

SOCIAL REVOLT SHAKES RUSSIA

St. Petersburg Cut Off by Strikers.

PEOPLE CLAMOR FOR LIBERTY

Witte to Take Helm and Seek to Rule Storm.

BLOODY FIGHTING IN SOUTH

Nearly Every Railroad Tied Up. Rioting in St. Petersburg, Riga and Ekaterinoslav—Czar May Leave Empire.

ST. PETERSBURG, Oct. 25.—An encounter took place this evening between strikers and engineers who were preparing to take out trains. Revolver shots were exchanged and a number of persons were killed or wounded.

ST. PETERSBURG, Oct. 25.—(A. M.)—Confronted by a situation more serious than any since the beginning of the political and social upheaval of Russia, which at the time this dispatch is filed shows no signs of amelioration, the Emperor's ministers, under the leadership of Count Witte, spent almost all of yesterday in conferences in the hope of finding some way out of the crisis into which the revolutionists and the Socialists have cast the country.

Witte Appointed Saturday. The ministers were summoned to meet, not as the Committee of Ministers, of which Count Witte is president, but as the Council of Ministers, of which Count Solsky is president, and the selection of Count Witte to preside, which was done by direction of the Emperor, shows that a ministerial cabinet is actually though not formally an accomplished fact.

The Finland railroads to Helsinki and the steamers constitute St. Petersburg's only means of communication with the outer world this morning. The postal authorities are now refusing to accept ordinary mail and international correspondence is at a standstill.

The strike is completed from the factory region on both banks of the Neva above the city and in several other industrial quarters. Forty thousand men are out, but they are conducting themselves in a most orderly manner. The Store Clerks' Union tonight proclaimed a two weeks' sympathetic strike for political rights, but it is probable that it will be only partially observed.

Prudent inhabitants are laying in stocks of provisions so as to be prepared for emergencies. As a consequence, the prices of provisions have risen sharply. Large meetings, mainly of workmen, were held last night in the university and the higher schools, at which the sentiment was unanimous for continuing the strike on the railroads to the bitter end.

which four months ago would probably have landed its author in prison, was presented here for the first time last night and seals for it were sold out several weeks in advance. The play satirizes the Russian higher classes and for the first time a scene is allowed to be presented on the Russian stage in which the people rise in revolt against the directors who are endeavoring to save them from cholera. This scene shows the superstition and brutality of the Russian moujik when once aroused. The play, though finely presented, is brutal and hideously realistic in character. The audience madly applauded every allusion of a political character.

Maxim Gorky was not present. His health has again collapsed under the trying climate of St. Petersburg and he has been forced to leave suddenly for the Crimea in order to save his life.

NIGHT OF TERROR IN CAPITAL

Czar May Flee, Leaving Witte to Rule Empire.

ST. PETERSBURG, Oct. 25.—(Special.)—After a night of inexorable terror, Russia today is plunged into the deepest gloom. Following the declaration by the workmen yesterday afternoon of a general strike to reinforce the railway strike which has paralyzed the industry of the country, rioting and street fighting kept the city in a state of terrible unrest all last night. What makes the situation seem hopeless is that the crisis, apparently, is not yet reached.

So serious are the conditions that it is said the Czar will soon leave Russia, paying a two months' visit to Denmark. The Czar's visit will be ostensibly to recuperate from the strain of the last two years. In reality, it is said, those behind the government desire him out of the way and in a place of safety should an uprising evolve itself out of the present labor difficulties. Count Witte, according to information from Peterhof, will hold an office equivalent to that of regent during the absence of the Emperor and will hold full powers as head of the government.

Must Make Concessions.

A meeting of the Council of Ministers was held last night under the presidency of Count Witte to discuss the strike situation and the danger which threatens the empire unless the movement can be checked. It is understood that no attempt was made to disguise the fact that the government faces a crisis and that only radical concessions to the strikers and the people generally can have any effect in bringing order out of the present chaos.

Contents Today's Paper

THE WEATHER. YESTERDAY'S maximum temperature, 57 degrees; minimum, 49. Precipitation, 9.09 of an inch. TODAY'S—Fair with light frost in early morning. Northwesterly winds. Russia. Railroad strike cuts off capital and cuts communication with Vienna. Page 1. Riots in St. Petersburg and several other cities. Page 1. Strike spreads to all factories and professional men join. Page 1. Czar gives Witte supreme power and may flee the country. Page 1. Foreign. France expects intervention in Venezuela will succeed. Page 1. Great slaughter in riots at Santiago de Chile. Page 5. National. Roosevelt speaks at Little Rock on Irish agreement. Page 3. Wide effect of new civil service rule. Page 1. Congress may reform land laws next session. Page 1. Taft says he will resign to campaign for Presidency. Page 1. Cotton bulletin causes flurry on market and charge of scheming. Page 2. Politics. Attempt of railroads to pack Interstate Commerce Commission may cause panic. Page 3. Flemmer withdraws in favor of Jerome. Page 5. Domestic. Mutual Life starts investigation of its management. Page 1. Actuary tells why Mutual Life dividends grow smaller. Page 1. Students fight police who stop class rush. Page 1. Harriman and Miss Roosevelt reach Chicago ahead of time. Page 8. Son of millionaire says he gave away wealth at suggestion of spiritualist. Page 4. Civil and criminal suits against Enterprise bankrupters. Page 2. Sport. Oregon Agricultural College team goes to play Berkeley. Page 7. Football scores: San Francisco 7, Portland 1; Tacoma 8, Oakland 2; Los Angeles 6, Seattle 2. Page 7. Young Erne knocks out Young Corbett. Page 5. Pacific Coast. Idaho land-fraud trials go over until Spring term; grand jury in session. Page 1. Secret Service agents working on land-fraud cases in Washington. Page 8. Vashon Island Italian girl, glad to go home, denies story of drowning of drunken men. Page 6. Oregon Land Board votes to validate sale of land bought by "innocent purchasers." Page 6. Mixed red wheat will not be called bluestem by Washington Grain Commission. Page 2. J. W. Prall, of Medford, Or., and Dr. J. H. Messner convicted of conspiracy at Spokane. Page 15. Commercial and Marine. Local wheat market firm but not active. Page 15. Russian disorders stimulate Eastern wheat prices. Page 15. Sharp drop in stocks at New York. Page 15. California wool market steady. Page 15. Lane County hog growers not selling. Page 15. Schooner Maud of Orleans in distress. Page 7. Cruiser Chicago to arrive next week. Page 7. Portland and vicinity. Survivors at work on Coos Bay line; 10,000 tons of steel rails ordered. Page 10. Members of Society of Japanese Art Admirers raise for Portland winning National Educational Convention. Page 14. Japanese murderer is caught. Page 10. William F. Laines' action for divorce from Martha H. Laines being heard in Judge George's court. Page 14. Rev. James Edmunds denies having spoken disrespectfully of G. A. R. veterans and reports charges against him. Page 9. Councilman Shepherd refuses to defend woman charged with violating city ordinance as contrary to his own ideas of propriety on the part of a city official. Page 5. Oregon wins many awards in horticulture at the Exposition. Page 11.

CAN DISCHARGE INCOMPETENTS

New Civil Service Rule Greatly Increases Cabinet Officers' Power.

NO APPEAL NOW ALLOWED

Knife Fell First on Obstructive Chauffeur and Clerk Who "Sassed" Taft—Much Red Tape Out of the Way.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Oct. 25.—President Roosevelt certainly set the tongues wagging when he issued his order amending the Civil Service rules so as to permit Cabinet officers to remove Government clerks and other subordinate officials whenever they deem such removals in the interest of the service. This is the most sweeping Civil Service rule that has been forthcoming in many years; it is generally supposed, and in some respects it entirely does away with the protective feature of the Civil Service law, in an administration of spoilsmen this rule may work great havoc; but it is not believed any danger will result at this time, for Mr. Roosevelt is a firm believer in the merit system, and he would not consent to the adoption of a spoils system in appointments, even though he does bestow great authority upon the members of his Cabinet.

What Provoked Order.

Various reasons are advanced why the President issued this surprising order. One story relates that, while driving down a prominent residence street with Mrs. Roosevelt, the President was annoyed by the driver of a Government automobile repeatedly crossing in front of his carriage, in the face of a caution from a secret service officer, who was following the President. This chauffeur, whether responsible for the new order or not, felt his full force, for the very day the order was promulgated he lost his job. Another story is that Secretary Taft threatened to dismiss a clerk in his department for gross misconduct purely of a personal character, however, and in no way connected with his work in the department. The clerk promptly informed the Secretary that he was protected by the Civil Service law and, inasmuch as his work as a clerk was satisfactory, the Secretary could not remove him. The Secretary is reported to have replied that he would show him what he could do. The story goes that in a few days the President's order was forthcoming, and Mr. Clerk was promptly dismissed and had no redress.

Obstacle to Efficiency Gone.

This order, while it may seem radical, has many good points. Under the old method, when every clerk, before being dismissed, had an opportunity to reply to written charges, dismissals were difficult to bring about, except in very clear cases of misconduct or inefficiency, and the Civil Service Commission, which acted as intermediary between the Cabinet officer and the employe, usually threw its influence to the latter. Now the Civil Service Commission has nothing to say about it, and the dismissals can be brought about speedily and at the mere direction of a Cabinet officer. This will do away with protracted correspondence and explanations, will reduce the effect of influence on behalf of accused employes, and will give the members of the Cabinet a free hand to weed out incompetent subordinates as well as to dismiss many persons who are unfit to hold Government positions from other causes than incompetency.

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REFORM PUBLIC LAND LAWS

Time Is Opportune for Congress to Coming Session.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Oct. 25.—There is some doubt in the minds of members of the Public Lands Commission as to their ability to make a final report to the President before Congress convenes on December 4, but there is little doubt that the President, in his annual message, will forcibly remind Congress that it has a duty to perform in redrafting some of the public land laws which are now so drawn as to foster and encourage fraud. If the Public Lands Commission makes its last report during the coming session, the President will send that report to Congress with a special message, and will renew and reinforce what he has to say on that subject in his message at the opening of the session.

Young Court-Martial Trial Ends.

MARE ISLAND, Cal., Oct. 25.—For an hour and a half this morning, Captain E. E. West addressed the naval court-martial on the Ensign Wade. His argument for the prosecution bringing the trial to a close shortly before noon. He pointed out that inasmuch as Captain Young knew the boilers were in a poor condition and Ensign Wade had not had previous experience in the engineer department, there was a lax state of discipline. The captain should have had papers to show that he had made frequent inspections. The court will meet in closed session, later and, when a finding shall have been reached, the case of Ensign Charles G. Wade will be taken up, probably on Friday morning.

Shonts III From Overlook.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25.—Chairman Shonts of the Indian Canal Commission, has been confined to his residence in this city for several days, although yesterday he had been transacting the more important business concerning the canal. Secretary Taft called on Mr. Shonts this morning, but did not undertake to discuss canal affairs. Mr. Shonts has been working hard and his indisposition is due to the close attention he has been giving to business.

is the proper time for land law reform. With several notable examples of land thieves clearly fixed in the public mind, there will be more incentive to remodel the laws now than there will be a year or two hence, and a reform brought about next session is more apt to be satisfactory than one that is secured after the public has forgotten about the case of Senator Mitchell and other prominent men who have fallen into the clutches of the law.

The coming session affords an ideal opportunity for taking up and disposing of the land law questions. There will be plenty of time, for it is a long session, without limit; there will be adequate opportunity for discussion and debate; there is no reason why a systematic reform cannot be made before adjournment. A great part of the discussion of this important question will take place in committee, and while the interstate commerce committee is wrestling with the rate problem, the land and means committee is casting about for an excuse to sidetrack the tariff, while the immigration committee is talking over the Chinese exclusion puzzle, and the merchant marine committee is giving hearings on the ship subsidy propaganda, the public lands committee, with the message of the President and the report of the Commission before it, will have a splendid opportunity to frame a bill which will bring the land laws up to date and cut out the numerous incentives which are held out to thieves and corruptors by the existing statutes.

M'CURDY STARTS REFORM WITHIN

Committee of Mutual Life Will Investigate Its Management.

EQUITABLE SHOWS GAINS

Increase in Receipts and Decrease in Expenses—Actuary of 'Mutual' Life Explains Decline in Dividends on Policies.

NEW YORK, Oct. 25.—More startling than the testimony before the legislative committee investigating the methods of insurance companies today was the announcement by President Richard A. McCurdy, of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, that a committee of the board of trustees of his company had been appointed to investigate the company and its methods. The members of the committee are William H. Truesdale, Effingham B. Morris and John W. Auchincloss, all prominent in the financial and business world.

This action was taken at a meeting of the board today and was the result of the insurance investigation. The matter was brought before the board by Mr. McCurdy and the committee will begin its work at once.

Still another interesting thing in insurance matters was the statement issued today by President Morton, of the Equitable Life, showing that the receipts of that company for the nine months of this year exceed expenditures by \$16,721,137, an increase of over \$10,000 compared with the same period last year. Receipts from premiums on policies for the third quarter of this year were \$1,094,000 less than in 1904. The expenses of the third quarter were \$329,915 less than last year, but for the first six months there was an increase over last year of \$424,949.

After an entire day given over to the examination of Emory McCintock, actuary of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, and to the reading of column after column of figures, the legislative committee adjourned until November 8, the day after the municipal election.

Explains Deferred Dividends.

Emory McCintock was the first witness. The subject of dividends was again taken up. The argument against deferred dividends contained in the Frick report on the Equitable Life Assurance Society was read to the witness.

The Frick report in substance declared that there was a potentiality of evil in the system which defers the distribution of dividends for a period of years; that the policyholder who survives benefits, but those whose policies lapse suffer a disadvantage.

Mr. McCintock said the use of the word "surplus" had been a great detriment to the Equitable because it was generally misunderstood. He said it implied that the amount of surplus was available for immediate division. Other companies, he continued, had a reserve, and determined what amount should be divided among the policy-holders and what amount should be reserved.

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Company, the Equitable Society and the Mutual Life to limit the amount of business each company should write first to \$1,000,000,000 and then to \$1,500,000,000, but then George W. Perkins, vice-president of the New York Life Insurance Company, objected. Mr. Hyde told him it was his intention to make the Equitable the largest business concern in the world and then to make it the best company.

These views expressed by Mr. McCintock did not coincide with those expressed by President McCurdy of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, when he testified a few days ago that he did not think the life insurance business should be limited even at the point where it failed to be profitable to the company. The philanthropic part of the insurance business, Mr. McCurdy said, demanded that its benefits be extended as widely as possible.

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Mr. McCintock said that, as each man understands the conditions of the deferred dividend policy before he takes it out, there did not seem any real objection to the plan from the moral point of view, especially as each policy carries its own surrender value. It appeared to him that the companies might properly state the total amount of premium on each class of policy that have not yet received their dividends. He estimated the amount of such in the Mutual at \$322,000,000. This would not enable the policyholder to compare his dividend with that of others, or of other companies.

Five years ago, Mr. McCintock said, the Connecticut Insurance Company began to consider that all not needed to meet immediate losses and debts must be surplus, but this, he said, leads to misapprehension.

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IDAHO TRIALS TO GO ON IN SPRING

Government Is Not Ready to Proceed With Investigation of Land Frauds.

CASES PREPARED HASTILY

Rumor Grows Alleging That Senator Heyburn Accepted Fees for Pressing Land Claims Before the Department.

MOSCOW, Idaho, Oct. 25.—(Special.)—At the request of District Attorney Rulick the trials of Dexter, Kettenbach, Dwyer and O'Keefe will go over until next Spring. This morning was the time selected by Judge J. H. Beatty for the United States Attorney to state when the Government would be ready for trial and designate the order in which the land-fraud cases, in which George H. Dexter, William F. Kettenbach, William Dwyer and Jackson O'Keefe are defendants, were to be tried. Attorney N. W. Rulick, in the outset of his address to the court, stated that the Government would not be ready to try these cases at the present term of court. He said these investigations were forced before a special Judge at Boise last July, for the reason that the charges were of such a date that the statute of limitations would run before the convening of a regular court. They were hurried and confined to just such cases; that the representatives of the Interior Department intimated that they were not complete, and that whenever convenient the Government would have a large number of witnesses to appear and submit evidence before a grand jury.

Work for the Grand Jury. "This," he said, "is the occasion for the presentation of that testimony, and I may state to the court that there are something more than 100 witnesses who have been subpoenaed in these particular cases. The grand jury has not yet found it convenient to enter upon this investigation. Other business, however, has occupied their attention, and probably will during the remainder of the day.

And I will state further to the court my opinion that the self-same defendants who were indicted in July are to be subject to investigation by this grand jury upon other charges of a similar character.

Continuing, District Attorney Rulick stated that for these reasons it was impossible for him to say what cases he would try, that he could not determine now whether the present indictments would ever be prosecuted, for he might see fit to prosecute other indictments should they be returned by the grand jury. To be forced into trial at this time, he said, "or to decide which one of these cases should be tried first when there are similar cases against these defendants under investigation, has occupied their attention, and probably will during the remainder of the day.

Mr. Rulick continued that he found the trial jury list contained names that had been in the jury box since 1880; that some of the men were no longer residents of the state, and the Marshal was unsuccessful in serving 15 out of 24. Another feature of which he spoke was that a large number of entries of timber land had been made in this district, and that any person who had filed a claim under those circumstances could not act as an impartial juror in these cases.

Difficult to Get a Jury.

The District Attorney thought great difficulty would be experienced in obtaining a jury, and that the Government "wanted jurors who are not in any wise intimidated by participation in transactions of character similar to those with which the defendants are charged." When the proper time came, he stated, he would ask the court to make an order that the Clerk and Commissioner of the court select not less than 500 names of persons to serve as jurors, and to procure those who, in the opinion of the court and counsel, would be eligible to serve as jurors on these cases.

Mr. Rulick concluded by saying that under these circumstances it would be unjust to force the representative of the Government into trial; that nothing would be gained by a special session, and suggested that the cases be tried at the Spring term of court.

The defendant's attorneys, "in response to this statement, said they were very much surprised, as they had come prepared to try the cases, that their clients were prominent business men of high standing, and anxious to meet these charges and before announcing their procedure asked for a consultation until 2 o'clock in the afternoon, at which time they appeared and agreed to a continuance until next Spring.

No Indictments Yet Returned.

No indictments other than those pertaining to minor matters have been found by the grand jury, and it is understood that up until now no land fraud cases have been submitted to them for their consideration. Many are anticipated and are looked forward to with anxiety and eagerness.

The rumor still lives connecting Senator W. B. Heyburn's name with the land fraud investigations, and an article appearing in today's Spokesman-Review, in which it is stated, "There is no evidence whatever in the possession of Government officials at this time connecting Senator Heyburn with the alleged timber frauds in this state," has but served to stimulate rumors and create more comment in the direction of that individual.

It has revived in the minds of citizens of the place a rumor concerning a letter which was exhibited, it is said, to prospective settlers by a lo-