

CZAREVITCH, WHO IS REPORTED DEAD

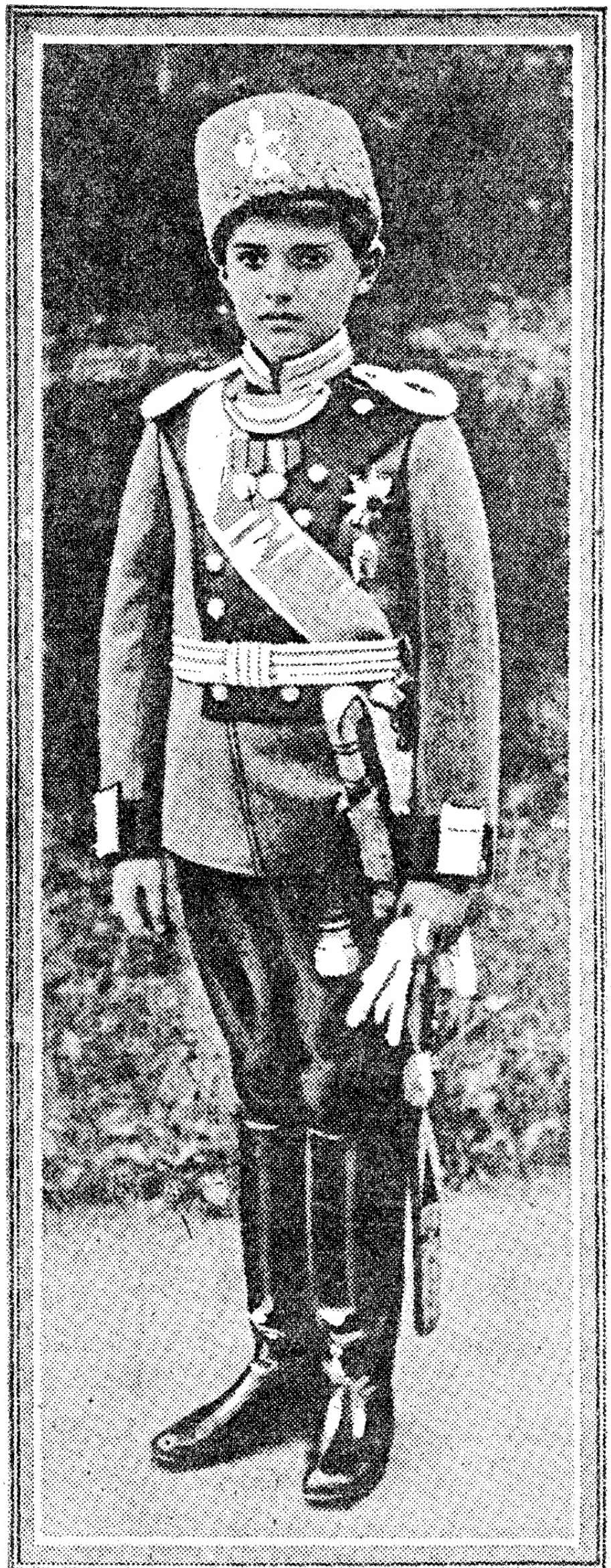
The little Czarevitch. In his thirteenth year, had been guarded as carefully as a hot-house flower, and, according to common report, he was quite as delicate as one.

Out of the darker than Egyptian darkness that shrouds the life of the Russian royal family, it had long been considered idle to expect any true account of the little heir's precise state of health. In some of his photographs, issued to the public, he looked a robust lad, but it is well known that his health had been an object of the keenest anxiety from his birth.

Great secrecy was thrown around a sensational incident a few years ago involving an injury sustained by the little fellow in consequence of an accident that befell him while in the custody of a high official of the empire. It has been repeatedly prophesied he could never live to see maturity. One of these gloomy prophets was Count Paul Vassili, who wrote in his "Behind the Veil at the Russian Court."

"The child, who has been very delicate since his birth, suffers from an organic disease of the arteries, which are liable to rupture upon the slightest provocation and even without cause. Already three years ago he had to undergo an operation, which was performed by Professor Federoff, one of the doctors who treated him in the autumn of 1912.

"From morning to night the Czarevitch is told that his existence is so precious to his parents that no caprice of his is to be allowed to pass without being at once gratified. Ar-



GRAND DUKE ALEXIS.

rogant by nature, this arrogance is fostered instead of being corrected. He beats his sisters, tyrannizes over his servants, and whenever anyone attempts to correct him he immediately threatens the unfortunate person with all kinds of punishments."