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THE DISPATCH OFFICE

The German Minister to China and his staff, and also all the German consuls in the country, were handed their passports on Wednesday. A note accompanying the passports explained that the German reply to China's submarine warfare protest was unsatisfactory. The passports, the note added, were "for protection while leaving Chinese territory."

Reports From Russia To-day

Petrograd, March 16, via London, March 17.—Unless improbable events occur Russia has to-day become a republic. The outcome depends on how the manifesto of the new government is received by the 6,000,000 soldiers at the front.

Petrograd, March 16, via London.—It was rendered here to-night that the Grand Duke Alexis, the little son of the Emperor, was dead.

London, March 17.—A Renter's Petrograd despatch says that prior to his abdication the Russian Emperor transferred the supreme command of the Russian armies to the Grand Duke Nicholas.

Petrograd, March 16, via London, March 17.—The autocracy which has held Russia in its grip since the beginning of history, fell to-day. The House of Romanoff, which has ruled the empire for 400 years, came to an end with the abdication of Nicholas II, perhaps the weakest representative of his line. Following on the heels of this startling development came the rumor to-night of the death of the Emperor's little son, whose abdication was included in that of his father.

Although apparent from the beginning of the revolution that the removal of the monarch was the inevitable end, the actual fact so suddenly accomplished came as an overwhelming surprise to the population.

Within four hours after the abdication of the Grand Duke Michael, who automatically became Regent on the passing of the Emperor, the crowds in the streets had secured ladders and began to tear the imperial insignia from the winter palace and the front of buildings on the main thoroughfares. In a short time all emblems of the old empire literally lay in the dust.

In anticipation of the news bigger crowds than ever packed the halls and grounds of the Tauris Palace, awaiting official confirmation by the Duma committee of the rumors which had excited the people to fever pitch during the last twenty-four hours, when the tidings at last leaked out from the committee rooms, orators, who had been haranguing soldiers and workmen from the balcony of the palace, suddenly interrupted their discourses and shouted the news to the crowds below them. In describable confusion seized the vast throng. A roar of cheers such as never before had been heard in those stately halls continued until the men and women were forced to cease from utter exhaustion.

Just what form the new government will assume is indefinite to-night. For the moment entire authority rests with the twelve members of the Duma executive committee and the cabinet headed by Prince Lvoff, who, according to some forecasts, will be president of a new republic, it is believed that in the interim and until the convocation of a constitutional assembly power will slowly pass into the hands of the new cabinet, which will then present the anomaly of a new government without a supreme head.

Petrograd, March 17, via London.—The following is the text of the imperial manifesto in which the Russian Emperor announced his abdication and that of his son:

"We, Nicholas II, by the grace of God, Emperor of all the Russias, Emperor of Poland and Grand Duke of Finland, etc., make known to all our faithful subjects: In the day of the great struggle against a foreign foe, who has been striving for three years to enslave our country, God has wished to send to Russia a new and painful trial. Interior troubles threaten to have a fatal effect on the final outcome of the war. The destinies of Russia and the honor of our heroic army, the happiness of the people and all the future of our dear fatherland require that the war be prosecuted at all cost to a victorious end. The cruel enemy is making his last effort, and the moment is near when our valiant army, in concert with those of our glorious allies, will definitely chase the foe.

"In these decisive days in the life of Russia we believe our people should have the closest union and organization of all their forces for the realization of speedy victory. For this reason, in accord with the Duma of the Empire, we have considered it desirable to abdicate the throne of Russia and lay aside our supreme power. Not wishing to be separated from our loved son, we leave our heritage to our brother, the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, blessing his advent to the throne of Russia. We hand over the government to our brother in full union with the representatives of the nation who are seated in the legislative chambers, taking this step with an inviolable oath in the name of our well beloved country. We call on all faithful sons of the fatherland to fulfil their sacred patriotic duty in this painful moment of national trial and to aid our brother and the representatives of the nation in bringing Russia into the path of prosperity and glory. May God aid Russia."

Petrograd, March 16, via London, March 17.—Arrests of individuals out of tune with the new order of affairs continue from day to day. Among the latest arrested was the Countess Kleinmichel, a prominent Russian woman, who is well known in court circles and for the dissemination of pro-German propaganda. Hitherto she had enjoyed immunity because of influential connections. The Countess was taken under guard to the Duma building.

M. Soukhomineff, former minister of war, narrowly escaped lynching at the hands of angry soldiers, when his identity became known as he was being conducted before the Duma committee.

Yesterday more than sixty trains were despatched over various lines for the purpose of bringing foodstuffs and other necessities to the capital. While it is too early to observe any marked change in the prices of food, it is significant that notices have been posted in several shops of greatly reduced prices. A large number of tea houses have announced that they will supply tea free to soldiers.

London, March 17.—Grand Duke Michael has accepted the throne of Russia, conditioned on the consent of the Russian people, according to a statement received here to-day from the semi-official Russian news agency. The statement follows: "Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, accepting the throne from his brother, declares that he does so only with the consent of the Russian people, who should by a plebiscite establish a new form of government and new fundamental laws."

LIGHT AND DARKNESS

Here is a Simple Little Chart Showing the Length of Days

Many people wonder why their gas and electric light bills are so much higher in the fall and winter than in the summer and spring. They know

Day	Light	Sleep
JAN 30.7	10.30	14.05
FEB 29.6	11.00	13.34
MAR 29.5	11.30	13.05
APR 29.4	12.00	12.36
MAY 29.3	12.30	12.07
JUNE 29.2	13.00	11.38
JULY 29.1	13.30	11.09
AUG 29.0	14.00	10.40
SEPT 28.9	14.30	10.11
OCT 28.8	15.00	9.42
NOV 28.7	15.30	9.13
DEC 28.6	16.00	8.44

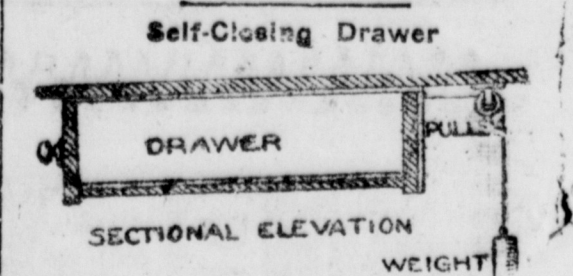
that winter nights are longer, but how many people are there who can tell just how much longer they are?

It surprises the average layman to learn the truth. There is a slight difference in different sections of the country, north and south, but a glance at the chart accompanying this—which, by the way, would be a good thing to preserve for future reference—will show just what the difference is.

It will be seen that the chart is divided into three sections, one for daylight, one for artificial light and one labeled sleep. The sleep section is uniform at eight hours and is sur-

posed to show when no light is used. The figures given are for the total amount of light or darkness, artificial light and sleeping included in one part.

The total amount of time lights are burned in the house can be gathered from the black lines to the left of the line dividing off the sleep section. It will be noticed there is quite a difference between January and June.



Have you ever noticed how often mother dashes up to the kitchen table, pulls open the drawer and fills both hands with knives or forks or some other equally important culinary implements? Often in her mad rush to get dinner started, she forgets and leaves the drawer open, and along comes little Johnnie. He doesn't see the open drawer. Bang! goes his little head against it.

That is one of the reasons why Johnnie's pa ought to fix the drawer so it will close itself. It can be easily done. Fasten a weighted cord to the rear of the drawer, allowing the weight to hang down in the back. When ma pulls the drawer open the weights comes up; when she releases her hold on the drawer the weights goes down, pulling the drawer closed as it descends.

LOOK OUT FOR DUST FOR IT MAY EXPLODE

Smokeless Powder Inventor Says All Kinds of Carbon Dust is Explosive

"Any kind of carbon dust may be as explosive as gunpowder," says Prof. Charles Edward Munroe, inventor of smokeless powder and dust explosion expert. "And starch dust is one of the most explosive. Explosions in grain elevators have become quite familiar. At the Pullman works there was once an explosion of dust raised in putting fine polishes on woodwork. At Pawtucket, Rhode Island, soap was being ground for cleaning powder, and the soap dust exploded. There have been explosions of malt dust in breweries; and in Buffalo, where they make breakfast food, the oat dust exploded. There is no doubt that the explosion at Waukegan was caused by starch dust suspended in the air. It might have been sugar dust, or the dust of wood, as in a planing mill, or almost any other kind of dust, coming from materials which are combustible; that is, which are made up in large part of carbon. The theory of a dust explosion, is just like that of a gunpowder explosion. If you know how gunpowder is made, you know how it is simply a bringing together of pure, fine particles of charcoal or carbon with a chemical which has free oxygen all ready to combine with the carbon. Burning is merely combining carbon with oxygen in the air. The reason things burn slowly is because the air contains only a small per cent. of oxygen. Increase the oxygen supply and make it free chemically to enter quickly in combination with the carbon and the burning happens faster. When we make gunpowder, we make saltpeter, which has a lot of almost free oxygen, and mix it with charcoal and add a little sulphur in order to make it burn more freely. This mixture will burn without the presence of air, because the oxygen is furnished by the saltpeter. Just apply a spark to start it and the mixture burns so fast that there happens what is known as an explosion. The explosion is really nothing but the expanding of the gas created by the combination of the oxygen with the carbon. In the same way the little particles of starch suspended in the air perform the function of the charcoal in the gunpowder mixture. The air itself furnishes the oxygen. Apply a spark from a friction belt or a lighted pipe or other source and, if the mixture is right, that happens in the mill which happens in a gun barrel—the carbon and the oxygen unite—bang! The mill goes up in smoke and gas. The answer to dust explosions is, keep the spark away. In some cases the danger may be reduced by proper ventilation, which reduces the quantity of dust suspended in the air."