

Morning Oregon

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REVOLUTION WINS ON BALTIC COAST

Rebel Government in Control at Riga.

SEPARATION FROM RUSSIA

Officials Killed, Imprisoned or Driven Out.

CONCESSIONS TOO LATE

Peasants Rise Against Feudal Tyranny and Expel Barons—Panic on St. Petersburg Bourse.

Moscow Firms Bankrupt.

PLOT TO DETHRONE CZAR.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—(Special.)—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Times cables that a story is current in the Russian capital and is generally believed that, but for the action of Count Witte in unmasking a plot against the czar, the Russian element would have dethroned his majesty and established a military dictatorship on Tuesday night.

Witte, by means of his underground connections, secured information that a plot was being made to assassinate the czar and to overthrow the government. He informed the czar of the plot and the czar immediately ordered the arrest of Count Ignatieff and his associates. It is understood that in his possession were found documents showing that some of the Grand Dukes were implicated in the plot.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 12, Tuesday

via Heligoland, Finland, and Berlin, Dec. 12.—Two messengers who arrived here from Riga today, having walked about 130 miles to catch a train at Plock, not only confirm the report that a provisional government has been set up in Livonia, but they say that many of the troops have gone over to the insurgents. Dr. von Hertzen, commander of Riga harbor in their possession, and the Governor and other Russian officials are prisoners.

The messengers add that the provisional government exercises authority throughout Livonia and part of Courland.

The new government has declared the separation of the Lithuanian people from the Russian Empire. They have chosen new local officials and have decreed the closing of the spirit shops and breweries and the annulment of contracts between the peasants and landowners.

Uprising Against Feudalism.

There is a general uprising of the native peasants who are traveling in armed bands, attacking the estates and driving off or killing their owners.

Some of the landowners have organized volunteer battalions to protect their property, but the authorities are powerless to afford aid, but the majority are fleeing in terror. The peasants forbid the owners to sell grain or lumber, and formally declare that the forests and estates of those who have departed will be confiscated.

Killing or Expelling Officials.

The Russian officials are being expelled from the provinces and many of them have been killed in the streets of the cities. There is a reign of terror at Riga. Women and children are living in the upper stories of houses, and foreign merchants are winding up their business or abandoning everything in order to escape.

It is doubtful whether the promise of local self-government contained in today's imperial ukase will have much effect, at least at present, but it furnishes ample proof that the government realizes it is helpless to restore order without granting heavy concessions. The partial concessions granted to the people of the Baltic provinces are bound to encourage the Poles, Georgians and other border peoples.

Renewed Panic on Bourse.

The bourse again weakened on reports of commercial failures everywhere in the provinces, and also in sympathy with the extreme panic conditions of the Moscow exchange. Runs on the savings banks continue.

The League of Leagues has issued an address declaring that the recent acts of the government proved that there was a determined attempt to suppress the emancipation movement and demonstrated that political freedom could only be obtained by an armed struggle, in which all the progressive elements were invited to join.

Move to Oust Witte.

The Naxha Shans' claim to be in possession of information to the effect that at a conference of Grand Dukes and court officials held at Tsarskoe-Selo it was decided that Count Witte proved a failure and that the time had arrived

for the adoption of firm measures, which could be employed with less opposition under a man like Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky, ex-Minister of the Interior. The paper declares that a further conference will be held tomorrow, at which Count Witte will not be present.

It is reported that Prince John Obolensky, ex-Governor-General of Finland, will succeed M. Durnovo as Minister of the Interior.

ST. PETERSBURG, undated, via Eydikuhnen, Dec. 12.—Twelve thousand Cossacks have been dispatched to the Baltic provinces.

DICTATOR FOR BALTIC COAST

Witte Plans to Crush Opposition.

Many Firms Are Bankrupt.

ST. PETERSBURG, Wednesday, via Eydikuhnen, Dec. 14.—(Special.)—The newly-created post of Governor-General of the Baltic, which was established at the suggestion of Count Witte, simply means that a military dictatorship will be established over that portion of Russia. In this manner does Witte expect to secure the upper hand of those who are opposed to the present government and overwhelm all opposition to the czar.

Three private banks suspended today and the bankruptcy of large firms, both here and at Moscow, was announced because of stagnation of business. There is great private resentment over the passive attitude of the government in the face of the financial crisis that is sweeping away great fortunes, and this fact has greatly weakened Count Witte's influence.

WITTE CONFIDENT OF VICTORY

Declares Army Will Remain Loyal and Republic Cannot Succeed.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at St. Petersburg in a further installment of his interview with Count Witte, the first part of which was published Tuesday, says the Premier declared that the army would remain faithful, that the finances of the country were sound, and that it was not his intention to resign.

The correspondent in a series of questions presented numerous instances of the disloyalty of the troops and marines. The Premier, answering these questions, insisted that in all cases the disloyalty so pointed out was either temporary or exceptional, and that it had never developed into actual infidelity to the Emperor. It could not be denied, he said, that the revolutionary propaganda was being industriously and assiduously worked in the army and in the navy, but it was not and could not be successful, because the national character was fixed and the national traditions were too deep-rooted. So far as he knew the demands of the malcontents were altogether of an amicable character. Troops were accustomed to obey the Emperor implicitly, and the Premier was unable to conceive any transference of that allegiance.

Says Republic Could Not Exist.

The correspondent suggested the possibility of a sudden coup, by which the Republic would be proclaimed by the government, to which Count Witte replied that the members of such party would be ruthlessly cut down by the imperial troops. The idea of such a republican government existing for even three days, the Premier said, could only be entertained by foreigners who had never had an opportunity to study the Russian national character or by thoughtless Russians who were incapable of interpreting that character.

"Russian national life," said Count Witte, "is pivoted on loyalty to the Emperor, and how deep-rooted and widespread and fruitful is this principle will be seen if the revolutionists should be foolish enough to build upon a contrary assumption."

Finances in No Danger.

Referring to Russia's financial position, Count Witte attributed all the rumors of financial difficulties to the machinations of the revolutionists, who, he said, fought by poisoned weapons and whose statements were accepted because the people were credulous.

"I am absolutely sure," the Premier continued, "that Russian bondholders have nothing more to fear today than they had six years ago. Certainly they have no reason to fear that the interest on the bonds will be curtailed. Russia was never had recourse to such an expedient, nor will it in this situation. I am unable to conceive of Russia's being reduced to an end when she will fall to discharge her obligation to her foreign creditors. Even in the impossible event of the revolutionists' succeeding in establishing a government, they would be bound to keep faith with the bondholders."

Count Witte argued that, unless her finances were thoroughly sound, Russia never would have stood the recent ordeal—the throwing of securities on the market, the runs on savings banks, which were organized by the anarchists, and the like.

Will Remain at His Post.

Regarding his own position, Count Witte said that certainly his health would not improve, but he was quite strong enough to continue the discharge of his duties and was therefore resolved to faithfully remain at his post, since neither personal ambition nor any motive but duty to the Emperor and the fatherland had actuated his acceptance of the heavy responsibilities attaching to his office.

In finally summing up the situation, the Premier declared that the Russian political parties were nearly all of little consequence with the exception of the Revolutionists, whose single-mindedness was exemplary, whose tactics were ingenious and whose energy was marvelous.

CAPTURE FORTRESS OF RIGA

Rebels Gain Control—Landlords Organize for Defense.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 12.—(Night.)—(Tuesday, via Eydikuhnen, East Prussia, Dec. 12.)—Reports are in circulation to the effect that the insurgents at Riga have captured the fortress there. Inquiries made at the Ministry of the Interior revealed a failure and that the time had arrived

MUTINY AMONG WILLIAMS' MEN

Lamar and Shackelford Denounce the Democratic Leader Openly.

FRIENDSHIP IS AT AN END

Attempt to Secure Party Unity on Rate Bill Aggravates Dissension.

Williams Is Repudiated as Boss by Missourians.

Lamar Renews Attack.

Lamar at once asked for recognition, as did Shackelford, but Lamar was recognized. He spoke with feeling, and charged that the minority leader had called the rate-bill caucus of last session because he was angry at being turned down by his colleagues on the Miles amendment. "It was not a caucus, it was a gold brick," he said.

Williams interrupted to caution Lamar and to express his disapproval of the latter's conduct. He said that the gentleman was not permitted to use insulting language on the floor of this House.

Lamar retorted with a volley of criticism of Hearst by Williams. The latter denied the criticism. During this denial, Shackelford commended Hearst personally and for his rate bill. He said he was too glad to see that President Roosevelt in his message "had come around to the Hearst bill."

"The word of one Missouri Democrat is equal to two leaders," was a retort of Shackelford to a statement of Williams denying the use of certain language at the St. Louis convention.

Shackelford Repudiates Bosses.

"In Missouri, we have raised the cry, 'Down with the bosses,'" declared Shackelford, who insisted that the wishes of his constituents were much more to him than the leadership of Williams.

Continuing his denunciation of bosses, Shackelford said it was the McCallis and McCallis who, by the selection of W. J. Bryan as President, and that H. H. Rogers and J. P. Morgan would be

(Continued on Page 4.)

Insurance Causes Few Words.

Speaker Cannon announced the transfer of Mondell (Wyoming) from the committee on military affairs to that of public lands, and of Miller (Kansas) from public lands to military affairs. The transfer gives the two members the same committee assignments they had in the last Congress.

Committee reference of the annual message of President Roosevelt was made according to the subjects treated.

The question of Federal control of insurance was assigned to the committee on ways and means. In explanation of this, Payne said that, in his opinion, the only way the United States can deal with insurance companies is through the taxing power, and over this the ways and means committee has jurisdiction.

"What was done with that weighty subject of election expenses?" asked Cookman of New York.

"It went to the committee on election of President, Vice-President and members of Congress," replied Payne.

Reverting to the insurance question, Mondell asked if the committee on interstate and foreign commerce would not have had jurisdiction, should it be determined that insurance could be regulated as commerce. This was for the House to determine, replied Payne.

Objection to sending the insurance question to the ways and means committee was made by Hepburn of Iowa. Hepburn maintained that the commerce clause of the Constitution gave Congress power to control insurance.

Lamar Proclaims Enmity.

Lamar of Florida was recognized, and reverted to the question of committee appointments he had referred to on Monday. Williams, the minority leader, at once left his seat and took up a place near Lamar. Speaking of the leadership of Williams, Lamar said he would recognize him as the party leader, but not personally, "until he relieves me of an unjust charge on his part." He stated that he did not agree with Williams that Republicans would enjoy personalities between Democrats. Emphasizing this, he referred to the personal debate of last session between Sullivan of Massachusetts and Hearst of New York. At that time, he charged, the minority leader had made no objection to the procedure.

Lamar reverted to the great importance of railroad rate legislation, and reviewed the action of the House at the last session, which included voting down the Davey bill, proposed by the minority. The Davey bill, he said, had first been adopted by a Democratic caucus. The minority leader, he said, was forced to amend the Davey bill on the floor of the House, or see it go out to the country in an imperfect condition. If that caucus was binding then, he challenged the minority leader to deny the fact that no one could have amended it. He conceded that the minority leader should have power to make committee removals as well as appointments, but he must exercise that power in the face of moral obligation and reasonableness.

Lamar concluded with the statement that he considered his removal from the commerce committee an act absolutely untenable, and an aspersion upon his private character. He said it had gone to the country through the press that the minority leader would not tolerate followers of Hearst. He admitted that on Monday he was in the heat of anger, and glad that he had been stopped. However, his personal friendship for Williams had ceased.

Williams Defends His Course.

Williams was at once recognized to reply. "I am," he said, "about to perform a very unpleasant duty, and one as to the wisdom of which I have serious doubts. The gentleman takes himself too seriously. He thinks he can make a National issue out of a committee assignment, but he can't do it. He thinks he was removed, but he was not. There was no committee." Williams asked if he would not have been lacking in moral courage in every essential of a floor leader if he had made up a minority membership of the commerce committee which would have been divided four to two on the question of railroad rates.

"My members would have gone off that committee under similar circumstances," and he added that, if the Hearst bill had received the minority support in committee, he would have supported it in caucus. The conversion to the Hearst bill he likened to the conversion of Saul on his way to Damascus. It was inspired, he declared. Applause followed Williams when he said he had not allowed personalities to influence his transaction of public service. He referred to the committee appointments of Hearst—labor and irrigation of arid land—and admitted he did not love Hearst.

"Why should I love a millionaire who owns newspapers which he seems to be devoting to tearing me down?" he asked.

NOT AS COSTLY AS A M'CURDY

Peabody Chosen President of Mutual Life at One-Third the Salary.

PERKINS QUILTS OFFICES

Severs Connection With New York Life—Prudential Officials Reveal Huge Profit on Industrial Insurance Lapses.

HARRIMAN WILL ANSWER.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—Edward H. Harriman today wrote to the legislative insurance investigating committee asking that he be given an opportunity to go on the stand and testify regarding his attempt, as described by Thomas F. Ryan, to share in Ryan's holdings in the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

The committee replied that his request would be granted, and Mr. Harriman may testify tomorrow.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—Two incidents affecting the life insurance situation in New York today overshadowed the legislative investigation committee. While the committee was inquiring into the conduct of the Prudential Life Insurance Company and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, George Perkins resigned as vice-president and chairman of the finance committee of the New York Life Insurance Company. He was succeeded as vice-president by Alexander E. Orr, president of the New York City Rapid Transit Commission, and as chairman of the finance committee by John Clafin, head of the H. B. Clafin Company. Another important move in the situation was the election by the trustees of the Mutual Life Insurance Company today of Charles A. Peabody to succeed Richard A. McCurdy as president of that company at \$50,000 a year. Mr. McCurdy's salary was \$100,000. Mr. Peabody is a lawyer, the American representative of William Waldorf Astor and a director in several banks and other corporations, of which one is the Illinois Central Railroad Company. Mr. Peabody also was nominated as trustee of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, to succeed Justice Rufus W. Peckham, and Emory McClintock was nominated to succeed Elihu Root. They cannot be elected trustees until the next meeting of the board.

Prudential Under Fire Again.

United States Senator John F. Dryden, of New Jersey, president of the Prudential Life Insurance Company, again testified before the investigating committee today and made a statement to the committee giving his reasons for favoring federal supervision of life insurance companies through a National insurance department, which, he said, should have high authority over them. This, he said, would benefit both the companies and the insured.

The tendency of the holders of industrial policies in the Prudential and Metropolitan Life Insurance companies to lapse was examined in great detail by Charles E. Hughes, counsel of the committee, who read a statement by the Prudential that 27 per cent of its industrial policies lapse within five years of their issue. Mr. Dryden declares there is much to be regretted from the standpoint of the company, as well as that of the insured, and that the tendency now is to regard a greater prudence on the part of the industrial holders than formerly. The Senator asserted that industrial insurance, even with high rates and tendency to lapse, is the greatest economic force now in operation in this country.

Bounced by a Broker.

Just before adjournment today Haley Fluke, vice-president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, told of an incident in which that company commissioned William A. Read to buy 325 shares of railroad stock for the company. Mr. Fluke said that Mr. Read the same day sold the stock to a company of brokers at \$10 a share less than the broker had sold it to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Mr. Fluke said he had tried to get the money back, but Mr. Read refused to surrender it.

John K. Gore, actuary of the Prudential, submitted a list of dividends paid on industrial insurance business by his company. It showed the payment in 1904 of \$9,000,000 of "additional benefits," payable in case of death of the insured five years after the issue of the policy. The total industrial death claims paid in 1904 were \$8,577,000, and the cash dividends credited the policy-holders in the industrial department in 1904 amounted to \$11,000,000.

A statement Mr. Hughes read showed that in the last five years the record of the company's industrial department was:

Received in premiums, \$18,568,222. Paid out to policy-holders, \$3,568,948. Paid out for death claims, \$2,048,720 in cash surrender values, and \$1,219,212 in dividends.

Of the amount of cash surrender values, Mr. Gore said \$1,900,000 was in paid-up insurance.

The amount paid into the Prudential Company in premiums since its organization, witness said, is about \$27,000,000. In the same time its earnings, apart from premiums, he said, are \$19,500,000. It paid to policy-holders in that time about \$2,900,000 and its expenses, apart from the amount paid to policy-holders, have been \$19,000,000.

The assets of the company at the end of 1904 were \$83,211,350, and its liabilities, including reserve, \$18,187,104. Of the present surplus of \$12,224,247, witness said, \$2,000,000 was capital stock. He held that

PEABODY CHOSEN PRESIDENT OF MUTUAL LIFE AT ONE-THIRD THE SALARY.

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BURTON TO WORK FOR JETTY FUND

Pledges Help to Columbia River Men.

MAKE UP OREGON'S LOSS

River and Harbor Chairman Valuable Ally.

GOOD BACKING IN SENATE

Taft's Estimate Will Be Cut, but Emergency River and Harbor Bill Is Likely to Pass.

Jones on Committee.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 13.—

Chairman Burton, of the House rivers and harbors committee, is not only in favor of making an appropriation this session for continuing the improvement at the mouth of the Columbia River, but he will, at the proper time, take off his coat and go to work to get sufficient money to keep work in progress until another rivers and harbors bill can be passed. How he will strive to accomplish this result, Mr. Burton has not decided, but in conference today with Senator Fulton he expressed his friendship for the project and said he was fully aware of the necessity for making an appropriation this winter.

With Work With Double Energy.

Chairman Burton, who is in a position to do more for the mouth of the Columbia River than any man in the House of Representatives, will work in behalf of the project with double energy in view of the fact that Oregon has no representation in that body to look after her interests. He will not let the Columbia go, because there is no one from Oregon to press its claim, but will himself shoulder the burden which would have fallen on the Oregon Congressmen had it been possible for them to attend this session. He will have the hearty co-operation of Representative Jones, of Washington, who is also on the rivers and harbors committee, and who is anxious to aid in procuring an appropriation for continuing work on the jetty.

Six Senators Interested.

Senator Fulton will work in harmony with Mr. Burton and will have the aid of Senator Garin and the Senators from Washington and Idaho. He will see to it that the Senate is at least as liberal as the House in its treatment of this project. If possible, the amount appropriated by the House will be raised in the Senate, but it may be impossible to bring this about. Much depends upon how the matter is presented to the Senate.

Mr. Burton has as yet received no letter from Secretary Taft regarding the necessity for an immediate appropriation and is unable to say how much money will be asked for. It is probable, however, that he will cut the department's estimate, particularly if that estimate is extremely liberal. It seems absolutely impossible to get enough money at this session to complete the jetty, but in view of the attitude of Mr. Burton, it seems quite probable that some appropriation will be made.

Emergency Rivers and Harbors Bill.

There is a possibility that an emergency rivers and harbors bill may be framed and passed this session, making an appropriation for the mouth of the Columbia, and a very few other projects which will suffer unless more money is made available immediately. Such a bill was passed two years ago, carrying only a few millions altogether, and that may be the method decided upon this year. If this cannot be done without building up a large rivers and harbors bill, recourse will probably be had to an amendment to the sundry civil bill. This, however, is a detail to be determined later on.

WITHDRAWS CANNON'S NAME

President Heeds Protest of Washington Senators Against Action.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 13.—At the request of the Washington Senators, the President today withdrew the nomination of Miles Cannon as Register of the North Yakima land office. The President stated that he had sent in the nomination on the recommendation of Secretary Hitchcock, and withdrew it giving it any personal attention. The Secretary, who believes Congress is going to abolish the office of Receiver of local land offices, wanted to retain Mr. Cannon at North Yakima, and asked for his transfer to the Register's office, now vacant. But the Senators do not like this method of filling offices in their state without consulting them, and they said so.

When the President understood what had been done, he promised to recall Mr. Cannon's nomination, and did so. He furthermore asked the Senators to file their recommendations.

Mr. Cannon, it appears, had planned to retire when his present term of Receiver expired, next May, and he will be succeeded by some man from Kittitas County, not yet chosen. Had his transfer been confirmed by the Senate, the Senators could not have disturbed him for four years, in case he should undergo a change of heart and care to retain his new office. It is understood that Z. Y. Coleman, of North Yakima, will be recommended for Register within a short time, and it is

Limit on New Business.

Mr. Hughes asked his opinion as to how much the insurance companies should be allowed to increase their business. The Senator said he had no objection to their doing so, but that one which would discriminate among the companies, some of which are far ahead of the others.

Haley Fluke, vice-president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, was next called. Mr. Hughes asked him about the contributions from the John Hancock and Prudential Companies for legal expenses. Mr. Fluke said that at the end of the year he makes up a statement of what he has expended outside of New York State and Canada, in which there is no division of expenses. Mr. Hughes asked him what he did with the contributions of the two other companies, and Mr. Fluke said the sum of all the contributions was divided equally.

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