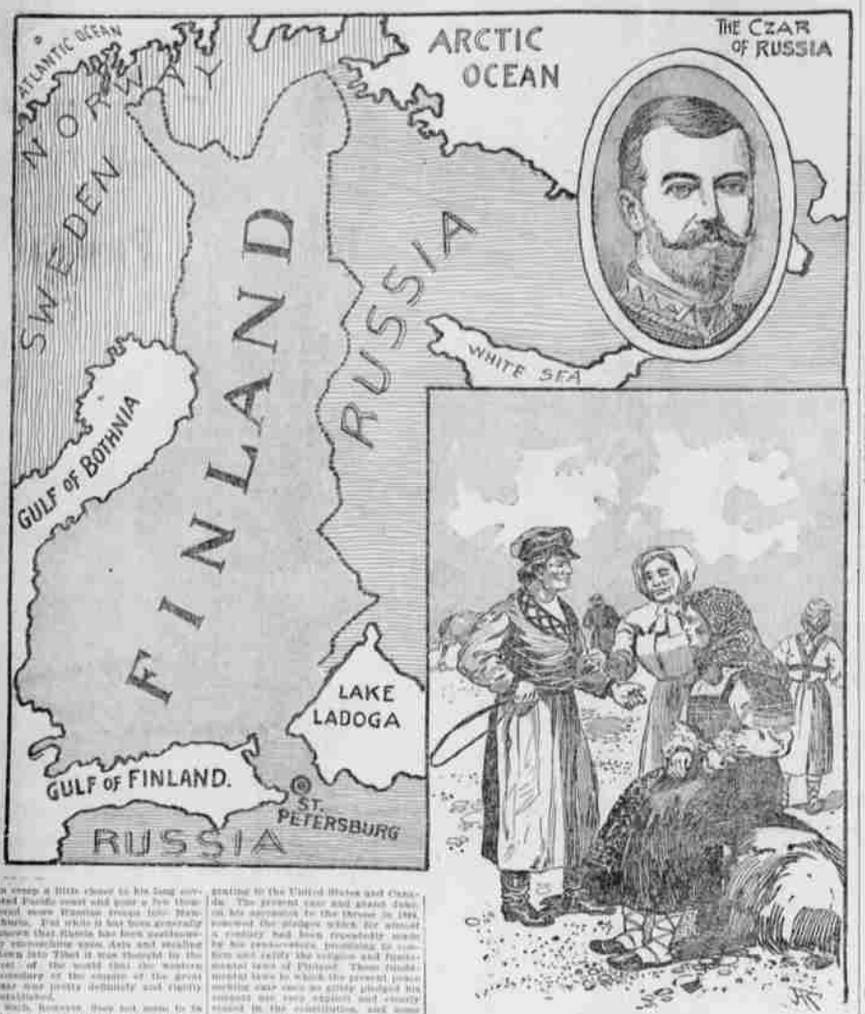
THE RUSSIFICATION OF FINLAND.



SOME FINNISH TYPES.

INTIMATED with its Russian neighbor, the Sphinx, the Bear of the Neva, the twentieth century problem is to the disturber of the peace of Europe for many a year to come. While people are discussing the advantages of the armament at The Hague this Bear, who is really Asiatic at heart, does not find it incompatible with his ideas of peace to keep a little closer to his long coveted Pacific coast and pour a few thousand more Russian troops into Manchuria. And while it has been generally known that Russia has been continually encroaching upon Asia and creeping down into Thibet it was thought by the rest of the world that the western boundary of the empire of the great czar was pretty definitely and finally established.

Such, however, does not seem to be the case, for what might be called the Russification of Finland is at present taking place in that much disturbed northwest corner of the czar's empire. By the constitution adopted in the diet of Borga and afterward confirmed by Alexander I in 1809, the emperor of Russia is, of course, also the grand duke of Finland. The government of this grand duchy, of some 2,500,000 people, has always been representative, but of late the imperial hand has been laid heavily on the liberties and upon the rights of an absolute monarch of Finland. He has established that the Finns ought to help keep up the imperial army. Without consulting the assembly which have been adopted some Russo's bold assertion, the emperor has legislatively decreed that hereafter he shall decide whether a proposed law affects only Finland or touches the rest of the Russian empire. Not withstanding the representations of the liberty loving Northern people and their vigorous protestations to Europe, Russia seems to be insisting on her original demands, and before very long the power of the czar of all the Russias will be as absolute in Finland as it now is in St. Petersburg itself.

Lapsing for months held upon the Finns, and the result is that their country is now made practically a vassal state of Russia, and the history of the Russo Finnish is being repeated in the case of Finland. As a result of the czar's repressive measures with Finland a great number of Finns has been taking place, and thousands and thousands of these people have been emigrating to the United States and Canada. The present czar and grand duke on his accession to the throne in 1894, renewed the pledges made for almost a century and had been repeatedly made by his predecessors, promising to confirm and ratify the religious and fundamental laws of Finland. These fundamental laws to which the present peace working czar once so gladly pledged his consent are very explicit and clearly stated. In the constitution, and some of them are as follows:

The monarch cannot create any new law nor abolish any old one without the participation and consent of the estates.

The estates cannot abolish any old law nor create any new one without the affirmation and consent of the monarch.

The monarch shall hear and protect the Lutheran, especially against enemies from without, for he can never stay on his subjects any war taxes, additional requisitions, aids or other subventions without the participation and free consent of the estates, as to do so would be contrary to law, as his royal promise and to his coronation oath.

In the shape of Forstery but the czar has sought to overthrow these irrevocable of the rights and liberties of the Finns and to assume all the concrete interests of the entire country. The diet has begun to have the right to give or withhold its consent to such laws, and the result is Russian subjections in Finland. The one particular incentive against which the Finns are so passionately objecting is the loss of the right hereafter enjoyed for them to enter military service in the defense of their own land under officers of their own race. But notwithstanding the protestations of the liberty loving Northern people and their vigorous protestations to Europe, Russia seems to be insisting on her original demands, and before very long the power of the czar of all the Russias will be as absolute in Finland as it now is in St. Petersburg itself.

OOM PAUL'S LAST PICTURE.

The president of the Transvaal has a deep rooted antipathy for the professional photographer, but here is a portrait that Oom Paul has taken of the city president of the Transvaal republic which is a remarkable likeness of that official. It is one of the very few portraits ever taken of this aged old politician, most of the newspaper pictures of him being, in fact, mere sketches by press artists. This new photograph is particularly timely because of the fact that there are many people today who believe that Kruger is on the verge of a final conflict with English and American millionaire interests in South Africa.

FAMILY RESEMBLANCES AMONG THE GUELPHS.

This is not the Prince of Wales, though at first sight this picture out of his royal highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, the second son of Queen Victoria, who holds the honorary position of admiral of the fleet. Alfred Ernest Albert is about quite younger than his big brother Albert Edward, the Prince of Wales, but the strong family resemblance is easily traceable. This new portrait of the duke shows him in his uniform of admiral of the fleet.

UNCLE SAM IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Uncle Sam's interest in South African affairs are much more extensive than is generally understood, and in case of a general upheaval at the tail end of the dark continent, on account of the trouble between England and the Transvaal the authorities at Washington are prepared to protect American interests there. The United Chicago, which was to have sailed from Tamatave, Madagascar, around the Cape of Good Hope for Brazil, has been recalled, which indicates that the United States government will not allow any more transport aspect in that troubled quarter of the globe. While the number of Americans living in the Transvaal is not so great as the number of Britishers, the volume of American capital employed in mining publications in the South African republic makes it necessary for the Washington authorities to keep a close eye on the course of events at the cape.

A HAUNTED GRAVE.

In the lonely wastes of the Boksa is the grave of an English soldier which is firmly believed by the natives to be haunted. The haunted grave marks the last resting place of a light infantry major who was shot while charging at the head of his regiment in the battle of Abu Hamed. The native Bedouins believe that this spot is watched over every night by the ghosts of the native soldiers who were killed in the same battle as the English officer, and so implicitly is this legend credited in the Bloksa that none of them will approach the grave, marked by the plain white cross, after dark.

Dr. Edward Everett Hale, in a recent address, recalled the fact that when Lowell first went on the lecture platform he got but $5 a night. Later, however, he was able to echo the demand of Thomas Starr King.—F. A. M. E.—"Fifty and no expenses."

AN ODD FUNERAL CAR.

In the matter of because the City of Mexico mostly walks the world for novelty. A funeral car like that shown in the illustration costs just $50 per hour, while the capitation block dropped hearse, the hour is one in American cities costs as low than $15. Its dropped hearse pull the more expensive hearse, and a funeral of the more pretentious sort always attracts much attention in the streets of Mexico.

A GLIMPSE OF CHINA'S CAPITAL.

The desperate attempts of England to keep peace with Russia in the matter of restricting the dominion of China is now threatening the well being of the land of the Dragon. Russia has offered to undertake the reconstruction of the Chinese army and should the nations come that to have a few offense swelling about Pekin. The Russians, on the other hand, are doing their best to secure a railway concession that will eventually allow their troops to march into the very capital of the Celestial empire. The English have objected to this and have said in very plain language that they will go to extreme lengths rather than allow that. The "Beautiful Pearl of Pekin." The goal of all this international European strife is for to secure a political working city, as the accompanying picture of one of Pekin's best known streets will show.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE LONE STAR STATE.

Joseph D. Sayers, the genial and popular governor of Texas, who is the chief promoter of the cotton concession which is about to open in St. Louis, is one of nature's gentlemen and popular idolizer. His most notable political work was his active campaign against excessive expenditures when he was the leader of the Democratic party, resulting in the "Watch Dog" Hobson in that position and fully carrying out his ideas.

Governor Sayers is a native of Mississippi, and did saw the light of day at Grenada jail in years ago. When he was a boy of 16 he became a citizen of the Lone Star state and began to work out of his home and resented in the Confederate army. When the war was over and he gave up soldiering he went at the study of law and was remarkably successful in his practice up to the time of his entry into active politics in 1876.

AN INDIAN ARISTOCRAT.

This distinguished looking gentleman is his highness Maharajah Dhuleep Sing Dhu Bahadur Tuhlaul Chandra Bhal, and compared with his grace Victoria is a few hairs pilloton. His purpose stretches back to the time when the Turks in Julus kings rule in Asia, and initiates before Cæsar landed in Britain and his worthy prince's ability for hours was an old and respected family. His highness of the state throne is now in years of age and needs none of his time in India shooting tigers and studying his antique pedigree.

A PENITENTIAL PROCESSION IN SPAIN.

One of the most extraordinary religious ceremonies to be witnessed in modern times is the pilgrimage of penitents to the sacred chapel of the Spanish monastery of "our Lady of Montserrat." The accompanying illustration shows a band of these pilgrims on their annual journey to the mountain through the town of Hospitalet, each person walking barefooted and carrying a long wooden cross. The ceremonies take place in the Whitsuntide before Whitsuntide and is performed in commemoration of a vow made years ago by certain Roman citizens. Each year the pilgrim go up to the little chapel of the old monastery singing hymns and chanting the litany of penitence on their way up the mountainside.

A COSTLY CAT.

The fashionable world always asked for its whims, is just at present devoted to cats. To cost a thoroughbred feline is the latest of social aspirations, and a wealthy American who was recently traveling in Europe exchanged three cats for one dog. This thing now and costly in pussies. Here is a Miss Persian which a Chicago girl just passed through the customs, and it is whispered that the valuation placed on the little animal was not $50. All of which goes to show that wealthy folks usually have to pay for their fads in fads.

Thomas Sulter Kirch, more affectionately a Tatsen, has been explained for stating and this reminder: "This is logical," he says, "but, though I do not have to produce no bacon, I give the time to careful consideration of what I do with. I work just as much as ever."

THE TOMB OF MTESA.

At Tanoki, which is usually designated as the "Pearl of Africa," is situated the strange tomb of the late king Mtesa. This tomb, as will be seen from the accompanying picture, is made of a framework of wood, with a thatched roof of straw, and from its peculiar form and not many enough for all the chiefs in Africa to dispute between its walls.

Kruger, "the pensive king," is an amateur naturalist, his chief delight being found in the inhabitants of the sea.

BITS OF KNOWLEDGE.

Lord Kitchener, when on campaign duty, stalks the Kaiser and Sir Evelyn Arnold's "Light of Asia" had his kit.

Russia has settled down as a Northwestern sports and sportsman, and is now a member of the great mountaineering class. His possessions, which run a from Hermaky, a considerable part of the late Duke Dagobert, however, remain originally from Hessia. Hereafter he does purposes to take up and black the back to the lowlands and stagnate, and this is good in making Saxon for Saxe cake.

One of the exhibits of Commissioner General Peck in the United States exhibits at the Paris exposition will be a bust of President McKinley.—F. C.

Lemur, a Chinese scholar, has been abroad to make the tour.

According to the meteorologists' observations, the total number of tornadoes and in Canada and Europe was three. Of these 37 were imported from the United Tigre company. In addition, the meteors were imported, from the country represented at least 1,000 more than, making the proportion of American made Tigrets sold in Canada for year about 37 to one.

The Cambridge university Tripos for this year is of unusual interest to the English, because of its head and tradition aged for the senior wrangler is an East Indian, Bhattacharji, Parshottam, Pitambar. His white savior as a student has been singularly successful, for he took the government of India prize in the Bombay university and took one of the most desirable scholarships to Cambridge. Curiously enough, the third and fourth wranglers this year were coolies, Ashtosh and Ganga Dass.

The French, who are large producers of wood alcohol, are very much interested in the development of projects for employing it as a heating, lighting and motive power agent. A company has recently been formed in Paris with a capital of $20,000 for organizing patents pertaining to such utilization.

Herr Sudenfeld, a German scientist, has discovered that the stones of toads are due to the vertebrae, and it is said he will patent it for use in making shoes which look like expensive ones.