SERB, CROAT, AND SLOVENE STATE.

(KRALJEVINA SERBA, HRVATA, I SLOVENACA.

Reigning King.

Alexander I, born December 4 (O. S.), 1889, son of King Peter I and Duchess Zorka, daughter of the late Nicholas I, ex-King of Montenegro; married on June 8, 1922, to Princess Marie, born January 8, 1900, daughter of King Ferdinand I of Rumania; Prince Regent from June 24, 1914 to August 16, 1921, when his father died. On November 6, 1921, he swore to the constitution and received full royal rights.

Brother of the King:—Prince George, born September 8, 1887; on March 27, 1909, he renounced his right of succession to the throne.

Sister of the King.—Princess Hélène, born November 4, 1884; married, September 8, 1911 to Prince Ivan Constantinovitch, son of the Grand Duke Constantine Constantinovitch of Russia.

The founder of the dynasty was Kara-George (i.e. Black George) Petrovitich, who, in 1804, was proclaimed Commander-in-Chief in Serbia, but was murdered in 1817, leaving two sons—Alexis, born 1801, and Alexander, born 1806. In 1842 Alexander was chosen reigning Prince by the Skupshtina or National Assembly, and the title was confirmed by the Porte, but the dignity was not hereditary. In 1858 Alexander had to abdicate and was banished, and in 1865 he died in exile. King Peter was the third of his house who have ruled in Serbia. He succeeded to the throne on the murder of King Alexander of the Obrenovitch dynasty; was elected King by the Skupshtina June 2 (O. S.), and assumed royal rights and duties June 12 (O. S.), 1903.

The independence of Serbia from Turkey was established by Article 34 of the Treaty of Berlin, signed July 13, 1878, and was solemnly
proclaimed by Prince (afterwards King) Milan at his capital, August 22, 1878. The King's civil list amounts to 18,000,000 dinars, plus 6,000,000 French francs.

After the Revolution in Austria-Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Dalmatia, and Bosnia declared their independence, and a movement commenced for the formation of the State of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (Yugoslavia) by the union of the Austro-Serbian, Croatian, and Slovenian parts of the former Austro-Hungarian monarchy with Serbia. The union with the Croats and Slovenes was proclaimed on December 1, 1918. In regard to Montenegro there was some doubt as to her position, but on the death of King Nicholas on March 1, 1921, the country was definitely joined to Greater Serbia.

On December 29, 1918, the first Ministry of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes was formed, representing all the Yugoslav provinces, and the Allied Governments were informed of the creation of the new State, which has received recognition. By the Treaty of Rapallo the boundaries of the new State on the side of Italy were definitely determined.

Constitution and Government.

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, adopted on June 28, 1921, provides for a single chamber called Narodna Skupština (National Assembly consisting of 313 representatives. The King is Commander-in-Chief of the Forces, and can declare war should the country be attacked or war be declared against it; he can also make peace. He summons Parliament and has the right of dissolving it. Parliament is elected for four years on the basis of one deputy for every 40,000 inhabitants.

The elections for the Constituent Assembly, held on March 19, 1923, resulted as follows:—120 Radicals, 50 Democrats, 3 Socialists, 70 Croatian Agrarians (Raditch Party), 9 Serb Agrarians, 18 Mahomedans, 22 Catholic People’s Party, and 43 members of other parties.

The Radical Cabinet, formed on December 3, 1922, is composed as follows:—

Prime Minister.—N. Pashitch.
Minister of Foreign Affairs.—Momtchilo Ninkitchitch.
Minister of the Interior.—M. Voujitchitch.
Minister for the Unification of Laws.—M. Trifkovicitch.
Minister of Justice and interim of Commerce.—Dr. L. Marcovitch.
Minister of Posts and Telegraphs.—M. Voukitchitch.
Minister of Agrarian Reform and interim of Agriculture.—Krsna Miletitch.
Minister of Finance.—Dr. M. Stoyadinovitch.
Minister of Education.—M. M. trifunovitch.
Minister of Social Affairs.—Dr. N. Perich.
Minister of Religions.—M. L. Yovanovitch.
Minister of Mines and Forests.—Dr. M. Srskitch.
Minister of Public Health.—Dr. S. Miletitch.
Minister of War and Marine.—Gen. Pechitch.
Minister of Public Works.—M. Ouzonovitch.
Minister of Communications.—Dr. V. Yankovitch.

In 1922 there were 152,978 Government officials.