

# DIARY LAYS BARE DE RAYLAN SECRET

POSED AS MAN IN ORDER TO  
BLACKMAIL MOTHER FOR  
BIG ESTATE.

## DEEP MYSTERY CLEARED

By Finding of Woman's Life History  
Which is Far Stranger Than  
Any Fiction—Noted Rus-  
sian Aided Her.

Chicago, June 26.—The life secret—a plot to secure possession of a \$125,000 estate—of Nicolai de Raylan, for years Secretary to the Russian consul at Chicago, who, after masquerading as a man for 18 years, was found after death to have been a woman, was revealed today.

The story of her reason for starting out on a career of deception that proved her one of the most accomplished actresses in the world and disclosed a Russian scandal that has been hidden for years is contained in her diary and correspondence which is in the possession of Michael Feinberg, 45 Upton street, employed in the office of the public administrator. Here are the amazing facts disclosed:

1. Nicolai de Raylan's real name was Taletsky. Her Christian name is unknown.

2. She started on her remarkable career of deception in an effort to blackmail her mother in Russia. It became necessary to continue her disguise because she was sought for years by the Russian police.

### Claimed to Be a Boy.

3. The compelling motive of De Raylan's entire career was an effort to prove that her mother had been masquerading her as a girl when in reality she claimed she was a boy.

4. The figure of principal importance in the events that started De Raylan in her disguise was the late M. Constantin Pretrovitch Pobiedonostseff, one of the most gigantic figures in modern Russian history, Procurateur of the Holy Synod.

5. M. Pobiedonostseff sought her for years through the secret police of Russia to prevent a scandal he having sworn after an interview that Nicolai was a man.

6. She made love to almost every woman she became acquainted with, and previous to her two marriages in Chicago became engaged to several.

7. Her second "wife," Anna De Raylan, knew the life secret of "Nicolai," and received \$15 a week over and above living expenses throughout the term of marriage, for a mysterious purpose.

### Drunkard and Gambler.

The first phase of her life traced in her journal, many pages in which indicate that she was a drunkard, a gambler and a profane rone, depicts her as a school girl. Her mother had placed her in a government school for girls in Kiev, Russia, where the Taletsky family home is situated, and between the ages of 15 and 16 she was to graduate.

Somewhere around this period her mother, who had been well to do before, suddenly acquired considerable more wealth. The figure mentioned in the diary is 250,000 roubles (about \$125,000.)

Nicolai, the only given name by which De Raylan is known to have been called, no feminine name appearing in any of her papers, discovered the existence of this sum and became suspicious concerning it.

In some way she found that it had been settled on her mother as trustee by some member of the nobility, to be conserved in the interest of Nicolai.

This discovery made the young girl curious as to the reason for the settlement and caused her to wish for her father, as expressed among her writings, to find from him what mystery surrounded her origin. Her mother, she says, would not tell her who he was.