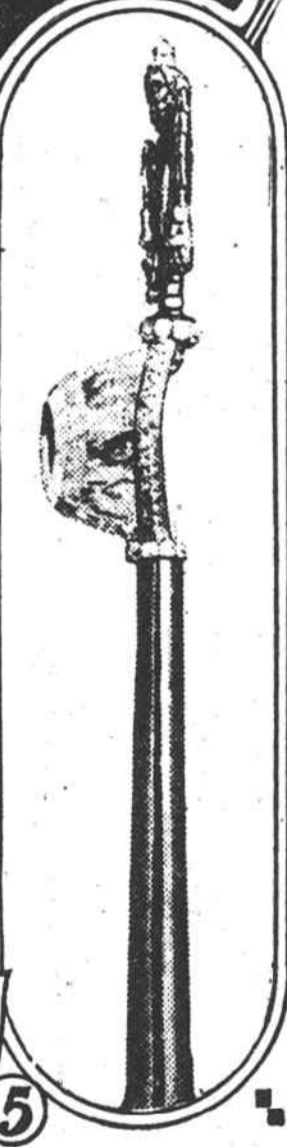
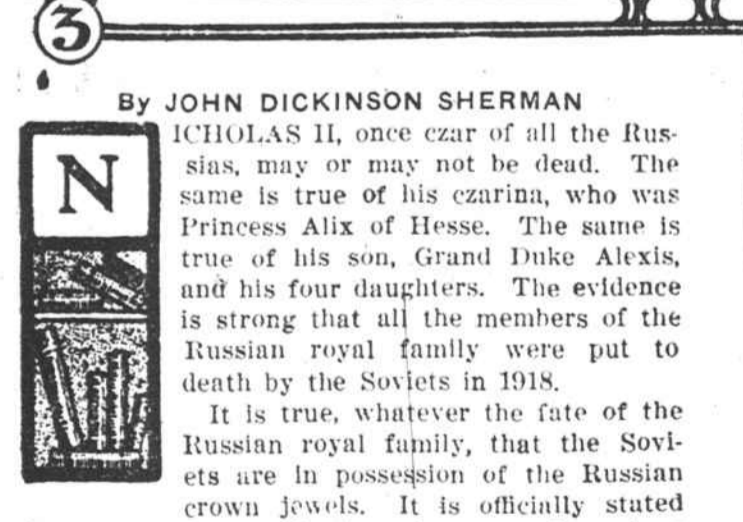
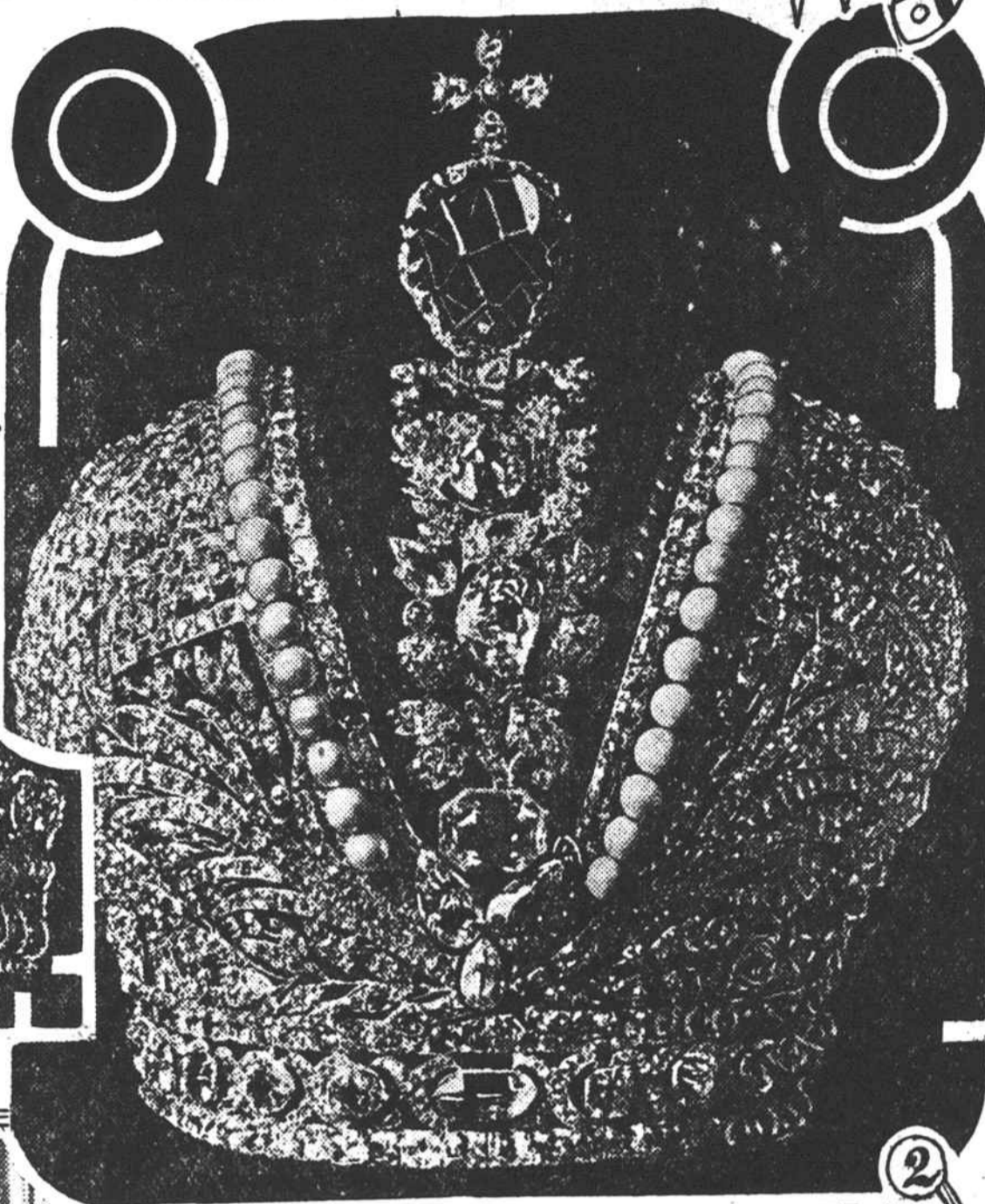
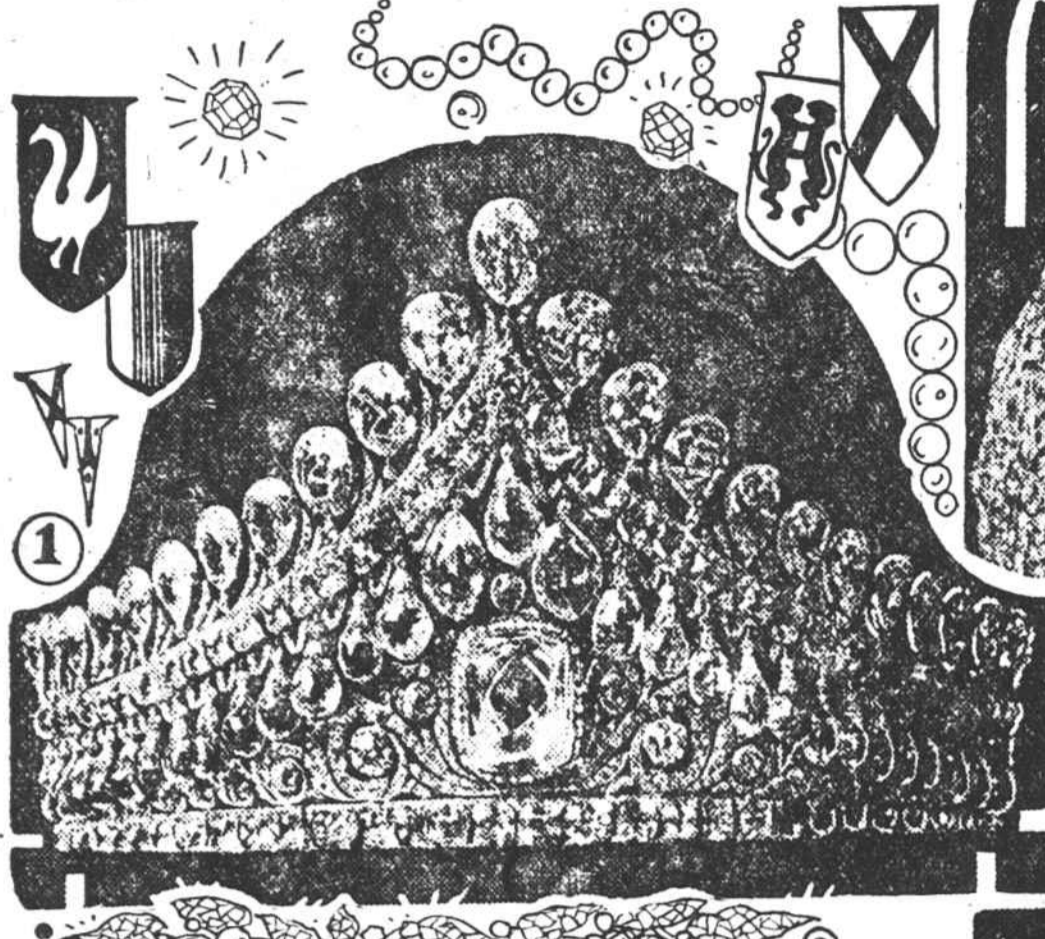


Soviets to Sell Russian Crown Jewels



NICHOLAS II, once czar of all the Russians, may or may not be dead. The same is true of his czarina, who was Princess Alix of Hesse. The same is true of his son, Grand Duke Alexis, and his four daughters. The evidence is strong that all the members of the Russian royal family were put to death by the Soviets in 1918.

It is true, whatever the fate of the Russian royal family, that the Soviets are in possession of the Russian crown jewels. It is officially stated that this famous collection of gems and precious stones is to be sold in foreign markets "to help stabilize the Russian rouble." It is officially stated also that a "Crown Jewel Committee" is hard at work appraising the collection of gems and precious stones in the crown collection.

Anyway, the pictures given herewith are reproductions of official photographs of articles of jewelry in the collection and the committee at work.

Nicholas II (1868-1918?), the last of the Romanoff dynasty, succeeded to the throne in 1896 on the death of his father, Alexander III. His reign was unfortunate from the beginning. During the coronation ceremonies at Moscow thousands were killed and injured in a panic. In the Russo-Japanese war (1904-5) Russia suffered defeat. Forced to grant various reforms including parliamentary government, he dissolved the first and second Dumas. Finally he abdicated both for himself and his son and retired to his estate in the Crimea. He was arrested by the provisional government. In 1917 he and his family were taken to Tobolsk; later they were transferred to Ekaterinburg. The subsequent fate of the royal family is not officially known.

Russians have always had a liking for diamonds and the stones in the Russian crown collection are world-famous. Big stones are especially valuable as diamonds rise in value in proportion to the square of their weight; thus a stone of three carats is worth nine times a stone of one carat. At one time the finest deep red diamond known was in this collection. Other precious stones are lavishly represented. There are, for example, a chain of big emeralds and a lavalliere of 225 large pearls.

Photographs reproduced herewith show four of the articles of jewelry under appraisal and give an illuminating idea of the millions of dollars represented in the collection.

No. 2 is the "Imperial Russian Crown," famous the world over. Your guess is as good as any other guess as to its value in actual United States dollars. It is said that every stone in it is without flaw and that the matching of stones is perfect. The crown weighs over four pounds and contains the world's largest ruby together with 50 thirty-carat diamonds, 21 forty-five-carat diamonds and hundreds of smaller diamonds.

No. 1 is the crown of the late czarina of Russia. It is made entirely of diamonds and the matching of stones is stated to be perfect. Its value in real money is a matter of conjecture.

No. 4 is reputed to be the largest and purest aquamarine in the world. It has been valued at \$500,000. The late czarina wore it occasionally as a pendant, valuing it as an heirloom that had come to her through a long line of ancestors.

No. 3 shows Soviet officials at the actual work of appraising the Russian crown jewels. From left to right they are: Vladimir Soboloff, secretary of the crown jewel committee; Director Trinitzky of the Hermitage museum at Petrograd; Prof. El A. Ferstmann, an expert who is said to have just returned with a ton and a half of precious stones from an unexplored region in Russia; M. Farberger, French precious stone expert, and F. Bergashev, president of the crown jewel committee. The members of the committee and the experts are under the scrutiny of guards, as the picture shows.

No. 5 is a scepter designed for Catherine the Great and set with the famous Orloff diamond. This diamond weighs 194 1/2 carats. It is supposed

to have got its name from Count Alexis Orloff (1736-1808), who was a leader of the revolution that placed Catherine the Great on the Russian throne in 1762. Count Orloff is popularly supposed to have strangled Czar Peter III (1728-1762) with his own hands. By some experts the Orloff and the even more famous Koh-i-noor are parts of the Great Mogul diamond, described by Tavernier as being at the court of Aurangzebe in 1655. The Koh-i-noor weighs about 404 carats. The legend is that it once weighed 793 carats. It has been many times recut and now is in the possession of the royal family of Great Britain.

Other famous diamonds include the Regent in the national French jewels. It is sometimes known as the Pitt diamond, since the duke of Orleans, in 1717 regent of France, bought it from Pitt for \$648,000. The largest diamond known is the Cullinan diamond, found in 1905 in the Transvaal. Its original weight was 3,253 carats (about 11-3 lbs.) and it was cut into nine stones, the largest of which weighs 516 carats—the largest diamond in existence.

Until recently the largest diamond known to be in this country was the Hope blue diamond, 44 1/2 carats. Mrs. E. B. McLean of Washington, D. C., wife of the newspaper publisher, bought it in 1909 for \$180,000. Recently, however, an unknown American is reported to have bought the Florentinian diamond. It was the largest solitaire in the collection of the Austrian crown jewels. Its history dates back to Charles the Brave in 1476 and it is said to be the fourth largest diamond in the world.

GOOD ROADS BILL PASSES HOUSE

VOTE FOLLOWS TWO HOURS OF ARGUMENT ON NEW BOND ISSUE.

OTHER BILLS INTRODUCED

Mothers' Aid Bill Offered in Both Branches of the General Assembly.

Raleigh. Lauding the administration of the State Highway Commission and fighting down heated opposition which reached a climax in the final tilt between Representative Burgwyn, of Northampton, and Representative Rufus A. Doughton, of Alleghany, guided the 15 million dollar good roads bill through the second reading by a vote of 87 to 14.

Mr. Burgwyn, after two hours had passed in debate, arose to defend his position against the bill by predicting that an ad valorem tax would fall on the people under the system by which these bonds were being issued, and he said he did not want to see the people taxed further. He laid stress on the position of the farmer as to taxation, and asked why the eastern part of the state, or certain sections thereof, had not benefited from the previous bond issue of 50 millions of dollars for good roads.

Mr. Bowie opposed the stand taken by Mr. Burgwyn and stated that it was not a question of taxation inasmuch as the law on which the bonds were issued made them tax-exempt unless held in the state of North Carolina and that there was practically no chance whatever for taxation recurring on the people of the state by a failure of the bonds to properly function.

Two local bills were the only other measures to get through the house on third reading in the longest session since the opening of the general assembly.

The senate passed the bill fostered by the optometrical association which provided that an applicant for a state license should have at least two years in an optometrical college, and restrict prescriptions of glasses or lenses to licensed optometrists and oculists, with certain exceptions.

The bill to incorporate the towns of King's Mountain and East Kings Mountain into one city was recommended favorably by the house committee on counties, cities and towns.

A bill making an annual state appropriation of \$50,000 a year to be used in matching appropriations from the several counties for the support of needy children who have worthy mothers but have been deprived of the support of their fathers and the general education bill introduced simultaneously in both branches of the General Assembly, featured the new offerings of legislation in the Senate.

The mothers' aid bill, which is similar to laws already in force in forty-two states, has the support of the Board of Welfare, all the fraternal and civic organizations in the State and the State Press Association.

The act makes the county juvenile court the unit for the administration of the law, with supervisory powers lodged in the State Board of Welfare. Any board of county commissioners may make appropriation for any case recommended by the county juvenile court where the recommendation is approved by the State Board of Welfare and the State will bear one-half of the expense up to the limit of the appropriation, with the fund of \$50,000 apportioned among the counties on a per capita basis as far as practicable. Support under the act is limited to needy mothers of children under fourteen who are morally and physically fitted to care for their children. The allowance is limited to \$15 a month for the first child, \$10 a month for the second child and \$5 a month for each additional child.

The Senate committed the bill authorizing the county board of commissioners to establish county orphanages, which passed its second reading to the committee on public welfare to be considered in connection with the mothers' bill. Senator Charles U. Harris, of Wake, made the motion to commit the bill and stated that Mrs. Kate Purr Johnson, Commissioner of Public Welfare wished to be heard by the committee in opposition to the bill.

Favorable committee report, it was learned will be made on the bill to empower the superintendents, boards of controls and doctors of state charitable and penal institutions to make surgical operations upon inmates regarded by them as a menace to society.

Make Annual Guard Inspection

United States army ordered by headquarters of corps area, will spend...

The itinerary follows: February 5, 1923, Monday, State...

February 6, Tuesday, ... department and combat...

February 7, Wednesday, ... 117 F. A., Louisburg.

February 8, Thursday, ... 117 F. A., New Bern.

February 9, Friday, ... 120th Inf., 421st Co., C. A. ...

February 10, Saturday, ... 120th Inf., Wilson.

February 11, Sunday, ... 120th Inf., Plymouth.

February 12, Monday, ... 120th Inf., Greensboro.

February 13, Tuesday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 14, Wednesday, ... 120th Inf., Graham.

February 15, Thursday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 16, Friday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 17, Saturday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 18, Sunday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 19, Monday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 20, Tuesday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 21, Wednesday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 22, Thursday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 23, Friday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 24, Saturday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 25, Sunday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 26, Monday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 27, Tuesday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 28, Wednesday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 29, Thursday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 30, Friday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 31, Saturday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 32, Sunday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 33, Monday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

February 34, Tuesday, ... 120th Inf., Burlington.

Increase Shown in State Budget

Mr. Everett made known the fact that the State's budget as prepared by the commission will total \$19,000,000, an increase over that of two years ago.

This budget allows for the approximately \$2,500,000 surplus in the state treasury.

The budget commission's recommendations of two years ago were for about \$1,000,000 in excess of the probable income as indicated at that time, whereas the income of the state actually created the surplus.

Charters are Granted

The secretary of state has issued the following charters:

Beaufort Realty corporation, New Bern, general real estate business; capital stock, \$100,000; paid in \$15,000; O. W. Lane, W. B. Blades, J. S. Miller, all of New Bern, principal incorporators.

C. H. Turner Foundry company, Statesville, general foundry business; capital stock, \$100,000; C. H. Turner, D. C. Ritchie, W. L. Williams, all of Statesville, principal incorporators.