

CZAR IS IN DOUBT

Whether He Shall Call Zemsky Sobor or Not.

DIVISION IN HIS COUNCILS

Liberals Urge That He Trust the People, but Supporters of Despotism Point to Fate of Louis in France as a Warning.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 15. (11:40 P. M.)—In spite of Emperor Nicholas' personal inclination in favor of the Zemsky Sobor, as intimated to Count Leo Tolstoy, the imperial decision to summon the parliament has not yet been taken.

"I myself have frankly urged upon His Majesty," the Minister said, "the view that the time has come when the people should be consulted in all important matters of the government; and the same counsel has been given by others, who believe that the moderate liberal element which is drifting away from the court is the only one which will support the Government."

"It is no secret, however, that powerful influences about His Majesty are pressing the contrary view and advancing strong arguments which cannot lightly be thrust aside. Precipitation is impossible, although the people, who are laboring under excitement, seem to forget that for such a sweeping innovation as this is necessary to formulate and elaborate the scheme for the electorate, composition and functions of the body. Reasons of state must which might make it inadvisable to summon such a body during the war, since the government is unitedly of the opinion that peace is impossible now. But if the Zemsky Sobor is to be convened at the close of the war, a proclamation should be issued now."

"Yet, no matter what the Emperor's decision may be, the manifesto on reforms on which the committee of ministers is working will be a body of great good. The manifesto is that all the disintegrated classes are skeptical. The situation is deplorable, but not critical. There may be trouble and disorders, even on a comparatively large scale, though there will be no crisis unless the discontent extends to the rural districts. There will be a revival of the country, coupled with political agitation in the cities, no one can predict what may happen."

It is understood that one of the arguments used by revolutionaries for the revival of the Zemsky Sobor is the fact that the body in the old days wielded immense power, being itself responsible for the elevation of the monarch to the throne and therefore it might even undertake, if again called, to elect a new ruler.

Generally speaking, the position of the opposition to the Zemsky Sobor is well voiced editorially in today's Moscow Gazette, the leading exponent of the absolute autocracy of Russia, in which it is prophesied that any system of national assembly will lead to a struggle between it and the Emperor which will inevitably end in the overthrow of the autocracy. The article draws a parallel between the present political situation and the nihilist terrorism, which almost wrung a constitution from Alexander II and after his assassination confronted Alexander III with a choice of alternatives. The article continues:

"Then, as now, the public press loudly proclaimed that without a parliament or Zemsky Sobor Russia must perish. The revolutionaries were so intimidated by an insignificant group of terrorists that it came to believe that Russia could be saved only by the Zemsky Sobor, the assembly of the people, the sovereign. But Alexander understood that the first consideration for the welfare of Russia was the restoration of order. The government, and not the people, were to be restored. The Zemsky Sobor, then, received Russia from revolution. What was true then is true now. Suppose the government were turned over to such men as composed the Zemsky Sobor, who, without the consent of the ruler, adopted resolutions and otherwise incited the people to open revolt; if real power were lodged in their hands, the result would be an open quarrel, resulting either in civil war or the dismemberment of the autocracy by revolution. Those who imagine that danger can be averted by restricting representation to privileged classes need only remember France and 1789, when the third estate expelled the other two, and, assuming the King, so in Russia, a Zemsky Sobor of the privileged Zemsky class would only be a stepping-stone to universal representation, which would be bound to destroy the rule of the autocracy."

SITUATION AT LODZ IS GRAVE

Strikers Are Belligerent and Martial Law May Be Proclaimed.

LODZ, Feb. 15.—The situation here is becoming serious. Fewer men were working today than on any other day, suffering among the families of strikers. The director of the Coates Thread Mills, at his own expense, is daily giving dinner to the workmen's children, of whom 250 were present today.

The Governor himself admits that the conditions are very grave. He is anxious to avert bloodshed, but fears it will be difficult. He has peremptorily ordered soldiers to refrain from exciting the animosity of the strikers, and that they must not shoot unless attacked first. The attitude of the strikers shows increasing hostility. The Governor fears that it will be necessary for him to proclaim martial law and this probably will end the strike, but it may cost many lives.

The miners are hesitating and unable to reach an agreement with regard to concessions. The large mill remains closed. The situation tonight appears to be most grave, and unless the deadlock is shortly broken the outlook for a settlement is extremely discouraging.

STUDENTS OUT ON A STRIKE

Refuse to Resume Studies Till Czar Grants Reforms.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 15. (4:30 A. M.)—Students throughout Russia are resorting to strike methods to indicate their dissatisfaction with existing political conditions and press the demands for reform. The students at the University of Moscow, the largest institution of the kind in Russia, have voted to resume their studies during the present school year. The spirit possesses the students of the St. Petersburg, Kiev, and other large universities, even extending to the seminaries and lower schools.

BUSINESS MEN FOR REFORM

Government Impressed by Unanimity of Popular Demand.

MOSCOW, Feb. 15.—It is asserted by leading nobles of this city that the rumored determination of the Czar to grant large practical concessions to the

THIRD FLEET SAILS

Seven More Ships to Fight Japanese.

WILL JOIN ROJESTVENSKY

Much-Hated Alexis Sees Them Break Way Through Ice at Libau—Admiral Will Not Await Them for Fear of Monsoons.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 15.—Public opinion becomes steadily more threatening. "Down with the Romanoff dynasty" is heard in the saloons, theaters and streets. News from the provinces reveals a similar situation. Peasants along the Volga, notably in Saratov, Samara and Kazan and Central Russia, particularly in Voronezh, Krasnodar, Orel and Moscow, refuse to pay their state taxes, saying that they are unable to do so and that, unless the Czar grants them land under the which paid little attention to it. When, however, the representatives of industry and finance take similar views, the authorities realize that their situation is becoming entirely untenable.

"DOWN WITH THE ROMANOFFS"

Cry of All Classes in Russia, Who Are Enraged at Bureaucrats.

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THREE PLANS FOR ASSEMBLY

Is Considering Them and Will Probably Adopt Broadest.

SPECIAL CABLE. LONDON, Feb. 15.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Chronicle is informed by one high in court circles that the Czar is considering three schemes for a popular assembly, each as has been demanded by the strikers. The first of these is that of Count Leo Tolstoy, the second is that of Count Ignatiev, and the third is that of the one Alexander wished to introduce before his death, and a third by an eminent author, whose name is kept secret and which is the most comprehensive of them all. It plans that all classes, races and religions be represented. It is likely, says the correspondent's informant, that this last scheme will be the one adopted.

WILL GIVE EVERY MAN A VOTE

Czar Proposes Universal Suffrage for Zemsky Zabor.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 15.—M. Souvarin, editor of the Novoye Vremya, discussing the proposed assembling of the Zemsky Zabor, quotes the view of the Emperor, according to the St. Petersburg assembly will lead to a struggle between it and the Emperor which will inevitably end in the overthrow of the autocracy. The article draws a parallel between the present political situation and the nihilist terrorism, which almost wrung a constitution from Alexander II and after his assassination confronted Alexander III with a choice of alternatives. The article continues:

"Then, as now, the public press loudly proclaimed that without a parliament or Zemsky Sobor Russia must perish. The revolutionaries were so intimidated by an insignificant group of terrorists that it came to believe that Russia could be saved only by the Zemsky Sobor, the assembly of the people, the sovereign. But Alexander understood that the first consideration for the welfare of Russia was the restoration of order. The government, and not the people, were to be restored. The Zemsky Sobor, then, received Russia from revolution. What was true then is true now. Suppose the government were turned over to such men as composed the Zemsky Sobor, who, without the consent of the ruler, adopted resolutions and otherwise incited the people to open revolt; if real power were lodged in their hands, the result would be an open quarrel, resulting either in civil war or the dismemberment of the autocracy by revolution. Those who imagine that danger can be averted by restricting representation to privileged classes need only remember France and 1789, when the third estate expelled the other two, and, assuming the King, so in Russia, a Zemsky Sobor of the privileged Zemsky class would only be a stepping-stone to universal representation, which would be bound to destroy the rule of the autocracy."

RUSSIAN STRIKE DYING OUT

Fear Now Turns to Railroads and Shortage of Coal.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 15.—The latest reports from Lodz indicate that the strike situation at Warsaw and Lodz is exhausting itself. At several points in Southern Russia, however, individual strikes are reported, notably at the locomotive works of Kharkoff, but the men's demands were immediately met. The question of the coal supply for the iron industry of the south is growing daily more critical. The possibility that the strikers on privately owned railroads will limit their demands according to the men employed on the government roads, and the Moscow-Kiev road, who have presented an ultimatum to that effect. But altogether the outlook continues to improve.

BAND OF HEROES FIGHTS ARMY

Heroic Defense of Japanese Company Against 3000 Cossacks.

VICTORIA, B. C., Feb. 15.—Advices were received today by the steamship Tremont of a dramatic incident during the recent Russian cavalry raid on Yinkow and the Japanese communication south of Liao Yang. A Japanese infantry company under Captain Yasuhara was surrounded by about 3000 Cossacks near Anshantien at a commissariat depot. There was a Chinese horse near under cover of which the Japanese made a desperate stand for seven hours. They were driven out and recaptured the Chinese house, driving out the Cossacks with the enemy with bayonets. In the night the Russians set fire to the house and the defenders were compelled to retreat. Captain Yasuhara and others who were severely wounded were unable to escape. They committed hari-kari and threw themselves in the flames. A surgeon named Namba was wounded and also killed. A Red Cross band was attached to his arm, the Russians arrested the Japanese surgeon and threw him into the flames of a coal house. On arriving at Vigo the cooler joined the Russian squadron and continued in its company to Madagascar. There the seamen related the circumstances to the authorities and were sent home.

CONTRABAND FOR VLADIVOSTOK

British Steamer Loaded by Germans With Suspicious Cargo in London.

SPECIAL CABLE. LONDON, Feb. 15.—The Union-Castle liner Roslin Castle, which arrived at Tilbury last night, discharged her crew at once, took on a German crew which was awaiting her arrival, had her hull painted black, hoisted the German flag and was renamed the Regina. After this quick transformation, the crew began loading the vessel with 100 barrels of gunpowder and pork, 6000 sides of fresh beef, 2000 cases of butter, 100 casks of rum and 500 boxes of serge cloth. The suspicious circumstances gave rise to questions by the customs authorities, but little information was given outside of the statement that the destination of the vessel was a German crew which was in possession in Kiaochow Bay, on the east coast of China. It is generally thought the provisions are destined for the Russian Vladivostok port, and it is believed that two Japanese agents are watching the vessel and will doubtless warn their government to be on the lookout for the Regina.

WILL SAVE SOME RUSSIAN SHIPS

Japanese at Port Arthur Will Use Them Against Rojostvensky.

VICTORIA, B. C., Feb. 15.—The steamship Tremont, which arrived today, brought news that vessels, including many warships, will be added to Japanese naval strength as a result of salvage operations now being conducted at Port Arthur. Investigation shows that the destruction wrought by the Russians on the war vessels at the moment of surrender was by no means as great as im-

JAPANESE HAD BEST TOOLS

Stoessel Gives New Explanation of Capture and Denounces Navy.

GOING TO JOIN ROJESTVENSKY

Russian Ministers Rejoice at Departure of Third Squadron.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 15. (4:30 A. M.)—The departure of Admiral Nebogatov's division of four battleships, one cruiser and two auxiliary cruisers from Libau yesterday to reinforce Vice-Admiral Rojostvensky's squadron in the Far East, is a source of gratification to the Admiralty, in view of the difficulties caused by the strike. The point of rendezvous with Rojostvensky is not stated, but it is understood that it is beyond the Indian Ocean. Vice-Admiral Rojostvensky being under instructions not to delay in the monsoon period the resumption of his cruise.

WRANGLE AMONG THE OFFICERS

Army and Navy Commanders From Port Arthur Are Knockers.

PARIS, Feb. 15.—French special correspondents sent to meet the French steamer Australian, having on board General Stoessel and other officers of the Third Squadron of Port Arthur, forwarded detailed accounts of discord among the Russian officers. The army officers are particularly hostile to the fleet, habitually calling it the "righteously fleet." Admiral Lockinsky, who was commander of the torpedo defenses at Port Arthur, is lengthily quoted as making bitter criticism of General Stoessel, and Admiral Alexieff and others. The Mail quotes Lockinsky as characterizing Vice-Admiral Stark and Rear-Admiral Witboef as "bochamers" (bumblers), and acquainted with their duties and snick-whenever aboard."

CAVALRY ATTACK HAS BEGUN

Strong Force of Cossacks Crosses River on Oyama's Left.

TOKIO, Feb. 15.—The Russians have begun an extensive cavalry movement against Field Marshal Oyama's extreme left. Last night they were attempting to cross the Chitaita river, near the village of Tachia, and attempted to cross at 6 o'clock in the evening, advancing on Iseokoutai (Pekowtai). The sailing of Oyama's center continues.

COURT-MARTIALS ALL AROUND

Novoye Vremya Proposes One for Kuropatkin Also.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 15.—In view of the continued attacks on and criticisms of General Kuropatkin, which are prejudicial to the Russian arms, the Novoye Vremya, in an extended defense of the Commander-in-Chief, proposes that a commission composed of retired officers be appointed to pass judgment on the General.

NEW RUMORS OF PEACE MOVE

Hurried Meeting of British Cabinet Caused by Dispatches.

SPECIAL CABLE. LONDON, Feb. 15.—The Central News reports a rumor that a second meeting of the Cabinet was called last night, caused by the arrival of most important dispatches from the Far East with regard to the possibility of peace between Japan and Russia. The report is not confirmed.

REFUSE TO SAIL ON CONTRABAND SHIPS

PARIS, Feb. 15.—Forty sailors from the French steamer Esperance, belonging to a marine corps, refused to sail on board the Madagascar mailboat, having refused to engage in contraband traffic. The Esperance sailed from Barry, England, October 25, ostensibly for Saigon, with a cargo of coal. On arriving at Vigo the cooler joined the Russian squadron and continued in its company to Madagascar. There the seamen related the circumstances to the authorities and were sent home.

STOESSEL SAILS FOR ODESSA

PORT SAID, Feb. 15.—General Stoessel and 573 officers and men from Port Arthur sailed this afternoon for Odessa on board the steamer St. Nicholas.

Catarrh

Invites Consumption

It weakens the delicate lung tissues, deranges the digestive organs, and breaks down the general health. It often causes headache and dizziness, impairs the taste, smell and hearing, and affects the voice. Being a constitutional disease it requires a constitutional remedy.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Radically and permanently cures catarrh of the nose, throat, stomach, bowels, and more delicate organs. Read the testimonials. No substitute for Hood's acts like Hood's. Be sure to get Hood's.

WOMEN'S FINE SPRING HOSE

at 50c and \$1. Interested? See the Magnificent Window Display—Fifth Street.

The new Spring displays pass every former showing in scope and range. Magnificent and dainty products of the expert skill of the Chemnitz folk in far away Saxony. Fine hosiery in gauze and regular light weights, in delicate fancy striped designs, beautifully embroidered lace boots that look fragile as cobwebs, but are strong and broderie anglaise, lace, embroidered effects, dainty embroidered boots, grenadiers and other patterns, bewitchingly fetching. All the beautiful colorings are embraced that Queen Fashion favors for her devotees. Every whim and caprice of the style goddess is here. Emeralds, violets, unions, mandarin, Morocco, Dresden blue; a wonderful assortment of tans, wools, blacks, etc.—and the prices are so reasonable. Take a peep at the lines marked 50c and \$1.00. (See These in the Window Showings.)

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REMARKABLE BARGAINS

in Knit Underwear
Women's long - sleeve Vests, medium weight—50c value. 25c
Women's cream tinted cotton Union Suits—75c value 38c
Women's black Wool Suits—150c value, pair 50c
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PORTLAND'S LARGEST FOREMOST STORE The Different Store 57.67 Washington Sts. PORTLAND'S LARGEST FOREMOST STORE Olds, Wortman & King

THE FEBRUARY REDUCTION SALES GAIN MOMENTUM EVERY HOUR!

NEW GOODS are arriving by every express, and fast as marked are assigned their proper place in the stocks—and more room is needed. We apply the spur of matchless bargains and the February trade nag quickens her pace—leaving room in her wake for incoming merchandise. There's bargains on every floor, bargains in every department—bargains for women, bargains for men, bargains for the boys, the girls, and even the infants. Bargains for everybody here this week at this popular store. Bargains of the most pronounced sort. Lots too small to advertise, odds and ends of our best and most seasonable merchandise, and full lines of desirable goods are offered at special bargain prices. Surprising values everywhere. Every counter and shelf laden with hosts of chances to save. The more you buy now the more money you'll have in your purse months later. Examples—mere mentions:

Public Tea Room Second Floor. Auspices Portland Y. W. C. A. Menu for Thursday, Feb. 16. Tea, Coffee, Chocolate. Milk Served in Bottles. Pastry, Lobster Salad, Hot Rolls, Boston Brown Bread, Ham Sandwiches, Tea Cakes.

Extra Special Hosiery Values Remarkable Bargains in Knit Underwear. Women's Black Cotton Hose, Double 25c value, pair 17c. Women's Black Cotton Hose, with embroidered heels—50c value, pair 29c. Women's Black Wool Hose, seamless, ribbed top—25c value, pair 18c. Children's Black Worsteds Hose, fine ribbed—18c value to 35c, pair. Children's Black Worsteds Hose, good heavy weight, splendid 50c value, sizes 9, 9 1/2 and 10 only; special, pair 25c. Child's Black Cotton Hose, finished foot, medium weight—25c value, all sizes, pair 17c. Children's Black Cotton Hose—values at, pair 12c.

A Complete Business Education Free! AN L. C. S. SCHOLARSHIP GIVEN ABSOLUTELY FREE, INCLUDING TEXT BOOKS, BY OLDS, WORTMAN & KING. The Vote at 6 P. M. Wednesday.

NEW SPRING SHOWINGS OF COLORED DRESS GOODS. Two Grand Specials for Our Introduction of New Spring Goods. 42-inch Imported French Voile, crisp, wavy finish, in cream, black and all the new street colors—\$1.25 Our grand value at \$1.00 per yard; special introductory price, yd. 70c. 54-inch all-wool Tailor Suitings, in illuminated "neat stripes and checks. All color combinations in the assortment. Our grand value, per yard value; special introductory price, per yard, \$1.00.

BARGAINS FOR MEN—This Week in "The Toggery". All of our Best Home Fancy Colored Shirts, regardless of make, at half price during this sale—OUR \$1.50 VALUES—75c. OUR \$1.00 VALUES—50c. MEN'S FLANNEL GOLF SHIRTS. Only a small line now left—at half price or OUR \$1.25 VALUES—63c. Special at, each 85c. OUR \$1.75 VALUES—85c. Special at, each.

Millinery Values That Attract. Anon, Second Floor. \$2.50 AND \$3.50 READY-TO-WEAR HATS FOR 49c. Ready-to-wear Hats, in fancy shape—trimmed with brims, wings or ornaments, etc.—our \$2.50 and \$3.50 values, special at 49c. \$5.00 TO \$8.00 TRIMMED HATS FOR \$1.98. Only a few of them left. Hand-somely trimmed shapes; splendid for \$5.00 to \$8.00—special! all this week at, each \$1.98.

Women's \$25 to \$28.50 Tailored STREET SUITS \$8.95. Splendidly tailored in finest workmanship, in handsome mixed serges, chevrets, homespuns and smart mannish mixed tweedish materials and a color range embracing plain blacks, blues, browns and fashionable mixtures, plain tailored or in newest trimming effects; the best regular values ever offered in the city for from \$25.00 to \$28.50—our choice today and rest of week—until closed—\$8.95.

HERCULES BRAIDS AT HALF PRICE. A good assortment of colored Hercules Braids; from one-half to 2 1/2 inches wide. Every yard in the lot worth to \$1.98; not a yard at just ONE-HALF FORMER PRICES. \$1.00 AND \$1.50 ORIENTAL LACES. A lot of Oriental laces, assorted patterns; in cream and ecru—our regular \$1.00 and \$1.50 values; each yard worth to \$1.98; not a yard at just ONE-HALF FORMER PRICES. 49c.