



POLITICAL PRISON.

This prison is situated near Podgor-liza, and is called the Podvoltima. The Podvoltima is an old-fashioned, gray building, which, yiewed from the outside, appears to consist of two stories. Both these stories, the ground floor and the upper floor, are inhabitthough on the borders of Austria and within a few hours' journey by steam. ship from Italy, it is a country in which mediaevalism unadulterated by predominates. ed by soldiers and warders stationed guard the prisoners. The prisoners themselves are confined in underground cells. This subterranean prison with its numerous cells ong, dark passages covers a considerably larger area than the building visible above the earth. All the cells are dark and ventilation is most deficient. The political prisoners are all loaded with chains and many of the cells are so low that their unhappy inmates can neither stand nor sit upright, but must crawl about on their hands and knees. The more fortunate political prisoners are allowed the use a petroleum lamp to light their dark dungeons for three or four hours every The atmosphere in the cells is so bad that the smoke of a cigarette will often remain suspended in the thick air in the center of the cell for days together. One of the inmates of those horrible dungeons is a young man named Isajio Tomitch. At the age of 13 Tomitch wrote some crude verses ridiculing the despotic system of Prince Nicolas. was sentenced to six years' imprisonment, but escaped after two years' carceration and fled abroad. At At the age of 18 he returned to Montenegro on receiving a solenin promise from the prince that he should remain unmolested. Scarcely had he set foot on his native soil when he was seized and thrown into the Podvoltima, where h has now lain loaded with chains for twelve years. Although only 30 years of age Tomitch is a mere human wreck with snow-white hair, furrowed cheeks and feeble limbs. Another inmate of the political prison is Sharko Kaludcherovitch, who was formerly the hus-band of a handsome woman. His wife attracted the attention of Crown Prince Danilo of Montenegro and Kaludcherovitch one day surprised the guilty pair together. To prevent any further trouble Crown Prince Danilo simply caused the betrayed husband to be incarcerated in the Podvoltima, where he has now been for ten years He went mad after four years of imprisonment and is new a violent mant ac. Captain Peter Popovitch has been confined in the political prison for the last five years. His only offense was that he held, progressive political opinoffense was tons. This, however, is a crime in the eyes of Prince, Nicolas, and so Captain tons. Fopovitch was cast into an under-ground dungeon and loaded with chains which eat into his flesh. SUICIDE IN CELL Not long ago a former Montenegrin judge named Vladimir Tomitch,a broth of Isajlo Tomitch, committed suicide in one of the cells of the political prison. Vladimir Tomitch was educated in Germany and Austria and graduated at the universities of Berlin and Vien-He returned to Montenegro and became a judge, but soon incurred the became a judge, but soon incurred the displeasure of Prince Nicolas by ex-pressing the opinion that political re-forms in Montenegro were necessary. For this utterance be was arrested and nveyod to the Podvoltima. After six months of solitary confinement Tomitch was permitted the use of a petroleum lamp for five hours every day. At the very first opportunity he broke the lamp on his own body, thereby com-mitting suicide by burning himself to Many other cases could be death mentioned in which brave and talented who have committed no erime whatever are languishing in these un-derground holes month after month and Prince Nicolas reyear after year. gards the maintenance of this political prison as one of the best means of maintaining his absolute power over his subjects. A recent Montenegrin minister of justice, Tchaulitch, recommend-el the abolition of the political prison and the introduction of a law prevent ing the punishment of any person without public trial. Within a few days of making these proposals Tchaulitch was mysteriously murdered under circum-stances which indicated with unmistakable clearness that he was assancein. ated by hirelings of the reigning prince. A MERCILESS TYRANT. Prince Nicolas is not only a merciless tyrant, but extorts colossal sums of and an intolerable police explonage, is as bad now as it ever was. Any Montenegrin who incurs the prince's displeasure is liable to be incarcer-ated for the remainder of his life without any trial whatever. The inoney from his impoverished subjects for his own purposes. Montenegro is a poor country. There are few indus-tries and large areas of land are un-suitable for profitable cultivation. The

family. Four-fifths of the entire na-tional revenue were thus devoted to the payment of the reigning family, and only one-fifth to the needs of the nec-essitous population. This allowance of \$1,000,000 from the state added to his own private income enables Prince Nicolas to keep up a truly regal style at his court. The fact is that this retuy peasant potentiate has been corat his court. The fact is that retry peasant potentate has been COL rupted by close associtation with courts of Russia and Italy, He, has the

of the princely dynasty. One hopes, however, that the pressure of the pub-lic opinion of civilized countries may bring about radical reforms in Montenegro without those accompaniments of bloodshed and violence. RUDOLPH ELPHBERG.

iq work next day with picks and shov-els. At a depth of 12 feet they came upon the foundations of an old building. After making some excavations beween the walls, they uncovered a mar The tablet on which an image of St

iginally Started by Twelve British Workmen it is Now the Largest Association of Its Kind on Earth.

in the whole country, and the male inhabitants go about in strange picturesque costumes with pistols and daggers stuck in their belts. The total population of the whole country does not reach 300,000, and the capital, Ce. tinje, is a village of 3,000. The proprietor of the only hotel in Cetinje is the Montenegrin minister of commerce. A recent American visitor to Cetinje found the Montenegrin minister of war sweeping the floor of the national arsenal. The ruling prince still dispenses justice at regular inter. vals seated beneath an immense tree in front of his palace, and his subtects still indulge in the vendetta. CONDITIONS OF LIFE.

tains, is unique in many respects. Al-

modern reforms still

The natural conditions of life in Montenegro offer, in brief, every opportunity for an idyllic existence far from the maddening whirl of twentieth. century civilization. Unfortunately the savage tyranny of the ruling dynasty has transformed this fascinating little country into a hotbed of discontent. The people groan under the oppressive government of Prince Nicolas, and emigration increases from year to year. During the last three years 15,-000 Montenegrins, or more than 5 per cent of the population, have emigrated to the United States of America. There exist several Montenegrin colonles in California and in other parts of America. The report which these emigrants have sent home regarding the conditions of political freedom in the United States and the warm sympathy held by Americans for oppressed people all over the world have raised hopes in Montenegrins In their own country of the black hills that America can do something to help them. Many Montenegrin peasants in their naive ignorance of political realities cherish the vain hope that the American republic may step in and depose the cruel despot now enthroned at Cetinje. The more enlightened Montenegrins entertain hopes that the pressure of public opinion in civilized countries will compet Prince Nicolas to introduce reforms. In this hope a number of prominent Montenegrins have requested me to lay the following facts before American readers in the hope that the voice of American public opinion may be raised with no uncertain tone on behalf of oppressed Montenegro. DISCONTENT RIFE.

Discontent has been rife in Montebegro for the last quarter of a century, and if has grown from year to year. Last, year Prince Nicolas became alarined and granted the country a constitution. This was merely a deceptive move on his part to create a favorable impression in other countries, and to bolster up his own rule at home. The Montenegrin parliament was elected and held one sitting. At this sitting a minority of seven members in the legislative assembly consisting of 40 members manifested opposition to the prince's regime, The prince immediately caused the legislative assembly to be adjourned and sent the elected representatives of the people home again, where they have remained over since. Prince Nicolas's autocratic system of government, maintained by military force

fered from a swollen his daughters married grand dukes of the Russian empire and still more so since his daughter Elena became queen of Italy.

NATIONAL POLICY.

All reasonable considerations of national policy are now subordinated his own spendthrift instincts. In order to obtain money for court display en-tire schools have been abolished, teachers have been dismissed and compulsory school attendance has been suspended. Twenty-two schools were recently abolished at one stroke by a decree of Prince Nicolas in order to obtain enough money to mount 50 men of his bodyguard. The only high school in the country was closed in order that Prince Ricolas might extend his stables and buy more horses. The agri-cultural college at Dapilograd, which was doing excellent work, was closed in order that a recreation ground should be provided for the soldiers of the prince's bodyguard of 100 men, who are n constant attendance upon him wher ever he stays or travels. His household also inclutes 100 male domestic ser-His two adult sons, vants. Prince Danilo and Prince Mirko, keep up expensive establishments on a smallscale. Even the immense sums which the prince appropriates from the national exchequer do not enable him to cover the cost of his own and his famliv's lavish mode of living. They are quite unable to simplify their life or to retrench to any way, for they have been cast under a spell by the splendor of bigger courts, and unfortunately the bad example set by the prince and his family has to some extent been follow. ed by some of his subjects who have accustomed themselves to living beyond their means.

SECRET POLICE.

One of the most expensive systems in which the prince indulges is his system of secret police, maintained in orler that he may exercise continuous supervision over the political opinions of his unhappy subjects. No less than \$350,000 per annum is devoted to the maintenance of court spies, who are a veritable plague on the country, with their perpetual denunciations of political suspects and their betraval of men and women who have dared to say a word against the reigning prince or his policy.

The most damaging evidence Prince Nicolas' misrule is the fact last week.

Probably the Bardest worked boy in Europe 1s H-year-old Archduke Maxmilian of Austria. Some day he will be emperor of Austria, his family calculates, and he is being put through such a course of sprouts as would take the heart out of any boy.

Besides being taught the thousand and one things other Austrian children are bothered with, he has to learn the Hurgarian, Bobemian. Polish and Italian languages, which are spoken in different sections of the empire by his future subjects, he has to study the organization of the armies in Europe, the art of leading in war and manifold other matters to qualify him to be the ruler of to,000,000 people of differ. ent races All this takes up his time

from 8 o'clock in the morning until 6 in the evening. with half an hour for tunch. He has no com ions, no friend, no play-fetlow-nothing but grown men and masters, some of them old pedants. Consequently the strain is beginning to show on the boy and the royal physician has just ordered a drastic re-vision of his daily program.



AMERICAN MILLIONAIRE MAY BUY IRISH RAILROAD FOR DUKE

Eugene Zimmerman, the Cincinnali millionaire, father of the Duchess of Manchester, is said to be the prospective purchaser of the interests of the promoters of the proposed Newry, Keady and Tynan railway in Ireland. Mr. of Zimmerman and his son-in-law, the Duke of Manchester, inspected the route

NO PLAYTIME FOR ARCHDUKE MAX.

