

## Diary of Tsarina Alexandra

February 8th, 1904

- [1] My husband and I have been shocked to hear news of the Japanese Imperial Navy attacking our Far East Fleet at Port Arthur. This was followed by their declaration of war. Nicky is baffled by their act of war without a formal declaration first. However, I understand that it must just be what to expect from them. Now a war will happen and we must use it to our advantage. A successful war will bring us closer as a nation. Of course, that is a given. There is no way we will be defeated by those Japs, not with our crushing numbers and superior nature.

January 22, 1905

- [2] Alexander Palace has always been our sanctuary our place to get away from public duties and spend time with our family. This evening our escape to the busy Winter Palace has been justified. My husband and I have just heard news of a furore happening in St Petersburg. Some 150,000 workers marched on the Winter Palace this afternoon, causing a huge ruckus with their singing and shouting. Apparently, they were demanding a reduction in working hours to eight, increased pay and better working conditions. They also wanted us to end the Russo-Japanese war! Despite the war being difficult, they are in no position to have any say in the matter. They wanted to appeal personally to my husband, little knowing he was here instead. It was only a good thing that we weren't there to personally witness the disruption. Our soldiers did what they needed to do to keep the order; but regrettably there were
- [3] casualties. It is only too much for me to hope that the scandal surrounding this dies down so we can continue in the tradition of firm autocracy without a hiccup. However I fear the consequences of this could be greater than first perceived.

September 25, 1905

- [4] Workers are striking all over the country but we are still fairly comfortable. Sergei Witte seems to think that pressuring my husband to make reforms will appease the revolutionaries. His father excelled for thirteen years without the need for to rebuke the traditional ways. I don't see why Nicky should be any different. Nicholas and Witte meet for the entire day to discuss matters, leaving no time for my children to play with their father. He
- [5] doesn't understand what's important. I fear than Witte will easily bend Nicky's will. I have spoken to my husband about the issue and know that his standing is with mine. However
- [6] Witte has proven to be a smooth talker in the past, especially recently with the Treaty of Portsmouth signed recently on the 5th September to end the Russo-Japanese war. His clever negotiation meant Russia lost very little. However I despise his modern ideas and how he seeks change. I worry that he will talk my husband into agreeing with his modern ideals. Witte wants Russia to become a constitutional democracy - he want us to relent our
- [7] autocratic power and become mere figureheads to a State Duma that would actually have the rights to make decisions! Of course, Nicky tells me all, when he has the time. Every time he tells me what Witte and him discuss I try my best to convince him that the mantel of
- [8] autocracy should be preserved for little Alexis. The people will soon grow tired of their little tantrums, there is no need to give them what they demand.

October 30, 1905

- [9] He has done exactly what I advised him against. Nicky has issued the October Manifesto, a document which Witte says should divide my husband's opposition and win some of them over. The introduction of the Duma should appease those middle-class Constitutional Democrats, so he says. No laws are to be introduced without the agreement of the Duma. Other reforms introduced include civil liberties, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. He has issued the Manifesto in response to the General Strike of this month, but I am sure there are other ways to go about it. The people shouldn't be given in to, there are other means. I think this is a grave mistake, Nicky has shown himself to be weak, giving in the cry of the rabble rather than firmly upholding tradition. Russia doesn't always know what's best

[10] for her; but I do. I also know my husband. I know that this is not Nicky's heart. I know that these changes may not be all that they seem.

January 1, 1906

[11] A new year begins, another year of Romanov rule, a year to recover from last year's little interruption. As I have predicted, the people have quite forgotten their little outburst, and peace has been restored once again. The St Petersburg soviets were crushed, the revolutionaries dispersed, the workers and peasants directionless. Witte's plan has worked, but I know my husband's true intentions. Even as soon as now, he is already limiting the Duma and its power. My husband and I can move Russia into a future age of autocracy, without relenting Russian Orthodoxy or the tradition we as a nation have lived by for many years.