The Career Of M. Stolypin

PETER ARKADICIVITCH STOLYPIN, who was recently assassinated, had been premier of Russia for more than five years. He took office on July 22, 1906, when the whole country was seething with revolution. He was struck down at a time when there was, at least on the exterior, comparative quiet. He was not a bureaucrat or a reactionary, did his best to weed out the corruption that has been the bane of the empire and was willing enough to work with a douma packed after his own fashion. But he was very far from being an advocate of the revolution, and his ruthless executions made "Stolypin's neckties" a byword among the popular party.

To estimate the place that Stolypin deserves in Russian development must be the work of future historians, but they may perhaps find the key to his character in the fact that amid all the heterogeneous influences that play around the imperial throne and among the many nationalities that struggle for power he was a Slav by birth and inclination and was determined that the Russia of tradition, the Russia loyal to the czar, should be restored and that whatever concessions were made to the people should be without disorder or without pandering to foreign influences. He was determined, moreover, that all who stood in his way, whether Finnish patriots or Russian radicals, should go down before him.

To him as premier fell the task of working in and controlling the duma. Even reduced in size and made more subservient to the imperial authority, as it was soon after he took power,

M. STOLYPIN, LATE PREMIER OF RUSSIA.

it might have made serious trouble for a weaker man, but by sheer personality he seemed to dominate it.

So he rode safely through two ministerial crises. In 1909 there came up the bill for the formation of a naval general staff. It aroused the enmity of the grand ducal clique, who saw in it an attack on their selfish privileges for the mere purpose of strengthening the empire. A strong attack from the court itself was made on him. He appealed for the support of the czar, threatening to resign if he were not upheld, and won.

Again, only a few months ago, Stolypin met and routed the reactionary forces of the privileged classes. The council of the empire, which is dominated by the bureaucratic party, refused to assent to the government's bill for the establishment of zemstvos, or local councils, in the western provinces, including Poland, the ever suspect. Once more the frankness of the premier gained for him the victory. He tendered his resignation, and it was understood that the czar was negotiating with M. Kokovtzoff, the minister of finance, to form a ministry. But the jubilation of the liberal press at the approaching fall of the hated premier made the czar pause, and in the end not only was Stolypin continued in office, but the zemstvo bill was made law by imperial ukase.

Toward Finland the premier acted with characteristic ruthlessness in steadily cutting down the autonomy which the czar had restored as late as 1905 till last year almost the last vestiges of Finnish self government were taken away.

Stolypin paid for his attitude by the ceaseless fear of death. He rode to and fro in a bomb proof automobile and spent night after night in the duma building to foil the assassins awaiting him outside. At a public reception on Aug. 25, 1906, at his summer residence near St. Petersburg, a bomb was exploded, killing twenty-eight persons and injuring thirty-three, including Stolypin's daughter and his son, and it was recognized by all that his life would sooner or later be taken.

SAGE MODEL VILLAGE.

$2,000,000 Will Be Spent on Homes For Persons of Moderate Means.

Mrs. Russell Sage's interest in improving social and economic conditions is to take the form of a model village. The proposition has been under consideration for some time, and the preparations are now nearing completion. The Russell Sage foundation is in charge. The suburb to be created will be located on Long Island, about ten miles from New York city.

The suburb will combine beauty in the arrangement of grounds with attractiveness and permanency in building and will meet the needs of many persons of moderate means who

Photo by American Press Association.

MRS. RUSSELL SAGE.

now have to choose between a city apartment or a frame house in a suburb built on conventional lines. An investment of $2,000,000 is involved.

The Sage foundation does not give charitable aid to individuals under any circumstances; hence the proposed model village is not to be a charity, but a business project expected to yield a profit. The trustees bought a tract of 140 acres and organized a distinct corporation to hold it and advanced this company the necessary capital.

Mrs. Sage hopes by the success of this enterprise to create an example which may be adopted in other parts of the country.

If the present undertaking is a success a suburb for laboring people with small wages may be established later.

Mrs. Sage is eighty-three years old, having been born at Syracuse, N. Y., on Sept. 8, 1828. The list of her charitable donations is very long and includes gifts of $1,000,000 to the Emma Willard seminary at Troy, N. Y., from which she was graduated, and $1,000,000 to the Rensselaer Polytechnic institute at Troy, N. Y.

TOM SHERMAN.

Son of the Vice President of the United States Is a Crack Golf Player.

Thomas Moore Sherman, son of Vice President James S. Sherman, is a crack golf player. In the seventeenth annual contest for the American amateur championship, held recently on the Apawamis links at Rye, N. Y., Mr. Sherman led all of the experts at the close of the first day's play. Mr. Sherman played around in 75 and led a long list of golfing celebrities, who

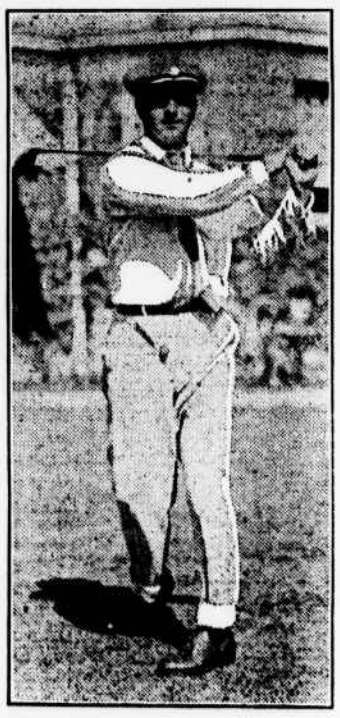

Photo by American Press Association.

T. M. SHERMAN.

clustered hot on his heels. Harold H. Hilton, the British champion, came within one stroke of Sherman's total.

In the second day's play, however, Sherman fell by the wayside along with champions and former champions.

Vice President Sherman himself is a devotee of the game of golf and has made some good scores. Tom is the youngest of his three sons and has captured many medals and cups. Sherrill, Mr. Sherman's oldest son, who is a banker at Utica, N. Y., also was in the recent tournament. The other son, Richard Updike, is a professor of mathematics at Hamilton college, from which institution Mr. Sherman and the three boys were graduated.

ICEBERG DETECTION.

New Marine Thermometer Records Sea Temperatures Accurately.

During the summer of 1910 experiments were made in the northern portion of the gulf of St. Lawrence with a new type of marine thermometer, the results of which promise to aid in the detection of icebergs in fog and at night.

By means of this new type of marine thermometer it is possible to record sea temperatures to one one-thousandth of a degree C. The microthermometer is of the electrical resistance type, in which variations of the resistance of the metal wire serve to give a measure of the changes of temperature of the medium in which the instrument is immersed. The resistance of the wire is made so high that small variations in temperature produce comparatively great changes in the resistance.

The coil is made with a resistance of 125 ohms and consists of 250 feet of pure iron wire wilk covered and wound on a copper cylinder about four inches in diameter and six inches wide. The cylinder is fitted accurately inside a second copper cylinder. The ends of the cylinders are carefully soldered and rendered water tight, while the connecting wires pass out through the middle of the outer cylinder. A stout copper tube is riveted on to the outer cylinder, to which other copper tubes can be fastened. The wires pass through a lead cable to the chart room, where they are connected to the bridge for obtaining a measure of the temperature resistance. Thus the absolute temperature as well as the small variations can be accurately measured. By means of a suitable modification and combination of a Calendar recorder with the wire bridge it is possible to record automatically the temperature to one one-hundredth of a degree. Readings can be taken every half minute, and curves are plotted showing the variations of water temperatures.

The instrument is supported over the side of the ship about five feet under the surface of the water. It has been found that the exposure of the bulb of the thermometer by the waves produces no irregularities, as the temperature of air in direct contact with the sea does not differ from that of the water.

Heretofore the proximity of icebergs has been determined by means of the bridge thermometer and by immersing a mercury or alcohol ship thermometer into buckets of water drawn up from varying depths. These instruments are not, as a rule, graduated to less than a single degree, which represents an interval on the stem of only one-eighth of an inch. Temperatures taken in this manner, even as often as four times in an hour in a ship going eight knots, give temperatures only every two miles. The temperatures of the sea change rapidly in the immediate vicinity of an iceberg; hence comparisons made between observations taken at intervals of even one mile are of no value in determining the presence of icebergs. The oscillations can be observed only on a continuous record. On the scale of the new electrical thermometer a single degree of temperature is represented by an interval of two feet, so that variations which would be imperceptible on an ordinary thermometer have a great effect on this sensitive instrument.

The South Sea Swells.

We all remember with what frequency in the old narratives of experiences in the south seas reference is made to the heavy swells of the ocean, which impressed the navigators with the idea of their remoteness from land, says Scientific American. The great size of the sea waves in high southern latitudes has been explained by the fact that south of the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn there is neither windward nor leeward shore and the prevailing wind in all longitudes is westerly. Thus when a west wind springs up it finds a long westerly swell, the effect of a previous wind, still running. The new born wind increases the steepness of this swell and so forms majestic storm waves, which sometimes attain a length of 1,200 feet from crest to crest. The average height attained by sea waves in feet is about half the velocity of the wind in miles per hour.

Peruvian Petroleum.

Efforts are being made to develop more extensively the petroleum resources of Peru. The known deposits of oil occur in a very narrow strip of land between the foothills of the Andes and the shore of the Pacific, and much of this is flooded at high tide. Piles of railroad iron driven in the pure ocean sand, which varies in depth from five to fifty feet, are used as foundations for the derricks. The shallowest of the driven wells is 1,760 feet in depth. There is very little gas, and the oil is very heavy, so that it can be put into buckets with shovels, and it is carried direct to the furnaces to serve as fuel.

Industrial Use of Volcanic Ash.

For some time past a company in Japan has been engaged in exploiting the use of volcanic ash in combination with portland cement mortar. This combination is said to be particularly valuable in the construction of works submerged in salt water. It is claimed that the cement thus formed possesses greater tensile strength and is denser than ordinary portland cement. It is also more resistant to the percolation of water. It is thought that should this industry prosper it might well be extended to the Philippines, where a great deal of volcanic ash is available.

AFTER THE PICNIC.

THE picnic is over,
And homeward we start,
Dusty and weary,
With sunburns that smart;
Eyes that are heavy
And feet that are sore,
Little ones peevish,
Their happiness o'er;
Crying and whining,
Worn out with their play—
This is the end of
The great picnic day.

What's in the basket
The weary man lugs?
Uneaten sandwiches,
Butter and bugs,
Knives and forks greasy,
A slab of plum pie
That back must be taken,
But no one knows why;
Jammed in with cookies,
Bananas and cake—
Oh, what a mixture
That homeward we take!

Jars that held salad
Now "oozing with goo;"
A bottle of pickles,
The juice leaking through;
A tumbler of jelly
That fell in the sand;
A cupful of beans,
The variety—canned.
Where will you find
Such a mess, let me ask it,
As this we bring home
Late at night in the basket?

—Edgar A. Guest in Detroit Free Press.

The Unexpected.

In the first place, the mercury was at 98.

In the second place, the mercury was thin and seedy and the perspiring man at the desk viewed him with manifest irritation.

"I am introducing," said the stranger, "an admirable safety device known as the nonfreezable water pipe. Let me demonstrate it to you."

With an angry roar the man at the desk reached for his paperweight, but the man with the admirable device at once proceeded with the demonstration. Drawing the nonfreezable pipe from his side pocket he hit the other man over the head with it—and then walked away with his wallet and watch.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Rustic Parson's Break.

The young couple had been married only a few weeks and had moved out in the country for the summer. One night they invited the village minister to dinner. When the finger bowl was placed in front of the rustic parson he looked inquiringly at it, then at his host and hostess and stammered:

"A-ah, yes! Is there—is there a child to be christened?"—Yonkers Statesman.

No Warning at All.

A reckless golf player had just hit one of the ladies.

"Why didn't you warn her you were going to shoot?" somebody asked.

"I did," he protested. "I cried fore two or three times."

"Fore nothing!" the other man exclaimed. "To attract a woman's attention you should have yelled three ninety-eight."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

His Failing.

Paradoxical as it may seem, there is one thing the man who knows it all can't seem to learn, and that is when to stop talking. —Philadelphia Inquirer.

Legislatively Expressed.

"No one can go wrong if he follows the Ten Commandments," said the sincere citizen.

"Yes," replied Senator Sorghum; "the only trouble about the Ten Commandments arises from the amendments people try to tack on to them."—Washington Star.

The End of the Hunting Season.

"Here's to the fragrant aniseseed bag. May its shadow never grow less."

Seeking Honors.

The trouble with most men is that they want to be at bat all the time and are never willing to do any fielding.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Nearer the End.

"If I were younger," said the rich old man, "I believe I might win you for my wife."

"Yes," replied the cold beauty dreamily, considering his sixty-five years; "or, say, fifteen years older."—Catholic Standard and Times.

Defined.

Tommy—Pop, what is ennui?

Tommy's Pop—Ennui, my son, is a disease that attacks people who are so lazy that they get tired of resting.—Philadelphia Record.

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BENTON LODGE NO. 25, A. F. AND A. M.—Regular communications of the above named lodge are held at 7:30 p. m. on the first and third Mondays of each month. Members of sister Lodges and sojourning brethren are cordially invited to attend.
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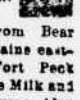

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