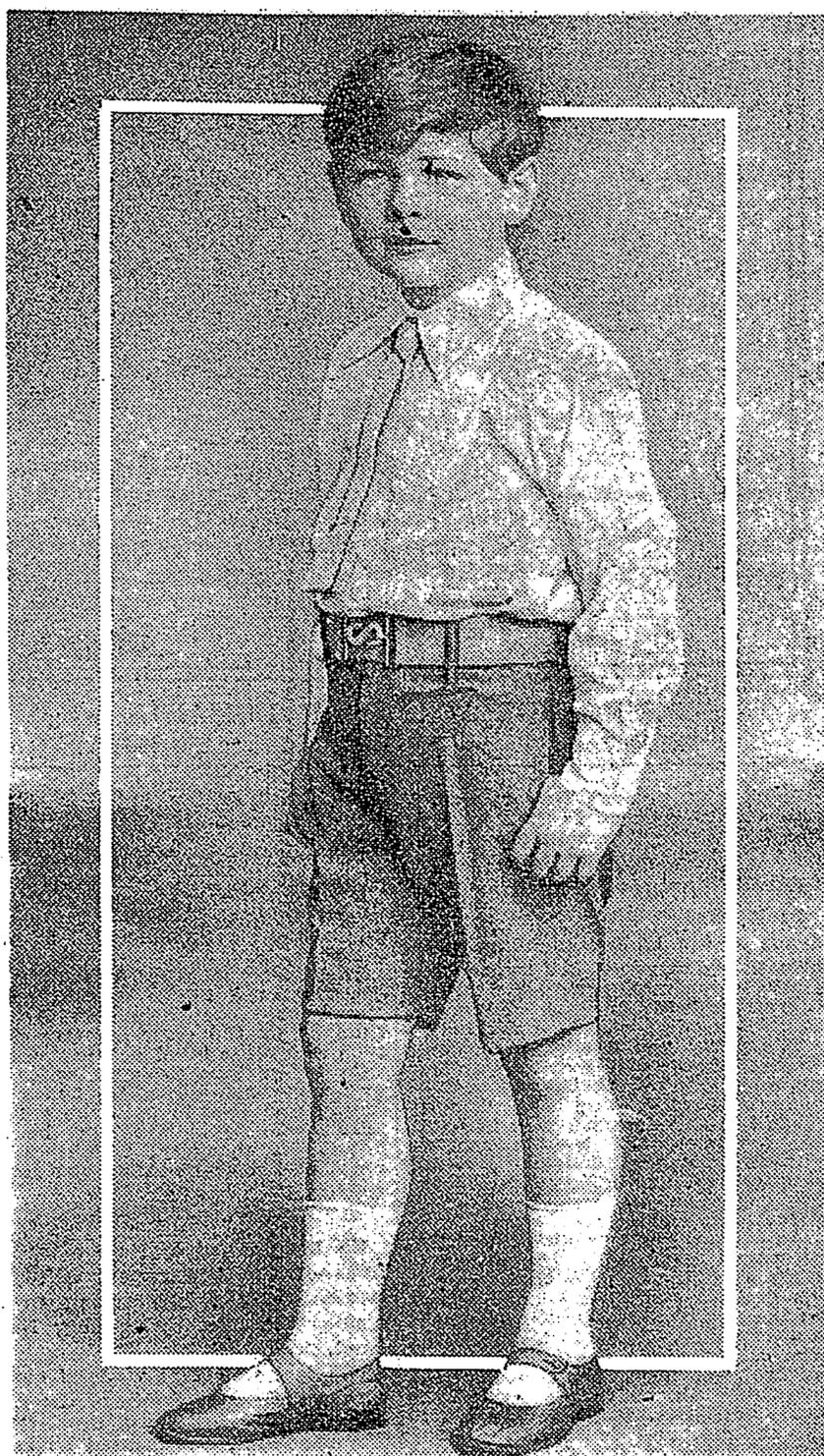


# BOY OF FIVE TAKES RUMANIAN THRONE AS FERDINAND DIES AFTER LONG FIGHT; CAROL WILL REMAIN IN EXILE IN PARIS



**RUMANIA'S 5-YEAR-OLD KING.**

Prince Mihai, Son of Carol and Grandson of Ferdinand, Proclaimed as Mihai I.

Times Wide World Photo.

## TROOPS OUT IN BUCHAREST

Crowds Cheer as Mihai I Passes Through Streets of Capital.

## RULER DIES IN QUEEN'S ARMS

Passes Peacefully Away in the Midst of His Family—Death Kept Secret at First.

## BRATIANO POWER SUPREME

Premier Expected to Dominate Regents, Sworn In Before National Assembly.

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BUCHAREST (via Vienna), July 20.—King Ferdinand of Rumania is dead. His 5-year-old grandson, Mihai, reigns under the pre-arranged Regency. To his father, Carol, who is in Paris still, the Rumanian frontiers are closed by command of the Bratiano Government. Order prevails throughout Rumania.

Ferdinand of Hohenzollern, after many months of painful illness, died at 2:15 o'clock this morning in the arms of his consort, to whom his last words were addressed.

"I feel very tired," he murmured. Then he closed his eyes and apparently dropped off to sleep. Death came a few moments later, so quietly that those at the bedside, who included the new King and every other member of the royal family save only the exiled Crown Prince, failed to recognize its coming.

The doctors, however, soon became aware Ferdinand's enfeebled heart had ceased to beat. For several hours previously the dying monarch had lain in a sort of coma. He recovered consciousness a few minutes before the end, however, and bade each of his three daughters farewell in a weak voice. As he kissed his grandson for the last time the youngster broke into loud weeping.

During the period of national mourning, the duration of which is not yet fixed, all forms of amusement are suppressed in Bucharest and restaurants and cafés are obliged to close at midnight. The city remains under the state of siege which has been in existence since the armistice and military authorities have issued warning that anybody spreading false reports or participating in street gatherings will be haled before a court-martial.

### Bratiano Races to Deathbed.

The King's last official act was to confirm the outcome of the national election and the retention of Jon Bratiano as head of his Government. The Premier whose dictatorial powers are increased rather than diminished by Ferdinand's passing, was present at the deathbed. He had raced to Sinaia Palace, the sovereign's Summer residence, two hours outside of Bucharest, in a special train immediately after completing the verification of the Parliamentary mandates submitted by the newly elected Deputies.

Incidentally, because of the King's death coinciding so precisely with this event, rumors were afloat in diplomatic quarters here tonight that Ferdinand had breathed his last many hours before and that the fact was kept secret until Premier Bratiano got the political situation completely in hand. There is no evidence whatever to substantiate this, however.

Immediately after the formal recording of the sovereign's death by the physicians in the presence of the Queen, as required by the Rumanian Constitution, the Premier hastened back to the capital. There the Cabinet met under his chairmanship at 7 o'clock this morning and summoned the National Assembly, consisting of the Senate and the Chamber, to convene at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon. It was also decided that the King's body should be transported aboard a royal train to Cotroceni Palace in Bucharest at 6 o'clock tomorrow morning, where it will lie in state until the funeral Saturday.

Ferdinand will be buried in the royal vault in the monastery at Curtea Argea beside his uncle, King Carol I, and that monarch's consort, the celebrated Carmen Sylva.

King Mihai's first ascension of the throne took place before the National Assembly this afternoon with impressive ceremonies. The fair-haired little son of the ousted Crown Prince Carol motored through crowded streets in an open automobile sitting between his mother, Princess Helen of Greece, and his grandmother, the Dowager Queen. Today being a church holiday a vast multitude was abroad which loudly cheered the child ruler.

### Regents Take Oath.

After attending a brief religious service in the cathedral, Mihai was escorted to the Royal Tribune in the National Legislature. He sat in a huge throne-like chair between his mother and Queen Marie. His chubby face was wreathed in boyish

grins. Against the deep mourning worn by the two Royal women Mihai's white sailor suit was as conspicuous as a fleck of sunshine amidst dark shadows.

In front of the royal party a small altar had been built. Before it sat the Metropolitan, Pimen, in the colorful robes of his office, as head of the church in Bucharest. One at a time the three members of the regency named on Jan. 4, 1926, after Carol's renunciation of his succession to the throne, appeared before him and took the solemn oath of allegiance to their new ruler.

Prince Nicholas, Carol's younger brother, came first; then Miron Christea, Patriarch of the Rumanian Church, and finally Judge Buzdugan, President of the Supreme Court. Each repeated the single sentence:

"I swear fidelity to King Mihai." Thereupon the ceremony, which lasted only a few minutes, was ended.

As the King and court withdrew the Deputies and Senators as well as the Diplomatic Corps assembled in their tribunes arose and applauded. Outside a company of infantry saluted his youthful Majesty, apparently much to his satisfaction.

Then through cheering throngs held back behind strong lines of soldiers and police, Mihai motored to Cotroceni Palace, where he will reside hereafter.

At 6 P. M. the military garrisons throughout Rumania swore loyalty to the new sovereign.

The Rumanian Government has issued a manifesto officially announcing King Ferdinand's death and Mihai's accession to the throne, eulogizing the dead monarch and calling on the people to give his successor the affection they had always shown to Ferdinand.

Arrangements for the funeral are not completed yet. King Alexander of Yugoslavia, whose consort, Queen Marie, was present at her father's deathbed, together with her sisters, Elizabeth, former Queen of Greece, and Princess Ileana, is expected in Bucharest tomorrow. The former King of Greece is there now. Whether any other crowned heads will attend the funeral is not known.

#### Carol's Return Is Unlikely.

Ostensibly the kingdom of Rumania will be ruled for the next thirteen years, that is, until King Mihai attains his majority, by a regency composed of his uncle, Prince Nicholas, who incidentally becomes Heir-Apparent to the Throne, the head of the Church and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Actually the executive power will continue to be exercised by Jon Bratiano, Rumania's "hereditary dictator," so called because his father held a similar sway in the reign of King Carol I.

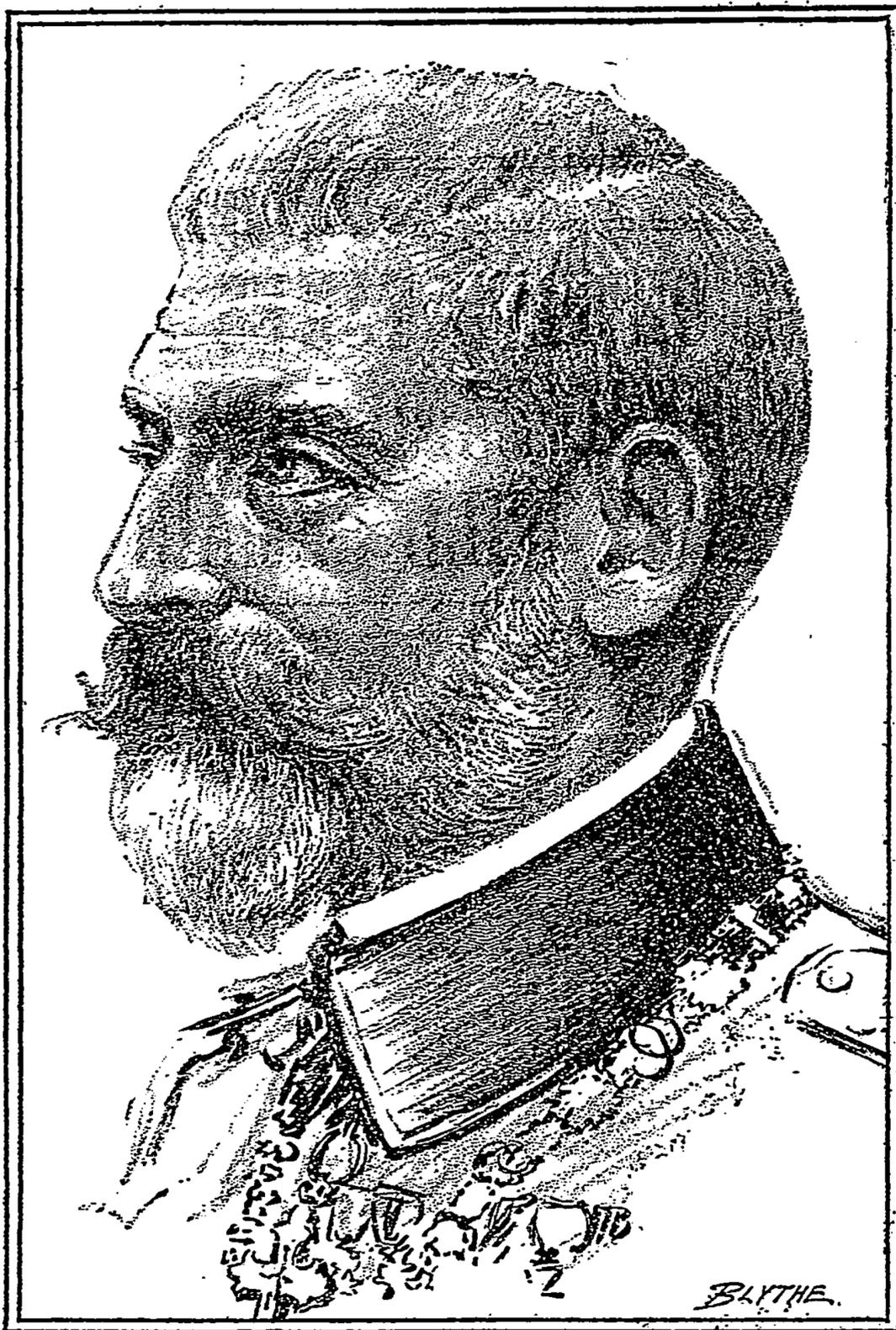
There are only two obstacles in his path at present and neither is immediate or formidable. The first is the possibility of Carol's return home and seizure of the crown which he voluntarily renounced a year and a half ago. There is no organized movement in sight, however, designed to achieve these ends.

Even Professor Nicholas Jorga, one of Carol's foremost supporters, urges only the inclusion of Ferdinand's eldest son in the Regency. The professor issued a declaration to that effect this morning after the King's death. The Government promptly countered by stating that the edict creating the regency in its present triumvirate composition would be enforced and Carol prevented from entering Rumania if necessary by force of arms.

A special commission has also been formed under the Minister of the Interior to keep an eye on the former Crown Prince in Paris and his partisans in Rumania.

The other threat to M. Bratiano's supremacy is the widowed Queen. Marie's ambitions are said to be boundless and as Ferdinand's consort she had considerable say in governing the country. Prince Stirbey, M. Bratiano's brother-in-law, who held the Premiership before M. Bratiano reassumed that office, is in her intimate confidence. But Prince Stirbey, albeit the richest man in Rumania, is wholly under the tutelage of M. Bratiano.

The Queen has nobody else capable of helping her, as has been shown by the failure of her attempt to shake off M. Bratiano's dominance through General Averescu, as Premier Averescu collapsed as soon as he tried to oppose his boss. So, for the moment, Marie is an even more nebulous peril to M. Bratiano than is Carol.



KING FERDINAND OF RUMANIA  
Whose Long Illness Ended in His Death Yesterday.