

# A Siberian, Russia's Ruler

## Attempted Assassination of the Peasant Monk Rasputin, Reveals the Fact the Czar Goes to Him for Direction As to Affairs of State



The Czar of all the Russias is only the first lieutenant in the rulership of Russia. The power behind the throne of the greatest of all absolute European monarchies is a Siberian and that Siberian is only a peasant monk, who until two years ago ministered to the lowly of his province, and two women who came under the spell of his religious teachings.

The story of this strange authority of the most despotic nation of the Caucasus world came out when a few weeks ago Czar Nicholas ordered his court physician, Prof. Sergius Petrovitch Federoff to Tyumen, Siberia, to attend the monk. On the same train rode the lady in waiting to the Empress. The monk, Gregory Rasputin, is suffering from a severe wound inflicted by a woman who tried to kill him.

This woman, Guseva, the would-be assassin, declared to the police and newspaper correspondents that she had long meditated killing Rasputin and thus put an end to "the awful evil wrought by him in Russia by his imposture under the guise of a prophet."

She declared "he had shaken Christianity, he was sowing temptation and was blasphemously mock-

"It is all that cursed Heliodorus, Abbot of Tsaritsyn. But to the confusion of himself and all my enemies I will live and they will have nooses put around their necks."

Heliodorus was a great rival of Rasputin in the Russian capital, whence he was recently banished, owing to Rasputin's influence with the Emperor.

Rasputin is recovering from his wound.

**CZARINA IMPRESSED BY OCCULT POWERS.**

It is a curious story, that of the monk Rasputin, and one which has been told only in scraps. Two years ago he bobbed up in sudden prominence because his prophecies and spiritualistic seances had come to the attention of the Czar. Not only did Nicholas take much stock in him, but the Czarina was impressed by his occult powers, and quite like the obscure hero of the fairy books, Gregory Rasputin found grand dukes and cabinet ministers hawking to him. He had free access to the royal family, and the Czar of all the Russias asked his advice on all sorts of important affairs of State. So great is his influence that he has been styled the real ruler of Russia.

A sketch of the monk which was



as upon a holy man; now I regard you as an enticing serpent! I forbid you to enter the home of an orthodox family."

"Gregory felt offended at this, but paid no heed to the bishop's words. When the question arose at the holy synod as to having Gregory ordained as a priest, Bishop Gergomen rose up against him, and it was at this point that the Bishop had his downfall.

"The almost illiterate, dissolute monk proved to be a great power in these days of the twentieth century, when we are entertaining lords and gentlemen, scientists and authors in St. Petersburg."

The monk's affairs with women seem to have been innumerable, and he wielded great influence over the wives and daughters of nobles and officials high in the Russian court. Stories of midnight prayer meetings, to which only young wom-

**UPPER left**—Gregory Rasputin, adviser to the Czar and his family. **Upper right**—The children of the Czar. **Center**—Czar Nicholas and his guard. **Lower left**—The Czar in the field after a conference with Rasputin. **Lower right**—The Czar, with two of his daughters, in uniform.



ing the most holy feelings of true believers," and she added that "he enjoyed absolute immunity and had openly and without conscience ruined the lives of young girls."

"I, as a simple Christian, could not suffer this abuse of the church. I wanted to kill him last year. I went to Yalta, but could not approach him because he was so closely surrounded by aristocratic women followers."

"I regret that I failed to kill him. All the same, he will not live. The Russian people will not endure such disgrace."

Rasputin, in an interview, said:

printed in the Novoe Vremya, the semi-official Russian newspaper, and suppressed before it gained general circulation, gives an interesting insight into the man's character.

"I know Rasputin," declared the writer, "and I can speak about him from my own impressions. Sazonov brought this faintly old monk to me at the height of his glory about two years ago. The old monk quizzed with me and we had a long discussion."

"At first he appeared to me as a rather youthful peasant of about 40, neatly dressed. His face was that of a drunkard and his restless

eyes, his low voice, resembled those of a monastery servant or a peasant. His speech was abrupt and he used at times mysterious expressions.

"At first I was surprised that such a half savage peasant from Siberia could not only find his way to St. Petersburg, but that he could find a welcome reception at the homes of the very highest society. After having spoken to Rasputin, I convinced myself that he knew how to produce an impression. He is a natural philosopher, coming from the depths, almost illiterate, but well learned in Scripture, a man who talks about religion like a

gramophone record and endowed with natural enthusiasm."

"Some of his sayings impressed me for their originality and even for their depth. Thus the oracles of old spoke in a state of delirium — there was something absurdly wise in his enigmatic words. Some of Rasputin's ideas seemed to me to be near the ascetic and stoic philosophy, and his characterization of some priests and dignitaries struck me as very keen and correct. The first impression made upon me was a good one. I thought he was a cunning peasant, but naturally religious, capable of making people wake from their lethargic sleep as far as faith was concerned. But I did not like so much his fancy boots and the fact that he was going from my house to call on a certain lady."

**REQUIRED TO CALL ON CERTAIN LADY.**

"I should very much like to remain in your house," he said to me, "but I have been invited to go there and I must go."

"I was also surprised that Rasputin kissed ladies' hands on bidding them good-bye. A rather strange saint, I thought, one of those that occasionally make their appearance in fashionable drawing rooms. I had heard some of my friends praising Rasputin, but soon strange stories about Rasputin began to reach me.

"Then Rasputin lost the confidence of the well known Bishop Toofan, who had first patronized him. A certain prominent lady even went to Siberia for the purpose of investigating the stories about his mode of life and found evidence to corroborate them. The Left newspapers branded him as a swindler and a charlatan such as the world had not seen before; and at one time it seemed as though his influence had waned. Suddenly he came back to me last summer from Jerusalem.

"This time he was no longer dressed quite so neatly as before. He told me about a tree that Lot had planted and added that the cross upon which Christ was crucified was made from that same tree.

"Gregory needed the legend of

the tree of Lot to prove to me that although Lot was a sinner, his sin was forgiven, as Christ was crucified for us and thus redeemed all of the sins of the world. Gregory needed this in order to answer my question:

"Is it true, Gregory, that you do not lead a very pure life?"

"He answered evasively. 'The people are slandering me. They

are telling many falsehoods about me.'

"He added that perhaps he was a sinner, that all people were sinners, but that it was necessary to understand things properly."

**BISHOP CALLS HIM ENTICING SERPENT.**

"One day Bishop Gergomen said to Gregory Rasputin: 'So you know, Gregory, I used to look upon you

en were admitted, are told, and how Rasputin turned out all the lights and the "services" continued until morning. Rasputin is said to have been the avenging power behind the "ritual murder" case at Kiev, when except for worldwide publicity, the innocent Jew, Mendel Beilis, would in all probability have been done to death as a victim of religious hatred.

### NOT A SINGLE PERFECT EYE IN THE WORLD

Measurements of human eyes demonstrate that there is probably no such thing in the world as an absolutely perfect eye. That would be a miracle which Nature, with all her infinite ingenuity has never performed. No human face among all the world's 1,600,000,000 may be held perfect, either artistically or physiologically. To the owner of the face this is relatively an unimportant matter, but to the owner of the pair of eyes an error of one three-hundredth of an inch in the curvature or dimensions of the eyeballs may make their all-important function abnormal, resulting in eye strain with its attendant physical ills.

The eye responds to the slightest physical force in the world, that is, light waves which are hundreds of millions of times more infinitesimal than sound waves. The eyes are the hardest worked of all organs, and the safety and existence of human lives frequently depend directly on their accurate working. The harmful results of eye strain, never wholly absent throughout life, may begin very early in childhood, even in the second year.

Many little children, for instance, are constantly tearing their clothes, hurting their feet and legs, stum-

bling and falling, because their eyes are so faulty that their estimates of size, location and nature of objects are not correctly made. Adults who have been blind and are suddenly given good vision, require years to learn to see with accuracy or safety in action. Probably 5 per cent of children are left-handed, left eyedness causing left-handedness. From 6 to 10 years of age many children show an incomprehensible "nervousness," twitching of the hands and face, fickle appetite and various disorders, all usually due to eye strain.

Yet almost all of these cases of eye strain can be relieved, and should be relieved in early childhood. The importance of correcting this condition early in the child's school years, and the influence of the child must be apparent to every parent and teacher.

**Corrected Her Grammar.**

Little Wendell Holmes Emerson of Boston was resting sedately with his book in the park shortly after a picnic dinner. He had eaten too much. He knew perfectly well he had eaten too much and he was very much surprised and shocked at himself. He prayed fervently that no one would notice his con-

dition.

Just then a kindly old woman appeared and sat down beside him. "Ah," thought Wendell, "I have sadly injured her esthetic sensibilities."

By this time the old woman was firmly settled. "My little boy," said she, "are you over eight?"

It was wonderful to see how the young Mr. Emerson recovered his dignity. That a woman with such outlandish grammar should dare to criticize him was unbelievable. "No, madam," said he proudly, "I have overeaten!"

**Lost Phonograph.**

Mr. Arthur T. Cowper took a charming young woman of his acquaintance boating on Shaker Lake Sunday.

They set a phonograph going at one end of the boat and sat listening to its music as they drifted in the gloaming.

Mr. Cowper thinks now that he should have tied the phonograph down.

"I caught a crab turning the boat around and knocked the phonograph off into six feet of water," reports the romantic Mr. Cowper.