

filled. The present Government is unalterably opposed to the return of Carol to Rumanian soil, even to attend the funeral of his father.

#### Carolists Appear to Be Dispersed.

In Bucharest all is quiet and the death of the King is genuinely and profoundly mourned. All social functions have been canceled and the representatives of the diplomatic corps have tendered their sympathy.

The party which a year ago was willing to support Prince Carol in reaching for the throne appears to have dispersed, and the Government has the situation well in hand. No symptoms of trouble are reported from any district, and the Regency seems to have started auspiciously on its twelve or more years tenure of office.

An official communiqué issued this afternoon concerning the death of King Ferdinand states that recently his general condition became worse as the result of inflammation of the lungs which started last March. The communiqué continues:

"Lack of appetite, anemia and breathing difficulties hampered the heart activities, which finally led to the collapse and death of the King in the arms of the Queen at 2:50 o'clock Wednesday morning at Sinaia. The King was fully conscious to the end and suffered no pain. His last words to the Queen were: 'I feel no pain.'"

#### Boy King Conquers Tears.

Members of both houses of Parliament, all the military and civil dignitaries and the members of the diplomatic corps were gathered in the House of Parliament for this afternoon's ceremony. The entry of the Regents was followed by that of Princess Helen, who led his Majesty Mihai I by the hand into the Chamber of Deputies.

The little child hesitated, then halted as if on the verge of tears.

"Remember you are a King and the son of Kings," his mother told him.

Straightening out his puny shoulders, the little chap ascended the fifteen steps to the royal tribunal and gazed upon the assembled Deputies and Senators, professors and learned men with the greatest unconcern. Then came the cheers.

The Princess Mother Helen, dressed in deep mourning and wearing a heavy crepe veil, stood behind her child King. She was pale and evidently laboring under great emotion, but stolid, erect and queenly. Prince Nicholas was the first to take the oath as Regent, swearing to uphold the Constitution, the rights of the Rumanian people and allegiance to King Mihai. Meanwhile the little King was glancing about as if in fear.

Then as the Patriarch followed with a similar oath little Mihai smiled. The Patriarch seemed like a figure which had suddenly emerged from the Bible—long beard and stern features. He spoke in a low, deep voice, emphasizing the oath in a manner to show his realization of the importance he attached to the sacred moment. Justice Buzdugan's voice was scarcely audible.

#### Crowd Does Not Cheer.

Then Princess Helen, whose tears were discernible beneath her veil, led the child forward and out into his new kingdom. He was dressed in a white silk suit, black tie and patent leather slippers. He hugged his mother's arm closely as he filed past the cheering Deputies and Senators, and as the cheers redoubled he clasped his mother's arm to his breast and pressed it to his heart.

"Let's go home, mama; I am hungry," one of the officers of the guards stationed near the entrance to the Parliament later said were the first words of his youthful Majesty after his inauguration.

The little King heaved a sigh of relief as the ceremony terminated and the royal party withdrew.

When the royal procession reached the Calle Victoria a company of soldiers presented arms and delivered a hearty cheer. The golden-haired King appeared dismayed at first, then, with the regal demeanor, arose in the carriage and saluted his soldiers.

"The King is dead! Long live the King!" the soldiers cried.

#### Ferdinand's Testament Is Read.

Premier Bratiano tonight presented the collective resignation of the Ministry to the Council of the Regency, in accordance with constitutional custom. The resignation was not accepted, marking the first practical act of the power of the Regency.

King Ferdinand's testament was opened at noon before Queen Marie, King Mihai and other members of the royal family.

Ferdinand had a curiously accurate presentiment Monday of his death. He wrote a private letter to Premier Bratiano, to whom it was delivered last night, and was read before the Cabinet in the early hours of the morning. The text will not be pub-

lished until Friday, but it is learned that it was something like a political testament.

It reviewed the different events of his reign, thanked the Ministers for the support always given to him and begged that the dynastic succession be followed out as decided upon in January, 1926.

There was not a dry eye when the Premier read the letter. The Ministers were deeply moved by the thought of the extraordinary fortitude and clear mind of the monarch who could thus secretly write his own obituary, while, to spare his family and friends pain, he encouraged them to believe that he still hoped for recovery, which in his heart of hearts he knew was impossible.

#### No Tolling of Bells.

No bells tolled and no extra editions of the newspapers cried the streets early this morning to announce the passing of King Ferdinand.

The fact was kept a secret closely within the inner circles of the court and Government until the official announcement was printed hours after his death.

The King's condition, which the public had known to be growing worse, took a critical turn yesterday evening. At midnight he received the last sacrament.

Bucharest newspapers appeared today with columns lined in black and flags were half-masted on all public buildings. Perfect calm existed throughout the capital and throughout the country.

Mihai will, if he lives, ascend the throne and begin his rule in fact as well as in name on his eighteenth birthday—twelve years from Oct. 25 next.

He was born on that date in 1921, and he is therefore not yet six years old. Like most royal children, his life has not been that of an ordinary child, and from now on it is certain to be even less so. He has been sheltered by three nurses—English, German and French—and has not been permitted to mingle indiscriminately with other children.

The little King has been living in a handsome but not particularly luxurious home on the principal residential street of Bucharest, where his mother, Princess Helen of Greece, has led a quiet existence since former Prince Carol deserted her.

Fate has made Mihai King long before his time, his father having renounced first his home and then his throne in order to live his own life in his own way.

#### Mihai Speaks Three Languages.

Although not yet six, the young King already speaks three languages—English, French and Rumanian.

Almost every morning when the weather is good the royal child can be seen enjoying his fixed hours of play under the trees on the broad avenue in front of his home. Here the aristocracy of Rumania spends many of its leisure hours. Almost every afternoon he is taken for a drive through the streets by his nurse in a big American automobile. The child is therefore a familiar sight to the street crowds of Bucharest.

Mihai sometimes is taken by his mother to children's parties in the afternoon or to social gatherings held for charitable purposes. He is not robust and photographers seldom catch him laughing heartily. There are many people who think there is a sadness in his eyes that one rarely finds in a child of five.

#### Government Issues Proclamation.

The Rumanian Government today issued the following proclamation:

Rumanians!

The first King of Greater Rumania is dead. A cruel illness put a premature end to his most glorious reign which realized our nation's dream of centuries.

Upon ascending the throne, King Ferdinand had promised solemnly before a national representation that he would be a good Rumanian. His reign has entirely proved that he accomplished his promise.

Disconsolate today, we weep for the death of the man who made a greater and better Rumania. Rumanians can never forget there was no sacrifice which King Ferdinand did not make for the welfare of his country.

Unshakable in his conviction and decision during war, good and wise during peace, Ferdinand the First will remain forever a King who associated himself closely with his people and realized reforms which brought justice, power and tranquillity to the State.

We cannot be more firmly faithful to the great ideal to which he devoted his life than by remaining closely united to assure the peaceful life and progress of the country. Animated by unalterable devotion to the dynasty, Constitution and laws of the country, we must group ourselves with love and confidence in the destinies of our country around King Mihai and assemble all our forces to insure a brilliant future to Greater Rumania so cruelly affected.

101 Guns Salute Mihai.

BUCHAREST, July 20 (AP).—One hundred and one guns boomed a salute to King Mihai I of Rumania at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, announcing to the assembled multitudes that the child monarch had ascended the throne.

The Regents, Prince Nicholas, Patriarch Miron Cristea and Supreme Court Justice G. V. Buzdugan, were officially sworn in before the National Assembly at 4:50 o'clock this afternoon.

Former Prince Carol, now at Neuilly, near Paris, has announced his intention not to return to Bucharest.

Jon Bratiano, Premier and "strong man" of Rumania, holds the power. It is accepted that he will unquestionably be a dominating figure over the regency.

King Ferdinand died as he had lived, fighting stubbornly with characteristic Hohenzollern tenacity.

"I feel so tired," he said to Queen Marie, who held him in her arms in his dying moments, and then, his last words, "I feel no pain."

For many months Ferdinand had been in failing health. Renowned physicians of France, Belgium and Germany, after attending him last December, expressed the opinion that he might live one month or six. He survived for nearly seven months. Pneumonia contracted in the high altitudes of Sinaia in the Carpathian Mountains, where he was transferred recently, hastened his end.

#### Cancer Real Cause of Death.

But the King's illness really dates back several years and the actual cause of his death was cancer. Even when Queen Marie was on her memorable visit to the United States, the King suffered intensely and two operations were performed, followed by radium treatment.

All this merely served to stay the progress of the disease for a time and Ferdinand wasted away until he was a mere shadow of himself, unable to take proper nourishment and incapable of carrying out the duties of state in the way he fondly desired, though he exerted himself to the utmost and was ever hopeful that he would live.

The King's funeral will take place Saturday. This was decided upon by the Council of the regency, which will attend to matters of state until Mihai attains his majority, which by the Rumanian Constitution is 18 years of age.

All meetings have been forbidden and a censorship has been placed over the press.

The Bratiano Government holds the country in an iron hand. Public buildings and strategical points are occupied by soldiers, and the Government is resolved that the decree of Jan. 4, 1926, expelling Carol and instituting a regency in the event of Ferdinand's death, must be ful-