according to all the rites of the ortho-



ST. LOUIS, MO.

BOUGHT AND SOLF

ALL SORTS OF OBSTACLES.

Grand Duke Cyril had made no secret of his admiration for the Grand Duch-ess Melita before her divorce and no sooner had she left her husband's home seoner had she left her husband's home and gone back to live with her mother at Coburg than Cyrll made her a for-mal offer of marriage. This was ac-cepted conditional on the czar's con-sent, which, however, was emphatically refused. Grand Duke Cyrll was given to understand that he would be com-mitting an inexcusable folly if he mar-ried the divorced grand duchess of

GRAND DUKE PAUL'S LOVESTORY

One of the czar's uncles, Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovitch, has been in exile two years because he contracted a mar-riage in opposition to the imperial wishes, Grand Duke Paul was a widwishes, Grand Duke Paul was a wid-ower and 42 years old when he married a second time in 1902. The lady of his choice was 37 years old and had a va-ried career. Her malden name was Karnovitch, and she was the daughier of a prosperous lawyer in St. Peters-burg. She was a girl of striking beau-ty and manifold fascinations, and at the age of 21 became the wife of a mid-dle-aged engineer named Pistolkovs, who was more than 20 years her senior. This marriage was evidently a failure. who was more than 20 years her senior This marriage was evidently a failure This marriage was evidently a failure, Hesse, First of all, she is his cousin of the first degree, his father and her mother being brother and sister, and marriage between such near relatives

IN COMMAND OF TIBET EXPEDITION.

The dashing commander of the so-called "English Peace Mission" to hassa, has announced his willingness to treat with peace delegates of the great Liama. A peculiarity of the "Great Liama" is that he is a child guarded over by priests, and unless a six year old boy can be called great, he is not, for all llamas have died at that age.

Grand Duke Michael Michaelovitch, a cousin of the second degree to the czar, who was 29 when, early in 1891, he askwho was 20 when, early in 1891, he ask-ed permission of Czar Alexander III to marry a girl well known in good society in St. Petersburg, She was not of noble birth, but her father was a state official and the famous diplomatist Ignatieff was her uncle. Alexander III had no sympathy with the grand duke's ro-mantic inclinations and, promptly pro-hibiting the match, his majesty sent Michael Michaelovitch away on a for-eign tour to forget his folly.

ROMANTIC RUNAWAY.

Michael Michaelovitch away on a for-eign tour to forget his foily. Almost the first place at which the grand duke stopped on this tour was Wiesbaden, where he became involved in another romantic love affair. He was walking near Wiesbaden when a horse came rushing toward him bear-ing on its back a woman who had lost all control over the animal and who was in imminent danger of death. The grand duke seized the reins, and after being dragged for a distance succeedgrand duke seized the reins, and after being dragged for a distance succeed-ed in bringing it to a standstill. The woman whom he thus rescued was the young and beautiful daughter of Coun-tess Natalle Meremberg, the morganatic wife of Prince Nicolas of Nassau, a brother of the reigning Grand Duke of Luxembourg. Within a week or two the grand duke made the young Coun-tess Meremberg his wife. The crar ignored the fact that the

the grand duke made the young Coun-tess Meremberg his wife. The czar ignored the fact that the countess' father was a royal prince, and remembered only that her mother was the daughter of the Russian poet, Push-kin, and the divorced wife of a plain Russian citizen named Dubelt. He is-sued an imperial decree declaring the marriage of the grand duke to be null and void, but he was afterward induced to withdraw this decree by the Inter-vention of the Grand Duke of Luxem-bourg, an uncie of the bride, and of the queen of Sweden, her aunt. The Grand Duke of Luxembourg conferred on the bride the title of Countess Torby. Grand Duke Michael Michaelovitch and his morgantic but legitimate wife. Countess Torby, are mest popular members of the fashionable society in England and France. King Edward is their close friend and often visited them at their heautiful country estate in England. He repeatedly has endeavored to bring about a reconciliation between the czar and the grand duke, and be has been partially successful, for Michael Micha-elovitch was recently reinstated in the mittary rank which he had before his elovitch was recently reinstated in the military rank which he had before his disgrace and banishment.

WEDDED HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW'S LADY-IN-WAITING.

Another uncle of the czar, the Grand Duke Alexis, got into trouble when a young man by marrying one of the ladies-in-waiting of his mother, the Empress Maria Alexandrovana. The bride was a Miss Joukoffsky, and the young couple contrived to keep shelr marriage secret for three years. When the secret became known the czar was extremely angry and took prompt steps to put an end to the romantic union. It declared the marriage to be util and void and expelled Miss Joukoffsky from Russia forever. The priest who cetcbrated the marriage service was banjshed to Siberia for 30 years, and died in the eighteenth year of his ex-it. Miss Joukoffsky afterward married a German baron and died recently on her husband's estate in Saxony. The only child which she bore the Grand Duke remained in his father's custody, and the czar subsequently conferred on him the title of Count Bolowsky. The youthful escapade of the Grand Duke Alexis did not mar his career, for he is now commander-in-chief of the Russian navy and exercises great Influence on public affairs in Russia. Grand Duke Nicolas Constantino-vite, ha cougin of the second degree to Another uncle of the czar, the Grand

public affairs in Russia. Grand Duke Nicolas Constantino-vitch, a cousin of the second degree to the czar, has been exited for nearly 30 years for contracting a mesalliance. When a young man he desired ardentiy to merry a Franch science hereits to marry a French music hall artiste