

"Gorgeous Georgios" May Reign Again



Government troops assemble for action before ruins of Temple of Zeus in Athens. Inset, left: King George II. Inset, right: Ex-Premier Venizelos.

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY

TO BE or not to be a monarchy—that is the question which, unless some alteration arises in present plans, will be put to a vote of the people of Greece during the last days of this coming September. From the indications of recent political activity under the shadow of the Acropolis, it seems not at all impossible that the nation whose tongue gave us the very word "democracy" will return its young Danish king, now deposed these twelve years, to his traditionally shaky throne.

While the rebels who kicked up such a fuss in the eleven days' civil war this spring have been restrained from actually taking up arms for a while, their numbers make up a large minority bloc, and with the antagonism of defeat still ranking in their breasts, they might hardly be expected to approach the polls with open and unbiased mind. However, a postponement of the plebiscite, which was provided for by a law passed by the Greek assembly in July, if it should occur, would be only a short one.

So drastic a change in the government as a replacement of the king should not be decided by a mere majority vote, even the royalists agree. Unless political conditions improve within the next few weeks, an overwhelming majority in favor of the monarchy seems hardly probable. Even King George II, whose good looks and sportsman nature have earned the nickname of "Gorgeous Georgios," has been quoted as saying that he does not desire to resume his throne as a result of any trick move on the part of the royalist faction.

"Gorgeous Georgios" may be pre-suming a little, even at that, for there are not uncommon rumors that if Greece once more welcomes a king it will not be he, but King George V of England's youngest son, the duke of Kent, who married Georgios' cousin Marina. Scandal is the reason. Georgios' wife, the ex-queen Elizabeth, in early July was granted a divorce by the Rumanian Appeals court at Bucharest. She charged the king with being unfaithful. Greeks want a king who has a kind and loving wife, such as Marina. Marina is the most popular at home of all the members of the Greek royal family.

Greece Gains Freedom.
Throwing over the republic in favor of a monarchy would be a move of novelty in the course of the world's events, but one consistent with the turbulent trend of modern Greek history. One of its outstanding characteristics is that it will be the first such move in many years to be effected without the dynamic character of one Eleutherios Venizelos storming about on one side or the other.

For Twentieth century Greek history is largely the personal history of Venizelos, the "father of the Greek republic." Glimpsed in his seat of exile in Paris, the seventy-one-year-old ex-premier might well be mistaken for George Bernard Shaw. He has the same bald head, the same pointed white beard and the same twinkle in his eye.

Until 1821 Greece was a province in the Ottoman empire. In that year there was a revolt which even the Terrible Turks failed to crush, and in the following year a Greek national assembly was formed and a constitution drafted. In 1832 the Turks recognized the new republic.

and would have quashed it. However, mightier than the Turkish sword was the pen of Lord Byron, and as a result the sympathy of other European powers was aroused in favor of the trampled Greeks. With the aid of England, France and Russia, the Turks were driven out and Greece was declared an independent kingdom, with Otho of Bavaria as its monarch.

Otho was not very sympathetic with his Greek subjects and the Greeks didn't care a lot about Otho, so in 1832 they revolted and deposed him. As his successor they named the second son of the king of Denmark, who became George I of Greece.

Boundary settlements had left the island of Crete a part of the Turkish empire, and in 1897 the Greeks opened warfare with their former rulers across the Aegean sea and tried to get Crete back. They were unsuccessful. In 1908 Cretans themselves revolted and declared themselves a part of the Grecian kingdom. They were led by Venizelos, who by that time had become the island's political boss and a real force in Greece.

Cretan Springs Coup.
When Crete declared its union with Greece, Athens sent an incompetent prince as minister to the island. Venizelos sent him scurrying back home. Venizelos would have no prince who regarded Cretans as his subjects. Venizelos was a republican.

He decided that all Greece should be a republic, went to Athens and gained control of the government. He created a national assembly which revised the constitution and named him premier. In the first Balkan war with Turkey Venizelos took what is now some of the most productive and valuable territory in all Greece—Macedonia and the Aegean islands. He also doubled the Grecian population.

When the World War came on, the king, Constantine I, who was a Dane, naturally was in sympathy with the Germans. Venizelos wanted to maintain a neutrality favorable to the allies.

Despite being held up as a traitor by the Greek church, which invoked all manner of curses upon him, the Cretan and his followers seceded from the kingdom and caused the abdication of the king.

Meanwhile the Turks had become annoying again and Venizelos was forced to leave Athens to straighten out that little matter. Upon his return to Greece the people repudiated him and returned Constantine to the throne. The latter's son, George II, followed him. Another revolution and the Venizelists knocked "Gorgeous Georgios" out from under his crown. Venizelos was premier again.

Rebels Steal Navy.
Despite the gaining strength of the royalists, Venizelos was elected premier for another term in 1928. It was the eighth term.

His successor was the incumbent Tsaldaris, royalist and bitter Venizelouan political enemy. The stormy genius of Crete decided last March that Tsaldaris, who was believed to have tried to restore the king in 1933, was getting ready for another monarchist attempt. It was the signal for another revolution.

Venizelos almost got away with it again. A handful of rebels seized the two most important and potent warships in the Greek navy, loaded them with ammunition, and set out to bombard royalism from the sea.

At the same time another force of Venizelouan converts in Macedonia and Thrace, from which come the crack Greek troops, the killed Evzones, began to march upon Athens from the north. They were met by government soldiers under the command of Gen. George Kondylis, minister of war, who had had him-

self appointed field marshal.

Short of ammunition and not sufficiently protected against the cold weather, the Macedonians and Thracians were stopped by the heavy artillery and machine guns of General Kondylis along the banks of the Struma river. When the revolution was only eleven days old they were completely routed and their officers left in flight, for the larger part on foot, across the border to Bulgaria.

"Curtain" for Venizelos.

At sea, the Venizelists lost because the government had airplanes and they had none. Bombs brought about the surrender of the Averoff and Helle, the two warships which the revolutionists had confiscated.

Venizelos himself had planned the revolution as a bloodless one, hoping to take the government by bluff, surprise and confusing speed of action. He did not want civil war. With all of the shells that were fired and the bombs dropped, only 100 lives were lost. In fatalities it was just another banana war.

In Greek political history it was highly important. It marked the end of Venizelos' real power. He has had to flee from his country, where a reward of \$9,500 awaits any man who will assassinate him. He went first to Kosos, then to Rhodes, later on to Paris.

Most of Venizelos' financial aid came from the \$15,000,000 fortune of his second wife. Now the Greek government has sealed seven of their houses, one of which is in Athens and is reported to have a library worth \$5,000,000, preparatory to confiscation.

Political factions in Greece are at present trying to estimate the comparative strengths of the republicans and monarchists at the polls. In an election last June, Tsaldaris retained his office and his ticket won 287 out of a possible 300 seats in the chamber of deputies, which is the only legislative body in Greece now, the senate created by Venizelos having been abolished some time ago.

Royalist Strength Hidden.

While the Tsaldaris ticket is claimed to be neutral it is known that the premier is a mild royalist, and the contention is that the 685, 673 votes which it pulled from the 1,074,422 cast in June were in large part those of royalists who were banking upon the government's promise to conduct the plebiscite in a fair and orderly fashion in September.

A rather liberal estimate claims that 170,000 Greeks, mostly Venizelouan supporters, stayed away from the polls and that this bloc will be enough to beat the monarchy. An interesting sidelight on the election was the fact that there were 94,149 votes cast for the Communist party, more than ever before.

Tsaldaris recommends the drafting of a new document that will not be so uncompromising that it has to be thrown aside by revolutionary methods every few years. It seeks a better balance between legislative and executive power. None of the commission for revision favors an absolute dictatorship as a method of relieving the hamstringing of the chamber of deputies, but all of them believe he should be given stronger veto power and the power to set aside certain provisions of the constitution during times of extreme emergency.

The United States has what is generally called a "presidential republic." France has a "parliamentary republic." What Greece wants is a sort of happy medium between the two.

Greek presidents today have virtually no power at all. The present one's name is Alexander Saimis. You've probably never heard of him.

OUR COMIC SECTION

Events in the Lives of Little Men



THE FEATHERHEADS

By Osborn

Mad Moment



FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By Ted O'Loughlin

Calling the Roll



Takes No Time to Make Cotton Frocks



Make it in percale for a morning frock! Make it in novelty cotton, shantung or pique for a sports frock! And then make it again in silk crepe for an afternoon frock! This pattern will make a charming frock for nearly any summer day-time occasion. Its lines are particularly good—for the "not-too-slim" figure. Moreover, it can be run up before the clock moves round. Note both versions of the flattering collar. Pleated sleeves, a kick pleat, and cleverly placed fullness all contribute to the charm. Two or three frocks of this pattern will prove classics in your wardrobe.

SMILES

QUEENS AT PLAY

Cousin Emily—Mrs. Springs went to Eleanor's the other night and found a famous almanac there. So for her next evening she got an even more famous man. Isn't that the Mrs. Springs?
Cousin Kate—Exactly! Always wanting to trump her partner's ace.—Sydney Bullfinch.

He Didn't See It
Guest—Why did you charge me \$5 for that room?
Hotel Clerk—Why, it overlooks the lake.
Guest—Well, so did I.

Soft-Pedal
"What's your name?"
"M-M-M-M-M-Mabel."
"I'll call you Mabel for short."
Pearson's Weekly.

Gold That Glistened
Jack—You say she partly returned your affection?
Tom—Yes, she sent back my letters but kept all the jewelry.



Pool