

FREE THE CHURCH

New Cry for Liberty Goes Up in St. Petersburg.

VOICED BY LEADING CLERGY

They Ask That Church Be Freed From Subjection to the State and That Church Council Be Called.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 1.—(G. A. M.)—A movement for severing the traditional relations between church and state and giving to the Holy Orthodox church independence and separate rule, which will increase its influence among the people of Russia, has found favor with an important group of clergymen at the capital, and a noteworthy document setting forth the views of those of this persuasion, which was presented to the Metropolitan Antonius of St. Petersburg, has been received with sufficient consideration to insure its publication in the Church Messenger, the official organ of the diocese of St. Petersburg, and one of the most important religious papers in the realm.

The document, after arguing that the church should free itself of obligations to the state in order to lend all its energies to the prosecution of its own special work and eliminate the suspicion that its ministrations may be influenced by worldly ends and interests, demands the summoning of a general council of the church to consider means of attaining the greater freedom required.

Holy Synod May Recommend Council

Its publication in the Church Messenger has occasioned much comment. At St. Petersburg and in religious circles, and it is reported that the Holy Synod has decided to recommend to Emperor Nicholas the summoning of such a council. The question is all important on account of the strong connection between the religious and political elements in the Russian social organism, and that it has been raised and pressed for some time indicates the depth to which Russian society is stirred at present. The movement is believed to be now largely confined to the group of clergymen mentioned, and it is not known to what extent the priests in the country at large are affected.

Rejoice at Religious Liberty.

Taking as its text the recognition of the religious life of Russia, as well for adherents of non-Russian faiths as for the orthodox and heterodox elements in the Russian church, the document says true believers must rejoice at the liberation of conscience from certain restraints placed upon heterodox non-Russian and recognize the necessity for reforms for the orthodox church if its influence is to live and grow. If the spread of indifference and irreligion in the church is to be realized its high calling. The document declares that "only a church free from external influence in its affairs, thereby avoiding the liability of being considered a force of action under the influence and under obligations toward the state, can hope to check the spread of other faiths and other creeds in Russia and retain the nation in the faith of the fathers."

Lying in Wait for Treppoff

Governor of St. Petersburg Has Narrow Escape From Assassin.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 31.—The authorities continue to find evidence of terrorist activity in St. Petersburg, and in spite of the precautions of the police another tragedy may occur at any moment. The fighting organization is known to have on its condemnation list 30 persons headed by Grand Duke Alexis and Governor-General Treppoff, but the police, although they have arrested several persons with bombs in their possession and have taken many suspects into custody, have been completely baffled in their efforts to discover the invisible hand which is directing the campaign of the terrorists.

The police theory continues to be that the central organizations of those engaged in the conspiracies are at Geneva and Paris, and that the men arrested in Russia are agents selected to execute the sentences. When arrested these agents invariably are true to their oaths, and refuse to divulge anything, no matter to what ordeal they are subjected.

Only yesterday the police by chance foiled what is believed to have been a plot to kill Governor-General Treppoff. According to the latest details of the affair a man was observed during the morning lounging at the corner of Great Morskaya street, about a block away from the entrance to General Treppoff's residence. The man attracted no attention at first, as he wore the red cap which is the descriptive mark of employees of the messenger company, whose messengers stand at every street corner, but at last the policeman noticed that the man's face was not familiar to him, and approached the supposed messenger with the object of interrogating him. The man, however, was alarmed, drew a revolver and fired at the policeman, but missed him. The policeman then overpowered his assailant and arrested him.

Almost at the same hour that the bogus messenger was being arrested on Great Morskaya street, the police, who have been keeping a sharp lookout at the hotels and lodgings-houses, discovered several bombs of the terrorist pattern in a trunk belonging to a stranger who occupied furnished rooms in a house in Pushkin street, but who was absent at the time the police searched his apartment. The man was promptly taken into custody when he returned, and last night two individuals who called to see him also were arrested. All the prisoners declined to give any account of themselves.

Although the police are reticent, refusing to furnish any information or give the names of the prisoners, the two incidents—the arrest of the man on Great Morskaya street and the finding of the bombs—were undoubtedly connected. The man captured by the police on Great Morskaya street probably was on the outlook for some mark by which to distinguish General Treppoff's carriages, as several vehicles of the same style are constantly before the Governor-General's chancellery, and when he drives out they circle around and leave in different directions, so that it is almost impossible in the confusion to determine definitely which carriage contains the Governor-General. It is said that General Treppoff, a fortnight ago, received a letter informing him that the ruse was unavailing, as he would be killed in his bed.

The police have instructed all lodgings-houses to provide themselves with duplicate keys of all rooms, drawers and closets, in order that the effects of suspects may be freely searched.

FINNS ACCEPT CONCESSIONS.

Emperor's Rescript May Now Induce Diet to Do Business.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 31.—Senator Linder, vice-president of the administrative department of the Finnish Senate, who is here, is much encouraged by the effect on Finnish public opinion of Emperor Nicholas' answer to the petition of the Finnish Diet. He believes the concessions regarding military service and

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