

HOW ROYALTY WEDS

Nuptials of Germany's Future Ruler and Duchess Cecilia of Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

Having a Mind of His Own, the Young Prince Chose His Own Bride, but His Royal Father Selected Her Trousseau.

Both Bride and Bridegroom Excellent Equestrians and Fond of Outdoor Sports. Young Frederick William a Performer of Feats of the Wild West Order.

By **FREDERICK SIEGEL**
THE marriage of a crown prince is an event of sufficient importance to make the subjects of a monarchy sit up and take notice. Especially is this the case when the bridegroom is the prospective emperor of Germany and the king of Prussia. Therefore, when it was announced that on June 6 Frederick William,

grand that he himself was too poor to do it the marquis became more pronounced, and there were indications that the bill would be fought in the Reichstag.

Once a "Tomboy," Of the high contracting parties to this alliance not very much is known concerning the young duchess who thus became the prospective empress of all the Germans. She was born Sept. 20, 1884, is a sister of the reigning grand duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, is closely related to the grand ducal family of Russia, is heiress to a very considerable fortune in her own right, is a Protestant and a devoted sports-woman. She is said to have been something of a "tomboy" in her young days, enjoying mainly over the ducal estates at home and not infrequently playing merry pranks on the staid and respectable people who had her education and bringing up in charge—in fact, a very healthy and human duchess, who insisted on her God given right of being a child despite the restraints of royal red tape. She plays tennis very well, even beating the crown prince, who considers himself no mean hand at the game.

The father of Cecilia was the late grand duke, who broke his neck in a rather mysterious fashion by jumping, falling or being pushed, as the case may be, from a rather high parapet of his palace.

Lively Times for the Kaiser. The Grand Duchess Anastasia, the mother of Cecilia, is not popular around the German court, even her prospective son-in-law having expressed himself as not being especially enamored of her. There is believed to be some little coldness between the emperor and the grand duchess, owing partly no doubt to an incident that occurred in Italy not long after the engagement between the crown prince and the Duchess Cecilia was announced. The young people were to meet at Florence, and the

One evening during his early boyhood William discovered an opera hat worn by a guest and was greatly amused by the manner in which he hid and unfolded. A few days later the court chaplain called wearing a shiny new silk tie. The boy tried the experiment on this. As it did not fold well he placed it in a chair and commanded his younger brother, Eitel Fritz, to sit on it, and this folded the hat up very effectively. The chaplain kept his ruse tight as a memento of the occasion.

Whipped For Exercising His Prerogative. At another time the Kaiser found his eldest son cutting one of his younger brothers. When ordered to stop the boy said hotly: "Leave me alone. I am the crown prince of Germany, and I have a right to whip whom I please."

"Very good," replied the father, "but I am the emperor of Germany, and I have a right to whip the crown prince," which he proceeded to do in a very thorough fashion.

The court chaplain, in the aftermath of one day said that all people are sinners. "Father may be," said the boy, "but mother is not."

Fond of Dare Devil Feats. Frederick William was born May 6, 1882. A few years ago he was a student in the famous University of Bonn, where he had some trouble with the professors because he failed to drink the required number of steins of beer. But he made up for his defects and in other ways came up to specification so he was voted a good fellow. He spends most of his time riding and shooting and is an expert horseman. He has won many prizes riding and has brought down on his head the royal displeasure of his father by his dare devil feats. At one time he tied one of the army officers for first prize in a vaulting and obstacle race, but generously relinquished his share of the winning. At another he leaped his



the eldest son of the Kaiser, would wed Duchess Cecilia of Mecklenburg-Schwerin the whole world was reasonably certain that the ceremonies would be the most spectacular seen in Europe for some years. The fact that the nuptial knot would be tied in the magnificent new cathedral fronting the Imperial palace, Berlin; that the ceremonies would cost at least a half million dollars and that they would be attended by representatives of more royal houses than have been gathered under a single roof in many a day added interest to the occasion. All this delighted the soul of the young prince's imperial father, who planned the ceremonies even to the minutest detail, and who is universally recognized as somewhat in the spectacular line himself.

The expenses of the affair were to be paid, of course, from the public treasury. In addition, polite hints were sent out to the various provinces and municipalities that they could show their loyalty to the reigning house by making presents, which in the very nature of the case would have to be going. There has been more or less murmuring because of all this, even going so far in one instance as to precipitate a case in court to prevent this diversion of the public revenues. When it was learned therefore that the Kaiser would ask a state appropriation to support his royal son and heir on the

Kaiser ordered the grand duchess to accompany her daughter. Not being accustomed to taking orders, Anastasia politely declined, whereupon the crown prince was summarily ordered home. Some friction also occurred over the ordering of the trousseau. William II insisted on attending to all these little matters, a procedure that the bride's mother resented. As a result of all these things it was declared at one time that the Grand Duchess Anastasia would not attend the marriage of her daughter.

Popular Youth Devoted to Sports.

Concerning Frederick William, his life from boyhood is known even to minute details. A very human, amiable, modest sort of a boy, not brilliant, but given to madcap feats and having a will of his own. Not especially prepossessing in appearance, but of a susceptible nature, he had numerous admirers of the best. Popular with all, as prospective rulers usually are. An accomplished horseman, a fair linguist and quite the gentleman in instinct and training. Even some writers on sentimental poetry of not very high grade and plays on the violin but not like a Paganini. Well trained as a soldier, devoted to sports, democratic and affable, and yet conscious of his position. Altogether a likable young man of at least average quality and attainments.

horse over a ditch in a manner that was the talk of the hour. Again he rode his horse at breakneck speed up a hundred stone steps leading to a Berlin palace, then like the proverbial king of France, rode him down again.

Proposed Over a Cup of Tea.

These and many other escapades, such as falling in love with Miss Gladys Deacon, the American beauty, then with an American chorus girl and others, are said to have created a marked coolness between the crown prince and his father. The effort to find the young man a suitable wife was prosecuted long and unavailingly until he solved the question himself by choosing Duchess Cecilia, to whom he proposed over a cup of tea. English princesses and others were canvassed, only to be rejected. At one time Emperor William ordered his son to marry Princess Thyra of Denmark. "Not for the whole German empire," shouted the prince. Now that the wild oats are sown, however, the German people believe that with his marriage the young Heiress will be becoming Emperor William III. If he lives will settle down to a sedate husband and later a model ruler. He has never shown the grasp and intellectual qualities of his father, but he is such a very human boy that the folks cannot refrain from liking him.

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