

DICTATE TERMS TO COUNT WITTE

Zemstvoists Debate While He Lies Ill.

DEMAND FOR CONSTITUTION

Want Douma Made Constituent Assembly.

PEASANTS RAVAGE LAND

Troops Unable to Cope With Destructive Mobs—Socialists Suppressed in Zemstvo Congress and by Peasant Convention.

WITTE HAS PARALYTIC STROKE.

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 22.—(Special.)—Count Witte is extremely ill, and is unable to attend to his duties. He is suffering from a paralytic stroke, and is unable to move. His condition is very serious, and it is feared that he will not survive. The government has taken steps to ensure that his duties are carried out during his absence.

PEASANTS LAY WASTE LAND

MOSCOW, Nov. 22.—The excitement among the peasants in the central and southern provinces is spreading rapidly, and it is feared that it will be impossible to suppress the movement, which promises to develop into a general uprising, bringing devastation and untold horror to the whole country. The revolutionists among the peasants are spreading the story that the imperial reform manifesto really decreed a division of lands, but the nobles, intelligentsia and Jews distorted it and took all the freedom for themselves, and the peasants therefore have the right to possess themselves of the lands which the Emperor granted them.

BEYOND CONTROL OF TROOPS

PEASANTS BURN AND PILLAGE WHILE COSACKS LOOK ON.

KURSK, Russia, Nov. 22.—The agrarian disorders in the District of Suha have assumed such violence that the troops are unable to cope with them. The whole northern half of the district is in the hands of peasant rioters, who are pillaging the estates and burning the harvested crops. During the pillaging of one estate a company of Cosacks looked on, being unable to interfere.

PEASANT MOBS CAUSE TERROR

Demand Surrender of Food Under Threat of Torch.

VLADIMIR, Russia, Nov. 22.—In the Jurief and Alexandrovsk districts of this government, peasant mobs are demanding the surrender of the stocks of provisions and are threatening to set the torch to the whole locality and to storm the county treasuries.

Socialist Riot in Church.

PERNAU, Russia, Nov. 22.—During a prayer meeting in the Bethonian Church today, a crowd of Socialists entered the church and threw the pastor from the pulpit. The congregation fled in panic.

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If He Refuses to Prosecute Milwaukee Club, Mandamus Proceedings Will Be Had.

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WORKMEN'S COUNCIL PROTESTS

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BRANCH DIED IN DEFENDING CODE

Fatal Fight Between Middies Due to Secret Law of Academy.

MERIWETHER VIOLATED IT

Student Accused of Manslaughter Declared Hatred of Branch and Insulted Him to Provoke Fight to Finish.

ANNAPOLIS, Nov. 22.—Midshipman

Minor Meriwether, Jr., of Lafayette, La., a member of the third class of the Naval Academy, was put on trial here today before a naval court-martial on charges that include that of manslaughter, in having caused the death of Midshipman James H. Branch, Jr., of New York, a member of a prearranged fight which took place on the evening of Sunday, November 5, last.

THE FIRST AND GRAVEST CHARGE IS MANSLAUGHTER

in having caused the death of Branch, but there are two other charges, the second supported by two specifications and the third by one. The second charge is a violation of the third clause of the eighth article of the rules for the government of the academy. The first specification is that Meriwether applied to Branch the name sneak and coward, and the second that he assaulted him. The third charge, of conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline, specifies that Meriwether engaged in a fight with Branch.

THE DEAD INCIDENT OF THE DEATH OF YOUNG BRANCH UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES HAS BEEN WIDELY NOTICED

and has called attention to the existence at the Naval Academy of an unwritten code governing the student-body, but quite outside the authoritative regulations and generally in violation of them. Under the "code" every detail of these fights is fixed, the midshipmen on duty abstaining from reporting them and excusing from formation those connected with them. These facts were very clearly brought out, both by the Judge-Advocate and in the cross-examination by Lieutenant-Commander Robinson, for the defense.

MIDDLES CONCEAL NOTHING.

The witnesses today included Branch's roommate, the referee and the timekeeper of the contest, and all four seconds were examined in a more or less degree about all the circumstances of the fight, the connection of the "code" and their obligations under the regulations. Although this subject was not pressed to such a degree that the midshipman was put on his defense as to the binding force of his oath upon entering the institution to obey all its regulations, the "code" system was therefore not directly put on trial, although it was very thoroughly ventilated along some lines.

IN FAULTS TO THE MIDSHIPMEN IT SHOULD BE SAID THAT EVERY ONE OF THEM GAVE EVIDENCE OF ENDORSEMENT TO BE PERFECTLY FRANK AND OF EITHER BELIEVING THAT THERE WAS NOTHING ABOUT THE SYSTEM THAT THEY WOULD CONCEAL, OR IF THERE WERE, THAT THEY WOULD TELL IT ALL, NOTWITHSTANDING.

Midshipman A. W. Fitch, who refereed the fight which was followed by Branch's death, stated that he had officiated in 19 contests, and Midshipman McKittick testified that he had taken part in nine. Detailed accounts were given of the arrangements by which midshipmen on duty acquiesced in absences without leave and other delinquencies, in order that the fight might go on, and the testimony also showed that, although frequently severe injuries resulted from these fights and the recipients of them had to be taken to the hospital, nothing further was ever heard of them. This the defense said that every one of them gave evidence of endorsing to be perfectly frank and of either believing that there was nothing about the system that they would conceal, or if there were, that they would tell it all, notwithstanding.

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MILWAUKIE DEFIES LANE.

In Mass Meeting Assembled Its Inhabitants Censure Him.

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TARBELL IS ON HUGHES' GRILL

Took Rebates on His Own Insurance.

CUSTOM OF THE BUSINESS

Equitable Official Attacks Frick's Report.

SUGGESTIONS FOR REFORM

Ruler Over Agents Admits Companies Have Sinned and Offers Further Sins.

NEW YORK, Nov. 22.—After being

on the witness stand before the Armstrong Legislative Committee on insurance investigation for the greater part of three days, Gage E. Tarbell, second vice-president of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, finished his testimony today and just before adjournment submitted a list of suggestions for the remedy of existing abuses in the management of insurance companies and for legislation designed to give the state proper control over the companies and to insure the confidence of the policy-holders. Prominent among these suggestions was absolute publicity. While admitting that wrong had been done by life insurance officials, Mr. Tarbell said he had no apologies to make for any of them and that he hoped they would be punished.

ACCEPT MURDER'S SACRIFICE.

NEW YORK, Nov. 22.—At the regular meeting of the trustees of the Mutual Life Insurance Company today, the offer of President Richard A. McCurdy to have his salary reduced from \$150,000 to \$75,000 was accepted, and further reductions were made, amounting altogether to \$150,000. The names of the officials affected were not made public. It was decided to place all the general agents on a salary instead of a commission basis.

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Mr. Tarbell was emphatic in denouncing the system of rebating by agents and stated that any agent of the Equitable who gave rebates to get business was dismissed. When he told of getting the commissions, Assemblyman Cox asked if that was not rebating, and Mr. Tarbell said it was not; that he thought he was entitled to it. Later, when Mr. Hughes took up this same subject with the witness, the latter justified the taking of the commissions as being similar to the case of a merchant who purchased goods of a fellow merchant in the same line, perhaps to fill an order, and got these goods at cost, or of a professional man treating another and charging less than the regular fees. Mr. Tarbell further said if he had done wrong, he was sorry, but that he had acted in good faith.

Mr. Tarbell bore out in a measure the statement of James H. Hyde relative to the fairness of the Frick report. The subject of advances to agents was under investigation, and Mr. Hughes read some figures of the advances to one agent in this city. Mr. Hughes asked where the Frick committee got the figures, and Mr. Tarbell replied with marked asperity that he did not know.

They did not get them from my department or the auditor's; they made their report without ever making an investigation of the department," he said.

Excuse for Loading Premiums.

Mr. Tarbell submitted a specimen of contracts made with agents, which was offered in evidence, as also were letters which accompany contracts explanatory of the allowance of commissions. Mr. Tarbell said the system of "loading" premiums was originated in any country, and was a necessary consequence of the ability of companies to meet any contingency of claim or expense. He said that premiums are placed higher than is necessary for safety, and the excess "loading" is returned to policy-holders in dividends. Of \$20,000,000 surplus of the Equitable Society at the end of 1904, Mr. Tarbell

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