

CZAR IS AGAIN IN POWER IN RUSSIA

Parliament Will Not Be Allowed to Legislate Him Out of His Throne.

ARMY SAID TO BE LOYAL

Any Radical Action on the Part of the Representatives of the People in Assembly Would Summon Armed Guards.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 25.—The Associated Press is able to give the results of an important conversation with a high personage regarding the situation in Russia. Neither the name nor the position of this personage can be indicated, but it is competent to speak upon the situation as it is.

The conversation, which covered a wide range, left the impression that the assembling of the National Parliament would bring a crisis, but not the one anticipated abroad. The government evidently is absolutely convinced that an armed revolution or a general uprising, which would menace its life, is no longer possible and that the danger is not that the government will be overthrown, but that it will be driven to abandon its path of reform.

The guerrilla warfare which the revolutionists at present are conducting, such as the assassinations of Count Witte, the Premier, and the Minister of the Interior, is being continued. Acts of terrorism doubtless will continue, vengeance may be wreaked upon Governors-General and police masters, Count Witte, the Premier, and the Minister of the Interior, will be assassinated; banks and buildings may be blown up, and there may even be riots here and there, but attempts to produce widespread rising in the cities or repetition of the railroad strike are deemed to be failures. The government has a firm grip and every measure to prevent excesses will be taken.

Change in the Situation.

Besides, the situation has been completely altered since last Fall, when practically the whole of the population joined the ranks which led the Emperor to grant the manifesto of October 17. The government then was unable to cope with the extreme revolutionaries. The army in European Russia was at a low strength and filled with revolutionists bordering on mutiny, owing to their anxiety to return to their homes and join their families and new recruits everywhere were prevented from joining the colors.

Since then all is changed. The revolutionists have been discharged and the recruits have been drilled and joined the ranks. Regiments which then consisted of 400 now have 2000 men. Two army corps have returned from Manchuria and more regulars are arriving daily.

No matter what the situation, the army is certain that the Emperor is faithful to the Emperor. There may be individual cases of disloyalty, but the reliability of the army as a whole is unquestioned. The weight of troops alone renders a revolution impossible.

Peasants Loyal to Emperor.

Should there be agrarian disorders in the summer they will not be revolutionary in character for the peasants of Russia are true to the Emperor. The danger lies in another direction. The Emperor is not a question of the fall of the government, but whether reform or riot will prevail—whether the present struggle to amend the old regime and secure larger liberties for the people will enter the present parliament phase or a counter revolution will sweep away the entire programme on which the government has entered.

Reactionaries Weak Now.

Nevertheless, at the present moment the reactionary party is weak and powerless. It lacks the public following without which it dare not act. It is easily conceivable, however, that the situation might suddenly change, should an opportunity to strike come.

Should the Parliament attempt to take the bull by the horns for the deposition of the Emperor and the deposition of the whole government, the new regime might be overwhelmed with disaster. A large element of the population, especially the masses, who had no share in the revolution and who reverence the Emperor as a God-given ruler, might be aroused to action by the reactionaries, and the Emperor, seeing the old regime and secure the one side attempting to go too far and in face of what seemed to be popular demand for the restoration of the old regime, might well wonder what would yield to what he considered the wish of his subjects.

Would Precipitate a Crisis.

Certainly that would be equivalent to an attempt to refer the form of government to the decision of the people. It would not be tolerated; it would probably result instantly in a summons to the Probrajenski or other guard regiments to disperse the Parliament with bayonets.

However, it is not necessary to take a pessimistic view of the Parliament. No one can predict what its attitude will be. The charges that the government is interfering with the elections are untrue. The present indications are that the Parliament will be conservative and it might, instead of raising a clamor for the overthrow of the government, set seriously to work to solve the great and pressing questions on which the future depends.

Put Down With Strong Hand.

It was against this element that the government, unfortunately, was forced to proceed energetically. The alternative was either that or abdication. Harsh measures were taken and perhaps there was much injustice. But the movement had to be stopped. No government, while it continued to stand, could fold its arms complacently in the presence of a conspiracy against its life.

Unhappily, the central government

could not always choose its instruments and was compelled practically to give a free hand to the provincial military authorities, who often were reactionary. Doubtless, it is true, they frequently abused the power conferred on them, but the government had no chance. When military is called upon to cope with a situation in any country, civil laws and rights are temporarily superseded.

Status of the Jews.

"And the Jews?" "Recent developments undoubtedly have prejudiced their position. The Emperor wanted to see justice done and the public sympathized with their lot; but unhappily the attitude of the Jews since the Emperor's manifesto has alienated much of the sympathy from them. It is undeniable that they have been guilty of excesses everywhere; that they were aiding the revolution and no longer contented themselves with asking for equality with the Russians, but concentrated less on the improvement of their condition for which they were not responsible, it is true, they might not have been so prominent. As it is, the Russian masses who believe in the Emperor are easily incited against them and reports of attempts to inspire massacres during the Easter tide unfortunately are true.

Profited by Witte's Friendship.

Count Witte, however, has stood like a stone wall against this. His steadfast friendship for the Jews has subjected him to constant attacks. His enemies have accused him of being a Jew, of thinking of nothing but Jews, etc. When he discovered the anti-Semitic agitation, he came to the front and issued daily telegraphic instructions where there is the slightest indication of Jew-baiting.

Land Hunger of Peasants.

The most important question, however, and the one on which the future of the country and its prosperity depends, is the adoption of some method for satisfying the land-hunger of the peasants, who comprise 80 per cent of Russia's immense population. Many projects have been submitted to the government, and Premier Witte has a mass of information on the subject, but instead of presenting a project, the government would prefer to leave a solution of the question, if possible, to Parliament.

Leave the Orthodox Church.

Regarding the financial outlook the present difficulty in securing a loan is due rather to the political situation abroad than to internal conditions, as foreign financiers realize that they can obtain better terms for a loan now than after Parliament meets.

Ease of Toleration Adds Thousands to Catholic Faith.

VILNA, Russia, March 25.—The Roman Catholic bishop has sent a report to the synod showing that since the ukase of religious toleration, over 20,000 members of the Orthodox church have become Catholics.

ELECTION IN RUSSIA

How the First Parliament Will Be Organized.

SYSTEM IS COMPLICATED

Peasants Vote for Members of Lower House, While Provincial Congresses Choose Delegates to Upper Body.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 25.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—The election of the Imperial Douma and the Council of the Empire—Russia's first parliament—bear only a slight resemblance to elections in the United States. The Ministry of Election is both complicated and confusing and the lack of political organization on the part of the innumerable parties in the field serves to increase the uncertainty of the results.

For the Douma, or lower chamber, practically the old machinery employed by the peasants in their communes and villages for the regulation of petty questions of self-government is employed, and in the cities the Ministry for the election of Doumas or town councils is used.

The members of the Imperial Douma are elected by provincial congresses composed of representatives of four classes, the peasants, the workmen, the landowners and the city population as a class.

Election at the Capital.

For example, St. Petersburg elects six men to the Douma, and the procedure is as follows: The city is divided into 12 districts, identical with the districts formed for the election of members of the City Council. In each of these districts a polling place is opened under the supervision of a president and commission appointed by the municipality, and here the qualified voters on a specified day, from 9 o'clock in the morning until 9 o'clock at night, have the privilege of voting for delegates, who are to be chosen from each district to the City Congress.

The delegates, or "viborschiki," as they are called, must be qualified electors and residents of the district. The parties, of course, have tickets in the field, but the elector votes for any resident of his district, without regard to ticket, if he chooses. Neither do the parties actually cast the five electors receiving the highest number of votes become the viborschiki of the district.

Qualification of Voters.

The qualification of the voters in the cities is very low, including practically all except the floating population. In St. Petersburg, for example, the registration list totals almost 150,000 in a population of 1,250,000, 50,000 of which are debarred because they belong to the army or navy. Neither do the registration lists include the artisans who work in the big factories and mills. A special provision is made for the latter as a class.

The workers of each factory elect five members to the Douma, according to their numbers, delegates to a general assembly of their own, which in turn chooses delegates to the city congress. In the case of St. Petersburg 24. The city congress thus made up is presided over by the Mayor, and chooses from among its members the representatives to the Douma.

The balloting is conducted by balls. The name of the qualified candidates, i. e., members of the congress, are read, and after each name is pronounced each delegate casts either a black or white ball, but for the whole series each delegate has the privilege of casting only six affirmative votes. The process is long and tedious, but is supposed to give every candidate an equal chance. The six persons receiving the highest number are declared elected.

How the Peasants Vote.

The members from the provinces are also elected in the last instance by a somewhat similar general congress of delegates representing the various provincial classes. The steps and methods of election, however, are very different, especially in regard to the peasant

classes. The peasants comprise almost 80 per cent of the population of the empire and in 22 of the 50 provinces are assigned a majority of the delegates to the provincial Congresses.

The peasants or moujik elections begin with the commune or village unit, the heads of every ten families—women being allowed to vote where the husband is dead—selecting one of their number to represent them at the village, or cantonal meeting. This first step is very primitive and follows the ancient traditions of village communal life in Russia, where the "desiatnik" or "tenth man" is usually named in rotation to fill such public duties as his group is called upon to exercise, his mission being regarded rather in the nature of a duty than a privilege and honor.

Function of the Assembly.

The real politics begin with the village assembly, perhaps representing a score of communes, which chooses two representatives each to the assembly of the district, each province being divided up into a number of districts, each a replica, on a small scale, of the provinces, or "gubernments" as they are usually called in Russia, of which they form a part. These district assemblies choose from a list of candidates of their own number who have a right to be elected, by the ball system, the delegates to the provincial congresses.

Three other classes are represented in this provincial congress, the landowners, the inhabitants of cities which do not elect special representatives to the Douma, and the workmen of factories, wherever numerous enough to entitle them to special representation. The landowners are divided into two classes, those possessing land in excess of the amount required to qualify for a vote and the smaller holders of land who, through combination among themselves, have together enough to land holding. The amount of land acquired, however, varies according to the quality of the land, from 125 acres in the cities to 125 deiatines in the Central and Black Sea region.

Assembly of Land-Owners.

There are only two degrees in the elections of the landowners. They assemble by districts and choose delegates direct to the Provincial Congress, the number being apportioned in each case. In the cities the election of the landowners is in the same fashion to provincial congresses that they do in exceptional cities, like St. Petersburg, as described above.

Holdings Give No Pretext.

The great landowners in Russia, therefore, some of whom possess tens of thousands of acres, can exercise no proportional influence on account of their great holdings. In this respect the system is much more democratic than in Prussia, for example, where the electors, according to their stations and land holding, are divided into thirds, the votes of half a dozen men comprising the highest third affecting the votes of either of the other thirds, the lowest including usually three-fourths of the population.

Council of the Empire.

The electors of the Council of the Empire, or upper chamber, (half the number) are chosen by classes on quite another basis. Neither the proletariat of the cities nor the peasants in the country have any say in the election of the members of the Council. Of the 50 elected members 18 are chosen by the nobility, six by the clergy, six by the universities, 34 by the Zemstvos, 14 by landowners, special congresses in provinces where there are no Zemstvos or

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LULL IN RATE DEBATE

SOME SENATORS HAVE NOT YET SPOKEN ON MEASURE.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The railroad rate bill will continue this week to absorb the attention of the United States Senate. There are several Senators who still expect to deliver prepared speeches on the bill, but none of them has indicated his readiness to proceed Monday, so that it is impossible to give the names of prospective orators.

Tillman Says Vote Will Be Pressed

When It Is Evident That the Speeches Are Ended.

Senator Tillman says, however, that he has no doubt some one will be prepared to proceed when the bill is taken up. He admits that there is a tendency to lull in the debate, but attributes it to the necessity for much preparation in discussing the question. He still insists that as soon as it becomes evident that the debate is exhausted he will press the bill to a vote.

Parliamentarism Is Based Upon the Equilibrium of Public Forces.

The upper chamber and the party in power and the party in opposition, are forces which temper each other and by continual struggle, acting and reacting, keep the life of the state normal. The physical as well as moral organism in the interests of its own existence, in order to renew the vitality, passes alternately, from passivity to activity. The same rule of alternation exists in political life. Progressive cabinets are followed by conservative ministries, and vice versa.

Struggle of Contending Forces.

It is only by this constant fight between the forces of the nation that the best results are obtained. This point of view justifies the existence of an upper house. In Europe the elections are naturally based on other principles than those of the Douma. If this were not the case the council would in effect be a purely advisory body.

Compared With Other Countries.

In Sweden, in addition to the representatives of the aristocracy the upper house contains a certain number of members elected by the provincial institutions. In Holland the upper chamber consists of 80 members elected by those who pay a very heavy rate of taxes, certain high state functionaries, and representatives of chambers of commerce. In Denmark, 12 members of the Landsting are appointed by the King and 54 are elected from districts and cities. In France members of the Senate are elected indirectly by electoral bodies composed of delegates chosen by the municipalities, deputies, councilors-General and district councilors of the departments.

War Claims Have the Right of Way

Monday under the rules, is District of Columbia day, and a number of important measures locally are on the calendar in that connection. Of the features of the legislation which will cause comment, it is predicted that a criticism of the Bureau of Corporations will be the chief. In view of the fact that the Senate is in session, and many members regard as a curtailment of the usefulness of this bureau. The provision for the mints of the country always provoke discussion, and many are items relating to the postal service in the bill also liable to cause talk.

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Postoffice appropriation bill is on the calendar and is slated for consideration at the earliest possible moment.

Congress Decides on Referendum.

LENS, France, March 25.—The Minge's Congress today decided upon a referendum March 28 on the question of the acceptance or rejection of the terms of the striking miners by the operators. An enormous demonstration followed the announcement of the referendum.

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King to Consult a Specialist.

BUCHAREST, March 25.—The King and Queen started today for Lugano, Switzerland. King Charles will stop at Vienna to consult a specialist.

To Suppress Carlist Agitation.

BARCELONA, March 25.—The Ministry of War is organizing four strong flying columns for the suppression of agitation by the Carlists.