

NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

Russia scuttles all talk of making peace.

The czar gave General Stoessel a free hand at Port Arthur to do as he thought best.

More charges of land frauds implicate Idaho citizens, including Senator Heyburn, also Senator Clark, of Montana.

An Ohio river steamer blew up near Huntington, W. Va., killing 16 people and injuring 12 others. The steamer and 20 barges burned.

More than 500 delegates were present at the opening session of the American Forestry congress in Washington. Secretary Wilson welcomed the delegates and in his address advocated needed changes in present laws to protect the forests and water supply.

There is a movement on foot to secure legislation during this session of congress that will abolish the isthmian canal commission and place the construction under the direct supervision of a board of engineers. It is understood the president favors this plan. The present commission is flogging away too much time quarreling.

Bitter cold marked the incoming of the new year throughout the old world.

A British steamer has just arrived at New York with a cargo of 1,100 tons of European wheat.

The Oklahoma statehood bill will come before the senate immediately after the holiday recess.

Several torpedo boats escaped from Port Arthur and took refuge at Shanghai just prior to the surrender of the fortress.

Before surrendering Stoessel sunk the damaged warships in Port Arthur harbor. The Japanese severely criticize this.

Now that Port Arthur has fallen the bulk of the besieging army will be sent north, but some of them will go home. The army before Port Arthur is variously stated as being between 70,000 and 120,000 men.

If Senator Mitchell follows the inexorable rule of senatorial etiquette, he will not appear on the floor of the senate until the courts have taken final action in the matter of the indictment against him.

The cotton mill strike at Fall River, Mass., continues with both sides determined not to give in.

The grand of the Federal grand jury goes on, and another report for the expectant public will soon be made.

Silver is growing scarce. The price has advanced, and the market is such that the consumer waits on the producer.

Chicago held memorial services December 30 in remembrance of the Iroquois theater disaster, the occasion being the first anniversary.

Preparations are being made at Vladivostok for the reception in the dry docks of any of the Baltic squadron that may need docking when the fleet reaches that port.

The London city police have arrested two members of an international gang which for two or three years is alleged to have been conducting extensive forgeries in 25 Bank of England notes.

Boston's submarine tunnel is open for business. The tube is a mile and a half long, and connects Boston and East Boston, running under the harbor. The cost was three million dollars. About three and one-half years was consumed in constructing the tunnel.

Owing to the crisis in Morocco, the French navy shows great activity.

The Japanese attempts to raise the Russian cruiser Varig have been discontinued. It will be impossible to re-commence work before spring, by which time the steel plates forming the hull will be useless.

England is again enveloped in a heavy fog and all ships are detained at the mouth of the Thames, unable to proceed.

Admiral Kazankoff has been recalled as Russian commissioner in the North sea inquiry, and will be replaced by Vice Admiral Dubasoff. Sickness is given as the reason.

The Montana agricultural exhibits at St. Louis are being packed for shipment to Portland. The mineral exhibit will leave Butte for the Lewis and Clark fair shortly.

Kuropatkin is absolutely certain that he will ultimately win over the Japanese, while the vice governor of Japan's national bank says Japan must win, that no sacrifice is too great.

The Colorado canvassing board has given certificates of election to two Republican senators, whose places were contested by Democrats. Democrats regard it as highly probable that Governor Peabody will be reelected by this action.

Prince Yildoroff has been reported among the killed in a recent list sent to St. Petersburg.

The recent retirement of Rear Admiral Siles Terry has resulted in the promotion of Captain Joseph E. Craig to be admiral.

An officer from an English steamer just out from Vladivostok says no Russian torpedo boats have arrived there from Port Arthur.

Reports from points along the shore of Lake Michigan indicate that the damage resulting from the storm will aggregate \$500,000.

SUMMARY OF THE TERMS.

Russian Officers Go Home on Parole, Privates Remain Prisoners.

London, Jan. 5.—The Japanese legation yesterday published the terms of the agreement which served as the basis of the capitulation of Port Arthur. The agreement was signed by the Russian and Japanese commissioners, representing Generals Stoessel and Nogai respectively, and later by the commanders in chief themselves, the final consummation of it taking place in the evening of January 2.

The agreement consists of 11 articles. Several of them are of a purely technical nature. The essential points of the others are as follows: The entire fortress, with its surrounding fortifications, the ships still afloat in the harbor and the wrecks of those sunk and partly sunk, all arms and ammunition, the military buildings in the fortress and forts as well as in the old and new towns, together with all other government property, are to be surrendered to the Japanese. The latter agreed to respect and duly investigate all private rights and claims.

The Japanese reserve the right of free action relative to their claims for restitution and indemnity in the event of it becoming established that any forts, ships or other property were destroyed after the signatures had been affixed to the agreement. Impartial investigation of the reports alleging such violation of the properties of the surrender is promised, and the Russians agree to co-operate.

The plans of the forts still standing, destroyed or in the course of construction, the stock of torpedoes and mines, the lists containing information in reference to the placing of mines on land or sea within the confines of Port Arthur, as well as the lists with the names of all military and naval officers engaged in the defense, are to be delivered without deductions and erasures to the Japanese.

The soldiers, sailors and volunteers, as well as the officials under Russian jurisdiction, will become prisoners of the Japanese. The officers and officials will retain their arms and private property, however, in accordance with the expressed wish of the mikado, as a recognition of their gallantry in defending the fortress. These officers and officials are to be sent on parole to Russia.

As a guarantee of good faith, the forts at Incheon and Antsuan, together with other fortifications still standing, are to be surrendered to the Japanese not later than noon of January 3.

DOES MUCH DAMAGE.

Disastrous Fire in Plant of Union Meat Company at Portland.

Portland, Jan. 4.—Fire raged in the plant of the Union Meat company, Fourth and Glean streets, from 11:15 a.m. to 3 this morning, completely gutting the building. Loss on the structure, which was a three-story brick, is estimated at \$100,000, and on the contents \$150,000. This is partly covered by insurance.

Heated lard is believed to have started the fire. The flames burst out on the third floor, directly over the engine room. When the fire was first discovered by Night Engineer John Sleight, the flames were leaping in every direction above and streams of ammonia from the cold storage plant were dripping to the floors below.

Close to the fourth street side of the building, on a track of the Southern Pacific, stood several freight and refrigerator cars.

There was also a car of fuel oil. It stood where the flames were the hottest and for more than an hour it was the fear of the police and firemen that it would explode and deal death in every direction.

The flames leaped and burned furiously over and around the oil tank, but after an hour of heroic work the firemen succeeded in averting the danger and saving the car of oil. Those who had to fight close to the danger ground breathed a sigh of relief when they drove back the flames and were able to turn their attention to the building proper.

Ready to Mediate.

Washington, Jan. 5.—President Roosevelt has decided that he will offer his good offices to bring about peace between Russia and Japan whenever either party to the conflict shall request him to do so. He has heretofore insisted that both parties must request his good offices before taking any action. This view has been modified so that either can secure his interposition by asking it. The president does not think any step in the direction of peace will be taken in the immediate future, probably two or three months.

Honey Not Appointed.

Washington, Jan. 5.—President Roosevelt has not appointed Francis J. Heney district attorney for Oregon, to succeed John H. Hall, and no man will be permanently appointed to that office except a resident of the district of Oregon. Judge Bellinger has authority under the law temporarily to appoint a district attorney for Oregon while the vacancy exists. If Heney has been appointed district attorney it was by Bellinger's order, and the appointment will hold good only until the president fills this office permanently.

To Relieve Sufferers.

Wei Hai Wei, Jan. 5.—The British steamer Andromeda sailed for Port Arthur this morning carrying a large quantity of medical supplies, appliances and comforts for the Russian sick and wounded. The Andromeda had on board two surgeons and eight tons of stores, including 350 beds and 100,000 pounds of provisions. Her cargo was shipped on board last night, following the receipt of official permission to sail on the errand of mercy.

Japanese Occupy Forts.

Tokyo, Jan. 5.—The Japanese took possession of a number of the forts of Port Arthur today. The Russian officers are permitted to return to Russia upon parole, the officers retaining their side arms.

IN HANDS OF JAPS

Port Arthur Gives Up After Fighting Eleven Months.

CAUSES GREAT JOY IN TOKIO

Stoessel Confesses He Found Further Resistance Was Only a Useless Sacrifice of Lives.

New York, Jan. 3.—Port Arthur, whose kills for months have run red with the blood of the bravest of two warlike nations, has at last succumbed to the fierce tenacity of the Japanese attack. General Stoessel, most stubborn in carrying out the will of his sovereign, has seen the advance of the besieging army gain in momentum and energy, until to hold out longer would have been a crime against humanity.

The conditions of the surrender are not yet known, but in all quarters it is anticipated that they are such as an honorable soldier may accept from a brave and victorious enemy.

At 9:45 o'clock last night the commissioners completed signing of the capitulation agreement. Both armies had suspended hostilities five hours earlier. The city of Port Arthur will be occupied by the Japanese today.

The authorities at St. Petersburg, in the absence of direct official notice from General Stoessel that Port Arthur has surrendered, have not permitted the news to become public.

Ensign Nicholas is in the south of Russia, and his ministers are for the time being in the dark as to what dispatches have been sent to him from the front.

Tokyo is the scene of rejoicing, people finding in the outcome compensation for all the sacrifice of life and money that was entailed in the ten months' siege.

To what extent the fall of Port Arthur will make for a restoration of peace is an open question. There is an encouraging note in the expression of Baron Hayashi, Japanese minister to London, of the "hope that in some way it will facilitate final peace."

Both in Paris and London it is believed that the squadron under Vice Admiral Rojestvensky, which started from Libau for the Far East three months ago, will have to retrace its way home, as an adherence to the original plans would invite disaster without probability of effecting a juncture with the warships at present in the harbor of Vladivostok.

HALL IS REMOVED.

Summary Action by the President in Land Fraud Cases.

Washington, Jan. 3.—President Roosevelt has directed the absolute removal of John H. Hall, United States district attorney for the district of Oregon. The action was taken at the request of Francis J. Heney, who was being conducted, as the nominal assistant of Mr. Hall, the land fraud cases in Oregon.

The announcement of this action was made by Attorney General Moody as he was leaving the White house after a conference with the president. Mr. Moody declined to say what the charges against Mr. Hall were, if any, but did say that it was for the good of the service to dispense with him, particularly in regard to the conduct of the land fraud cases now being investigated.

Mitchell and Hermann Indicted.

Portland, Jan. 3.—The Federal grand jury indicted the returned indictments against Senator Mitchell, Binger Hermann and George Sorenson. Mitchell and Hermann were indicted jointly and are charged with having conspired with all of the defendants heretofore indicted to defraud the government out of land situated in township 11 south, range 7 east. Sorenson is indicted for having offered a bribe of \$5,000 to District Attorney Hall on March 28 last, when the indictment against the conspirators who were convicted in the recent trial was pending in the Federal court.

New Navy for Russia.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 4.—With reference to the report published in the United States under a St. Petersburg date that Emperor Nicholas has petitioned the expenditure of \$80,000,000 for rebuilding the navy, the fact is that Russia's naval program has not yet been definitely decided or promulgated. All that is positively known is that plans cover a long period of years. The absolute necessity of sea power is one of Russia's latest lessons of the present war.

New Zion in Mexico.

Chicago, Jan. 4.—John Alexander Dowie, in addressing his followers in Shiloh temple, Zion City, today, gave definite confirmation of the report that he proposes to establish a second Zion City. The new Zion City will be located in Mexico, Dowie told his followers, and will occupy a portion of a tract of 1,000,000 acres fronting on the Gulf of Mexico. He announced that he expected to have the modern Zion City in full operation before January 1, 1906.

Bay City Is Shocked.

San Francisco, Jan. 4.—This city experienced a number of earthquake shocks today. At 3:20 o'clock a severe shock, which lasted for six seconds, occurred. At 4:25 o'clock and a few minutes before 8 o'clock tonight other shocks were felt. The plate glass in the few buildings was shattered. One of the small towers on the city hall was twisted. Officials at the hall, however, say that the tower was faultily constructed.

Gold Suspends Mobilization.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 4.—The intense cold weather which prevails in the center of Russia has caused a temporary suspension of the mobilization and movement of troops. Today the temperature is 40 degrees below Fahrenheit.

FIND THE TRUTH.

Denver Election Frauds to be Probed to the Bottom.

Denver, Jan. 4.—Stretching its hands so as to cast a shadow over every man and woman in any way implicated in election frauds in the city and county of Denver, on, before or after November 8, the supreme court has ordered an investigation so sweeping in its scope that every phase of the election may be scrutinized and everything that bears upon it in any way may be made known by judicial inquiry.

Alva Adams, Democratic candidate for governor, who appeared from the returns to have been elected, but who has declared that he does not want the office tainted with fraud, asked the court to open every Denver ballot box, but the order of the court goes beyond the mere examination of the ballots and provides for an investigation of the registration lists, the campaign expenditures, and, in brief, all election matters.

Samuel W. Belford, attorney for Adams and Henry J. Hervey, attorney for the Republicans, asked the court to make its order of such breadth that the court need not stop at anything in the investigation. The court said that was what it meant to do, and instructed the lawyers to agree upon the wording of the order, and present it to the court for approval.

Chief Justice Gilbert said that while the petition did not state facts entitling the petitioner to such an investigation as proposed, the court had decided that an investigation might be in discovering the guilty persons who were responsible for the commission of the gross frauds that had been revealed in the contempt proceedings. There must have been some persons behind the election officers and others who committed frauds, the court believed.

GUILTY ONES DISCHARGED.

Ball Cartridges Among Blanks Are Traced to the Packers.

Washington, Jan. 4.—As the result of investigation made by direction of General Crozier, chief of ordnance, it has been ascertained that among the 1,750,000 blank cartridges issued last summer to the regular and militia troops which took part in the maneuvers at Manassas, Va., and in California, two ball cartridges were found, one at the Virginia camp and the other in California. The person who packed the California cartridge was traced by the initials on the box and was promptly discharged. In the Virginia case it was impossible to find the offender.

As an additional precaution, all the blank cartridge cases at the Frankford arsenal have been overhauled and weighed, with the result that one ball cartridge was found. In that case the person who packed the case was discharged.

To guard against the possibility of such an occurrence, General Crozier has directed that each box of blank cartridges shall be weighed before sealing. The presence of a ball cartridge can be easily detected by this method.

WHIP WIFE-BEATERS.

Washington Grand Jury Adopts the President's Suggestion.

Washington, Jan. 3.—The local grand jury in making its final report for the present term of the supreme court of the District of Columbia today recommended the establishment of a whipping-post in the district. The question has been much agitated ever since the president in his last annual message recommended corporal punishment for wife-beaters in the District of Columbia. The recommendation of the jury was as follows:

"The efficacy of establishing the whipping-post as a means of punishing wife-beaters and petty lawless offenses has been investigated by this body, and the majority of the members are of the opinion that it would prove very effective in reducing the number of these reprehensible crimes."

Bandits Are Supreme.

Paris, Jan. 4.—The measures contemplated by the French government for the security of the neighborhood of the towns in Morocco have not yet been completed, partly owing to the fact that there has not yet been the time necessary for the purpose since France first undertook the task, and partly because many matters of detail remain to be settled when the French representative, M. Saint Rebe Taillander, meets the sultan at Fez at the end of the month. Oriental dilatoriness also counts for something in the delay.

Island Under Water.

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 4.—The rich bottom land farms of Westham Island, at the mouth of the Fraser river, are all under water. Much property has been damaged, and many heads of livestock drowned. Several breaks occurred in the dikes surrounding the island last night, owing to the extremely high tide, together with the rough weather, and the water streamed in on the farming lands all night and now a great portion of the island is covered to the depth of from three to four feet.

Coal for Russian Fleet.

Bombay, Jan. 4.—Russian agents here are endeavoring to purchase 100 tons of coal and to charter vessels to carry it. Up to the present no shipments have been made, but it is believed that the British steamer Henry Bolckow, of 639 tons net, owned by the Bombay & Persian steam navigation company, limited, of Bombay, has been sold to Russia. She has sailed hence in ballast for Saigon, French Cochinchina.

Two Cruisers Return.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 4.—A report that the cruisers Orel and Izumrud, of the second Pacific squadron, had been ordered to return is current here, but lacks official confirmation. If the report should prove true, Vice Admiral Rojestvensky may be obliged to await reinforcements from the Third Pacific squadron.

By Order of the Czar

A Story of Russian Power

BY MARCUS EASTLAKE

CHAPTER XI.

I hear once more the harsh grating of a prison key behind me, and I am fain to groan aloud as I lean against the wall. All is dark before my eyes, whilst my anguished soul cries, "Lost! Lost! God-forsaken!"

Suddenly I feel a rough hand grasp my shoulder, and I am swung forward, and find myself the center of a score of faces, all peering and grinning into mine.

I realize that I am in a general cell; that these are my fellow prisoners, and the wretched blood leaps to my head. I shake myself free and turn eagerly to see who has dared to molest me. In my present desperate mood I am not to be trifled with.

My looks fall on a short, broad, powerfully built man in the black sheepskin coat of a Cossack, "bush" and a pair of bold eyes glitter and dance like wild fire. He stands before me now, with his broad, brown hands on his hips, his body thrown back, and both attitude and mien bespeaking insolent defiance.

"Confound your impudence! What mean you?" I roar.

"I merely wish to look at you, brother," he replies with cool deliberation. "I am interested, we are all interested in our country's affairs."

"You insolent, presuming brute!" I gnash on him in fury. The laugh that goes round makes it blaze up like oil on flames. I make a rush so violently and unexpectedly on the Cossack that he staggers back, and but for those behind him would have fallen.

A hubbub of voices is raised: "Go on! him! Show your mettle, little father! Bunsbuck, brothers! At him! At him!"

The Cossack has resumed his balance. His huge nostrils swell out, his breath rushes through them with a snorting noise like a horse. He bends his head forward and does a blazon preparing for attack. In another moment he has dashed on me, and his preternaturally long arms encircle my middle like bars of iron.

"Squeeze him! hug him! Well done, Yank!" shriek the voices, accompanied with such noises as are used to encourage fighting dogs. I draw in my breath, and lifting the Cossack off his feet, fling him from side to side to try and shake him off, but in vain. He clings to me like a ghastly semibreve of a man, whilst he hangs me like this, so we struggle together, neither gaining an advantage for full five minutes; until a sudden movement on my part brings us both to the ground. I am on top, and he is on my back. And now he loses his hold, and instantly I catch the gleam of steel.

My hand closes on his wrist like a vice. I wrench the weapon from his grasp and fling it from me.

"Coward!" he hisses, and deals him a blow on the head that makes it rebound, like the cracking of a coconut against the floor.

His limbs relax. A deep groan escapes his breast, and I am free to rise. I do so, and stand gasping for breath and looking down on my prostrate foe. His jaw drops, and his black eyes roll up, exhibiting the whites, giving him the ghastly semblance of a madman. And now that my passion has spent itself, I shudder with disgust at my own folly and degradation.

"I fear you have finished him," observes some one.

"Served him right!" growls another. "He is a coward and a traitor!"

"Yes, yes, serve him right!" join in the chorus. "You have acted like a true man! You are one of the right sort."

Their compliments only increase my disgust. What care I for the opinion of such as these? I make no reply, but stalk over to the furthest corner of the cell and sit down on one of the inclined boards that are ranged round the wall.

I watch them draw the insensible Cossack to another board, and leave his brow with water from a picher. Almost immediately he revivifies and sits up, seeking me with his roving eyes. When they have found me, he rises and staggers toward me.

"I am a hound and thou art a brave man!" he says hoarsely. "Forgive me; it was not I who sought to harm thee. I had possession of the knife, and I knew not what I did!"

He waits not for my reply, but suddenly leaves my side, picks up the knife from the floor where I had hurled it, and returns it to me.

"Take it," he urges, "it is thine! I smuggled it in concealed in the folds of my sash. Speak me with it if thou wilt. My life is thine!"

As he speaks thus, his voice shakes with emotion and his dark face works strangely. I am touched with the man's contrition in spite of myself.

"Keep the dagger," I say, "it may be useful to thee, and give me rather thy hand!"

"Remember my words: My life is thine!" he reiterated. "Thou hast bought Yank, body and soul. I will not give thee another word, without giving me the chance of expressing the regret that is on my lips, that I should have taken his harmless sport so badly, he goes back to his board and stretches himself on it. His fellow prisoners crowd round him with questions and remarks, but he regards them not, and turning to the wall, remains perfectly still.

A few minutes they have forgotten us both. A tall, lean Jew sits apart, numbing to himself, and swaying his body to and fro. Ere long the loud, long-drawn sobs of the Cossack mingled with the general din.

Thus the weary hours flow sluggishly merging into each other, until a break comes in the shape of a couple of ward-bellows bearing an enormous pal of cabbage soup, which they dole out to us in tin vessels, and a basketful of black bread, in rations.

I had wondered where I should get my next meal. Little thought I that it would be supplied to me free of charge by the Russian government.

After supper the warders light two oil lamps that hang high up against the wall. They illumine the cell with a murky yellow light the motley scene. For a time the games are renewed; coarse jests are bandied, followed by loud guffaws; songs with rollicking choruses are sung to the music of fiddle; then gradually the boards are filled. A few lingers wrangling over a game, until the disputed point is decided by a majority, and they too seek repose.

Vainly I look from side to side. My gloomy musings are interrupted by the appearance of the Cossack, gliding toward me in the dim, yellow light. He squats himself noiselessly on the floor at my head, and gazes at me silently for some minutes. I am the first to speak.

"I am sorry I hurt you," I whisper. "Forgive me, Yank! I might have taken your harmless jesting in better part."

"Name it not," he whispers back. "It

would have served me right hadst thou dashed out my brains with that wicked tell me," he murmurs, falling into the familiar second person which seems natural to him, "why thou art here? I would help thee if I saw."

I hesitate. Shall I tell this man my strange, eventful story? Though I know, or think I know that it lies not in the power of any man to help me in my dire straits, yet it will be an unspoken relief to me to unburden my mind to a sympathetic listener. And there is that in this man's manner which inspires me with the conviction of his good faith.

"Hast thou heard of Vladimir Alexandrovitch Lubanoff?"

He starts and stares at me. "All Russia has heard of him," he replies. "I am he."

CHAPTER XII.

As I utter the words the Cossack gazes at me as if I were a ghost. For a moment he seems to be smitten dumb with amazement. His eyes eagerly follow me, and a flush of color rushes to his swarthy cheeks and a strange light to his eyes. He raises his cap and bows his head before me as if I were a king.

"Wonderful! Wonderful!" he murmurs. "I believed not the rumor of thy marvelous escape. There is truly nothing too strange to happen in this prison of worlds. Tell me about it, I pray thee."

Then in low tones I relate to him my history. When I have come to an end he clasps his brow with his broad fingers, and looks himself for fully ten minutes in profound thought. Sometimes he draws a heavy breath, as one does when encountering some obstacle that must be overcome. At last he looks up.

"I have hope," he says. "Be of good cheer, my noble brother. Listen," he says. "One of the warders about the prison is a friend of mine. He is a Cossack, though he has donned the government uniform, and we come from the same district. My term of imprisonment expires to-morrow, and if money and skill acquaintanceship fail to win him over, I am not the son of my mother. I know my Cossack. I will arouse in him the slumbering longings for the wild free life of the Steppes. I will make the sight of a uniform hateful to him, and discipline an unendurable yoke. Then I will tell him of thee. The Cossacks love generosity and worship bravery; moreover, he is ever ready for adventure. Nor is gold without its charm for him, and I have the wherewithal to bribe him. Only wait patiently until we have laid our heads together and planned. And when time is ripe we will act."

Again he wrinkles his brow and seems to think deeply with his eyes on the ground, and again he bends toward me to pour into my ear the result of his cogitations.

"In a few hours, probably, thou wilt be led before the Prefect for private examination. Encourage the suspicion that thou art an important political offender, then they will most likely put thee in a private cell—or, better still, confine at once with thee, and I will make sure of solitary confinement. Under no circumstances must thou gain sight but time by withholding thy name; it must be discovered sooner or later."

"Be it so," I respond resolutely. "I will follow thy counsel."

At this juncture the gaunt figure of the Jew rises in the opposite corner, and his mummings reach us. Yank gives me a squeeze. "Courage! Hope!" he murmurs, ere he glides back to his board.

Yank is gone. He was removed from the cell an hour ago, and thrown toward me a significant glance as he passed out. And now, again the door of the cell is opened. This time for me, and I am led along several corridors, down a short flight of stone steps into an anteroom. I find myself standing at the end of a long table.

Opposite me in an armchair sits a little, gray man, in the undress uniform of a general. At a glance I ascertain that the Governor occupies another armchair somewhat apart and that Andrei Plotovitch and the two gendarmes who took me in custody are also present.

The little gray man, who is of course the Prefect, eyes me for some forty seconds, and then he rises and comes out of a bush of fuzzy gray hair in a manner that is intended to strike me with awe.

"In the first place," he begins, "please to inform me whether thou art a Jew or an envelope," here he lifts Maruch's letter from the top of some papers that lie before him. "Waldemar Nicolavitch Alianoff, is your real name or an assumed one?"

"It is an assumed one," I reply promptly.

"Humph!" he ejaculates. "Ah—indeed! Perhaps, as you seem disposed to be candid, you will also inform me by what name I may with confidence have the honor of addressing you?"

"Certainly. My name is Vladimir Alexandrovitch Lubanoff."

"If a smoking bombshell had fallen into their midst it could not have created a greater sensation. An amazed exclamation arises to every lip, followed by a stir as of a sudden breeze among the trees. Andrei Plotovitch is the first to break the silence that succeeds.

"Ha!" he exclaims. "Hinted I not so, my uncle? I recognized him, and mine is the reward! You must confess, Vladimir Alexandrovitch, that I recognized you?"

For reply I cast on him a look of scorn. "Hold thy prating tongue, Andrei!" I hear the Governor whisper, as he flushes deeply or thou wilt compel me to expose thy lies!"

Meanwhile the Prefect has recovered himself.

You admit that you are the Vladimir Alexandrovitch who by some marvelous mischance escaped the fate you so richly merited?" he questions.

"I am that man,"