RUSSIA'S FIGHT TO THROW OFF YOKE

Story of Imperial Duplicity, Perfidy and Violence in Land of Czars.

FREEDOM ONLY MOCKERY

· Loans Necessitate Calling of Doumas, but Every Means Is Used Abrogate Constitution and Restore Autocracy.

BY WILLIAM H. GALVANI. onarchs! could ye tasts the mirth ye mar.
Not in the toile of Glory would be fret:
The house, dull drum would sleep and Man
be happy yet.—Childe Harold, 1:47.

Tt is but a very short time since the Russian autocracy astonished the world by an exhibition of its duplicity in foreign affairs. With its long line of perfidy and fraud, as practiced upon the oppressed millions constituting Russia's enormous population, the world at large for some reason or another remained in the dark. Things, however, have finally come to a pass where it is no longer possible for the Imperial government to conceal the dark method by which the terrorism of autocratic bayonets exercises the divine right of governing by robbery, oppression, medieval torture and murder.

Forced to Make Grants.

The story is briefly told. Following the late unpleasantness in the Far East, Imperial Russia, reduced by an unbroken series of staggering disasters to bankruptcy and ruin, concluded to grant the people some form, of representative government. From this there was no escape, as the autocracy found itself face to face with either a complete overthrow of the existing order" or a pacification of the long-suffering people by a grant of full civil liberty. Hence during the month of August, 1905, while Count Witte had his engagement with Baron Komura at Portsmouth, N. H., the mouraful erocodile, the Czar of all the Russias, "invoking the blessings of the Lord," but "preserving the fundamental law regarding the autocratic power," announced the concession of a amental law regarding the autocratic power," amounced the concession of a Douma, or representative Assembly, for the Russian Empire. The form and phrascology of that celebrated document were, however, quite characteristic of all imperial manifestoes—stripped of its appeals to God and other gittering generalities, it contained little or nothing to the purpose. Under such circumstances, and with an abiding faith in the general awakening, the people throughout the whole empire proclaimed that they would accept nothing less than a constitution modeled after Anglo-Saxon principles of civil liberty, and with inparalleled heroism and self-sacrifice continued the programme to which there could have been but one result for the autocracy.

Fears Fate of Others.

Once more the Czar of all the Russias paused-the fate of tyrant kings rose bepaused—the fate of tyrant kings rose de-fore him like a dream; he issued another manifesto, a new fundamental law. The document was framed in unmistakable phraseology, plainly expressing and un-reservedly granting "the immutable foun-dations of civil liberty." It has since bedations of civil liberty." It has since become known as the October Manifesto,
having been proclaimed on October 20,
1805. It was granted by Nicholas II because, in his own words, "from the
present disorders may arise great national disruption—they menace the integrity and unity of our empire." He thererity and unity of our empire." He therehaving been proclaimed on October 30, 1805. It was granted by Nicholas II because, in his own words, "from the present disorders may arise great national disruption—they menace the integrity and unity of our empire." He therefore resolved that "the supreme duty imposed upon us by our sovereign office requires us to efface ourself," and proclaimed it as his "inflexible will—first, to extend to the population the immutato extend to the population the immutable foundations of civil liberty, based on the real inviolability of person, freedom of conscience, speech, union and associato invite the particition; second, . . to invite the partici-pation in the Douma . . of those classes of the population now completely deprived of electoral rights, leaving the nitimate development of the principle of nitimate development of the principle of electoral right in general to the newly established legislative order of things; third, to establish as an unchangeable rule that no law shall be enforceable without the approval of the State Douma, and that it shall be possible for the elected of the people to exercise real participation in the supervision of the legality of the acts of the authorities appoint-

this remarkable document, supple mented by the "Fundamental Law," published May 7, 1906, the ancient autocracy has come to an end, and the new order of things inaugurated.

First Donma Called.

The First Donma elected to carry out the provisions of the above documents was opened in the Winter Palace with much pomp and ceremony on May 10, 1995. Nicholas II, in a three-minute speech, renewed his pledges to the members of the first Douma, and appealed to them, as he did in the above documents, to unite in the effort of securing the regeneration of the empire, and a regeneraon it certainly needed. Be it remembred that the personnel of

the First Russian Parliament consisted of the ablest and most intellectual men in the land of the Czars. They proceeded at once to transform the old and corrupt bureaucracy into a well ordered govern-ment based upon the principles of human rights. These men proceeded to investi-gate the affairs of state, and to recon-struct matters to accord with the new struct matters to accord with the new order of things. From the startling disclosures of the part played by the governing patriots in massacres, assassinations, looting of public funds, etc., the burcaucrats became panie stricken. But they managed to enlist the cooperation of the grand ducal cabal, and, with its assistance, prevailed upon Nicholas II to dismiss Premier Goremykin, to disperse the Douma, and to appoint Stolypin as Prime Minister. Thus the first Douma came to an untimely end on July 2, 1998. The members of the outlawed First Douma quietly proceeded to Viborg, Fin-The members of the outlawed First Douma quietly proceeded to Viborg, Finland, about 72 miles northwest of St. Petersburg, where, on July 23, they issued a signed statement to the people of Russia and urged them, in defense of their constitutional rights, to refuse to pay taxes or send conscripts to the army until the powers granted to parliament are restored. By some strange coincidence, on the day of the adoption of the Viborg manifesto. Sir Henry Campbell-Banner-

Though not as able a representative body as Russia's First Parilament, it shared, nevertheless, the same fate; on June 3, 1967, it, too, was outlawed and dispersed, and before the loan—that great object of all of the bureaucracy's desires—could be accomplished. The representative members of the Second Douma, no less than their predecessors, have, however, left upon the financial world the impression that the people will consider no national or foreign loan to the bureaucratic government as binding upon them unless such loan be sanctioned by a legally elected representative assembly in regular session. To overcome this, the bureaucracy began to devise the necessary means.

First of all the governing plunderbund recognized the immediate necessity of preparing public opinion abroad on the mortal sins of the representatives of the first two legislative bodies outlawed by first two legislative bodies outlawed by His Majesty. Accordingly, a II-page article was prepared, and no doubt with the direct assistance of the governing council, under the title of "The Real Mennee to Tsardom," and published in the May issue of the London National Review, over the modest signature of "St. Petersburg." The writer, or writers, of that celebrated contribution opens the brief for Tsardom by expressions of keen disappointment that "some man of strong will... by sheer dint of his persentity" did not materialize upon those troublous scenes to "solve the most burning questions without even discussing them."

Would Mold Opinion.

Would Mold Opinion.

We are then quietly informed that it is but a "conflict between the cause of a strong monarchy and that of a parila-



Nicholna II. Czar of All the Russins.

with the past." A mournful lament then follows over "the general limitation of follows over "the general limitation of the Monarch's prerogatives" to such an extent that "no law may be permanently entered in the Statute Book that has not been previously agreed to by the Douma"; no, not even so unimportant an item as "to modify the electoral regulations without the consent of the Douma." Humiliating as all this is to the defender of the old medieval despotism, it is by far more bitter to contemplate that the "fundamental law" requires that "all taxes, duties and dues shall be first submitted to the two Houses of Parliament, and that it shall be illegal to levy any which have not been approved by the naand that it shall be illegal to levy any which have not been approved by the nation's representatives"; aye, even "a loan and the conditions under which it may be concluded" must likewise be submitted to and approved by them! All this leads our contributor to the terrible realization that "there would seem to be some withering curse hanging over the monarchical cause that was once almost worshipped in Muscovy," else no such a thing were possible in Holy Russia as "the weakening of the monarchical and the strengthening of the democratic principle." Finally, when through with moaning and groaning, whining and weeping, mol!" which, translated into plain English means, "Tis time to relapse into old politico-ecclesiastical barbarism!"

Gives Object Lessons.

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Let us see now what has taken place in Russla since the clumsy effort to prepare public opinion abroad in favor of restoring the autocracy. A third Douma had been hurriedly summoned, and, after disfranchising the "enemies of the existing order." the bureaucracy, by actual violence and brutal intimidation, secured a legislative body which in its opinion would obey orders. Among the 380 members constituting the Third Douma, there are two bishops and 45 priests, a goodly number of active and retired office-holders, members of the "Black Hundreds" and similar "patriotic" organizations. Among these, however, there are 72 Octoberists, while 47 members of the whole body served in the First and Second berists, while 47 members of the whole body served in the First and Second Douma; these, with the few scattering Liberals, though considerably outnum-bered by the bureaucratic representatives, have so far successfully blocked the pro-gramme of the servants of the old-time autoracy. Indeed, such is their influ-ence that, in framing a reply to the Czar's address, the large majority were obliged address, the large majority were obliged to strike out the word "Autocrat," which to the governing machine would have been a complete recognition by the Douma itself that the Czar is still "Autocrat of all the Russias." In fact, Kho-myakoff, the president of the Douma, boldly announced that the Czar is no longer Autocrat, but a constitutional monarch, that the Douma is the lawmaking power: that the two chief items before that body were the agrarian ques-tion and the budget. To understand the great importance of

the agrarian and financial questions, as the agrarian and financial questions, as these prevail in Russia under the management of the "existing order," it is only necessary to remind the reader that these are the questions which have driven the mass of Russia's population to the general revolt resulting in the October manifesto; that the First and Second Doumas were outlawed and dispersed because the members of these two bodies have manifully labored to solve these cause the members of these two bodies have manfully labored to solve these problems in accordance with the letter and spirit of the conditions that brought them together. Almost one-maif of Russia's white population is made up of peasants, and in the language of John Foster Fraser, a recent traveler, not entirely in sympathy with the revolutionists, "no one can come away from investigating their lives without tears; the only sensation at the end of it all is to only sensation at the end of it all is to feel drenched with despair."

Must Levy Heavy Tax.

til the powers granted to parliament are restored. By some strange coincidence, on the day of the adoption of the Viborg manifesto, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, at the International Parliamentary Conference, at Westiminister, greeted the delegation representing Russia's outlawed first Douma.—"La Douma est mort, Vive ia Douma."

Urgent Need of Loan.

A second Douma was soon called. Not. Indeed, because the governing casal wanted it, but simply because the bureaucracy was looking for a loan—a very common thing in the land of the Chars.

Must Levy Heavy Tax.

The expenditures have grown to the coording to the budget for 1908. Of this vast sum it is only possible to collect from all sources, including 328,000,000 roubles, leaving thus a deficit of 187,000,000 roubles, l

posed tax levy and loan, the government has begun a systematic scheme of intimidation by prosecuting and convicting the members of former Parliaments. Hence it is that the leading members of the Second Douma were charged and convicted by the judicial servants of the bureaucracy with (1) agitation of mutiny in the army and rebellion among the people; (2) conspiracy against the "autocratic government by promoting ideas in favor of a democratic republic; (3) refusal to support legislation proposed by the government; and (4) failure to approve the government budget. The judges, as usual in such cases, have found them guilty and sentenced every one of them to various punishments, including deprivation of all civil rights, which means that hone of them can be elected to any public position, as in law they are, under such circumstances, regarded as common outlaws. outlaws.

Why Bombs Are Used.

Having disposed and forever disfranchised the members of the Second Douma, the government at once proceeded against manifesto issued by them on the day following their dispersion, is the basis for

manfesto issued by them on the day following their dispersion, is the basis for charges of high treason against each of them. No doubt, the judges received their instructions long before the trial began, and these will share the same fate as the members of the Second Douma. These with the drumhead courts-martial which are daily taking place all over the land, are the means by which the Third Douma is to be forced to do the bidding of Russia's bureaucracy.

All this is, however, but a small fragment of a most terribile tragedy that is taking place in the land of the Czars. This is why the fleople of the land of imperjal duplicity have resolved on making war on the organized lawlessness and brutality of the autocratic government. Deprived of the possibility of using the repeating rifle and bayonet in regular military formation, they have concluded to resort to the hand grenade (boffb) and dagger. For a justification of this the best of men and women of Russia have pledged their lives, their fortunes and their honor.

LAND VALUES QUESTIONED

Complaint as to Method of Assessment in Columbia County.

RAINIER, Or., Jan. 11 .- (To the Editor.)-I see by a local newspaper that eight timber owners in Columbia County have appealed to the Circuit Court to have their assessments re-

County have appealed to the Circuit Court to have their assessments reduced. It is also stated that all but one of them would have been cited to appear before the Board of Equalization to show cause why their assessment should not be increased, but for the intervention of the holidays.

I know nothing about these particular cases, but I do know that some timber lands are grossly overvalued. I myself have nearly 4,000,000 feet, according to the cruiser's estimate, that am anxious to sell at 25 per cent below the assessor's valuation. It looks as though the powers holding forth at the courthouse had decided to collect an undue proportion of taxes from the timber owners, not only by overvaluation of timber, but by the indirect means of under-valuation of other property. And if evidence of under-valuation will be of any use in the suit to be brought in the Circuit Court, plenty of such evidence can be found hereabouts.

I could call to notice several small properties that are assessed some for one-half value, others due-third or less, but the most flagrant case that has some to my notice is a tract of land in Rainler, along the county road leading out by Cowlits street and fronting about four blocks from the river, con-

ing out by Cowlits street and fronting about four blocks from the river, centaining 32 acres. There has recently been sold from this tract 12 lots 50 by 100 feet in one block, sltogether 220 by 300 feet, containing about one-andabout four block's from the river, containing 32 acres. There has recently been sold from this tract 12 lots 50 by 100 feet in one block, sitogether 220 by 300 feet, containing about one-and-one-third acres, for \$2700, and the 110 acres of timber bought by the \$2 per thousand (the assessor's value)

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owner about five years ago for \$800, ation on the adjoining quarter section) would be \$8000, leaving \$800 to apply on the 215 acres bought for \$3850 16 years ago. And to show its enhanced value, I will say that the owner has recently contracted to sell a narrow

greater price than the 215 acres originally cost That is the kind of a "square deal" the timber owners are getting in Co-lumbia County. JOHN BACKUS.

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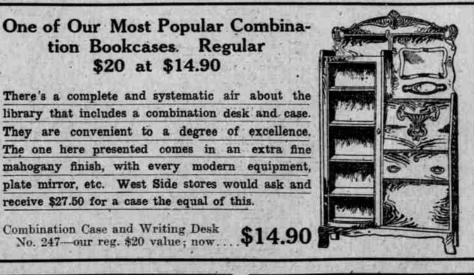
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