

## QUEEN ELEONORE OF BULGARIA WILL VISIT U. S. ON INVESTIGATING TOUR

Europe's "Royal Nurse," Who Watched by the Cots of Wounded Soldiers at the Front in the Russo-Japanese and Balkan Wars, Will Study Economic Conditions and Problems in This Country—Will Arrive in May.

New York.—Queen Eleonore of Bulgaria, who will visit the United States in May for a six-weeks' stay, bears two titles which cannot be found after her name in the Almanach de Gotha, and which have no place in heraldry. "The royal nurse" and "the German Florence Nightingale" are titles which Eleonore has added by deed to those which are hers by birth.

Both as a spinster, when she was Eleonore Caroline Gasparine Louise, princess of a younger branch of the house of Reuss, hereditary princess of a small German state, and as the czarina of the Bulgars, America's future guest has made herself known and admired by her work among sick and wounded soldiers in the world's



Queen Eleonore.

last great wars—the Russo-Japanese and the Balkan conflicts.

An intensely practical woman, the queen is now planning to come to this country for two most practical purposes. She wishes to study American methods of handling economic and social problems, and to do what is possible to offset prejudices which may exist in the American mind against Bulgaria because of the stories of cruelties practised during the Balkan war by the victory-flushed Bulgars.

Bulgaria is now in a process of reconstruction; important adjustments are necessary in many directions because of the changes wrought by the war. Further, tens of thousands of destitute Bulgarians have swept into their native land from the other Balkan states, in which they refuse to live, and these people must be absorbed by the everyday life of the nation. By the study of what America has done, both in handling the hordes of the cities and in pioneering on the frontiers of the West, Eleonore hopes to get lessons for Bulgarian use.

Details of the trip are being now arranged at Sofia. It is likely that the queen will have a considerable suite with her and will be attended by some of the younger veterans of the war as aide-de-camp.

Queen Eleonore, who is now fifty-four, won her first widespread fame as a nurse in the war of Russia against Japan. She was decorated on the field for her services with General Kuro-patkin's division of the Russian army. At that time she was an obscure German princess, not then being married. She went to the front in charge of a Red Cross train equipped by the Grand Duchess Vladimir of Russia, and on the crimsoned plains of Manchuria worked with splint and bandage. She was under fire several times, and proved herself to be courageous, efficient as an executive, and to have an excellent knowledge of nursing.

In the Balkan war she again gained the laurel. Having married Ferdinand in 1908, when she was forty-eight and he forty-seven, she took an active part in caring for the wounded soldiers of her husband's army.

Eleonore has won her public reputation, and a considerable one it is, almost wholly through her activities as a nurse and director of Red Cross movements. Ferdinand detests nurses, fears fever, loathes the smell of anesthetics and antiseptics, and has an aversion for a hospital equalling that for a Turk.

Ferdinand, something of an aesthete, loves flowers, is possessed by a passion for their perfume. He constantly has masses of blooms in his rooms, on his dining table. He likes to run his long, white hands through their petals, inhaling the fragrance. So famous is Ferdinand's flower fondness that biographers always describe those long, white hands caressing the blossoms, whatever else they fail to portray.

King Ferdinand, accordingly, did not

like Queen Eleonore's coming to him direct from the hospitals, from cots of agony, with the very breath of death about her garments. For weeks after she returned to Sofia from nursing in Adrianople the king refused to see her. So profound is Ferdinand's dislike for and fear of sickness that he puts his family and entire household into quarantine for the slightest indisposition. The absurdity of some of the king's quarantines has made the quarantine idea a joke among the courtiers at the palace. It has been whispered that, while it is true that Ferdinand dreads sickness, he has ordered some of the quarantines as a method of taking a recess from family disputes.

The husband of Europe's "royal nurse" controlled his abhorrence of his wife ministrations for some time during the Balkan war, but the Ferdinand patience finally ended. In addition to her nursing and Red Cross direction, Eleonore had supervised the management of the hospital department, inspected supplies as they went to the front, and organized relief for the families of soldiers who were killed or disabled.

At last Ferdinand prohibited her doing any more nursing or superintending, and gave orders that none of the latest collection of clothing and other equipment which she had gathered for sick soldiers should be sent to the field. Goods which had been contributed by civilian patriots were sold at auction, and much of the clothing went to the second-hand stores. It is stated that the queen wept when the messenger sent by the Balkan relief committee told her the news.

She has been characterized as "one of the most admirable women in Europe." She is a plain woman, with simple tastes, not fond of pomp. She likes to do straightforward work in a straightforward way. She has always been intent on expending her energies accomplishing good for her husband's subjects. She is a competent executive. If she were an American she might be a W. C. T. U. leader, or a settlement organizer and worker, or the head of a great hospital.

And the mate of this woman of the simple virtues has been described as a monarch of the middle ages. Ferdinand is clever, crafty, cruel, conscienceless, conceited, selfish, ungrateful, somewhat effeminate in his habits, able and unscrupulous as a political manipulator, successful as a ruler. It has been written: "Ferdinand of Bulgaria has probably broken more oaths and promises than any one else in the public eye." He likes the ceremonial and brilliance of kingship; he is grandiose and overbearing; the sound of "Your Majesty" is grateful to his ear.

Again, in the contrast of the pair, Eleonore is a Protestant, while Ferdi-



King Ferdinand.

nant is Catholic. Eleonore is German, Ferdinand, himself half French, is passionately fond of France and all things French, which, by the way, is a side light on the training of the Bulgarian army by French officers and the use of Creusot guns by the Bulgarian artillery. It has been said of Ferdinand's subjects: "The foreign people whom the Bulgarians love are the French."

His mother was Princess Marie Clementine of Bourbon-Orleans, daughter of King Louis Philippe of France, a woman of vast ambition and capacity, who dedicated her son from boyhood to statecraft, and is declared to have had an intuition that he was to occupy a throne. His father was Prince Auguste of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. It has been stated that the present ruler of the Bulgars owes everything to his clever mother, who, Bismarck used to say, was "the only man of the Orleans family."

The other woman who has been of first importance in Ferdinand's life was Princess Marie Louise of Bourbon-Parma, to whom he was married, in 1893, when he was thirty-two, Marie being twenty-three. She died in 1899, leaving two sons and two daughters, all now living. She was a woman of charm and mental graces.

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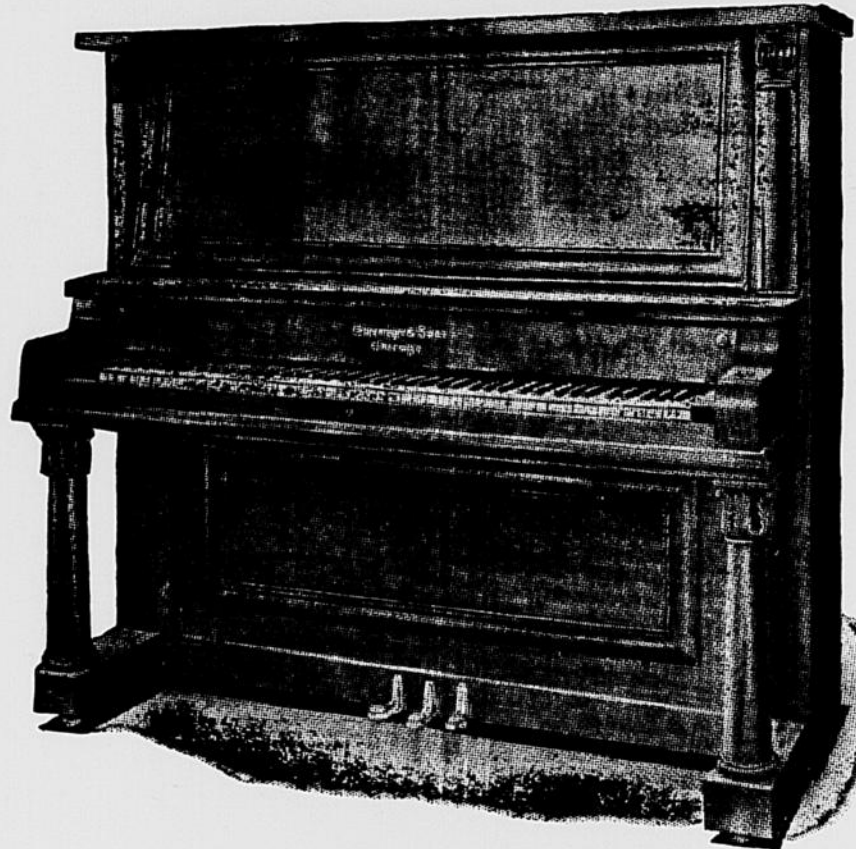
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concerned in this contest. No one connected with this paper will be allowed to become a candidate in this contest or work for contestants.

Votes after being voted cannot be transferred to another. Be sure to know whom you are going to vote for before coming to the ballot box, as the editors or any one will positively not give any information on the subject. The key to the government ballot box shall be in possession of the awarding committee during the contest.

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Contest to run not less than 90 days. Closing of contest will be announced 25 days in advance of closing. The right to postpone date of closing is reserved, if sufficient cause should occur.

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