

THE EVENING TIMES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCT. 30, 1905.

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IS IT REVOLUTION?

Almost anything except a return to former conditions in Russia may be conjectured as a possible result of the present situation in that country. There are so many possibilities when a state so nearly approaching anarchy exists that the world can but wait and watch the dreadful drama as it unfolds. Of one thing, however, we may be assured. In whatever guise it may appear; however bloody the path it may be forced to tread; it is the impersonation of a wider liberty that stalks the streets of St. Petersburg and Moscow and Odessa, and in the end the cause of the people will have been advanced.

The despatches that come from the cities of Russia today recall vividly those of January last, which told of strikes and riots and bloodshed, and the memorable Sunday butchery of people who only sought to present to the Czar a petition setting forth their grievances.

But how much has transpired in these nine months. Then the Czar was said to be under the influence of Grand Duke Sergius, the most reactionary of the bureaucrats. Since then Sergius has fallen by the hand of an assassin. Then the government still boasted that under God's protection it would triumph in the war with Japan. Since then a humiliating peace with Japan has been concluded, and none of the people are any longer under the delusion that the Czar is the Little Father—an instrument in God's hands to work the will of the Almighty. They have seen their armies go to defeat and their fleets to destruction. They have seen their great generals deposed and humiliated. They have seen the national burdens increasing, and their own demands for a larger share in the government of the country trifled with by the Czar and his ministers.

But the people are no longer held in the grip of a powerless despair. They have raised their heads and looked about them, and discovered what the people of other nations long since learned—that when a people are in deadly earnest their views must prevail.

In January last, after the Czar's troops had shot down the people who marched through the streets to urge him to be their real leader and to grant reforms, the Times made this observation:—

"To no ruler of modern times has ever come so great an opportunity as that which Emperor Nicholas of Russia has rejected. He who might have been a heroic figure, standing out clear and strong for all time as the emancipator of his people, will live instead as the reactionary ruler who was asked by the people for bread and gave them a stone. He was not threatened by political revolution, but urged to be the leader of his people in social and industrial reform. They did not approach him with curses, but with prayers. Their only weapon was that of earnest and righteous appeal for a betterment of their condition. Out of it would unquestionably have come a political revolution, but by peaceful methods, and for the good of the nation. But whether he win or no, reform is inevitable. Bureaucracy in Russia is no longer triumphant. A new spirit has arisen, and if not in the path of peaceful agitation then by the shedding of blood will come emancipation."

The opportunity has again come to the Czar. It is not as great as that of nine months ago, for the faith of the people in their ruler has been weakened, and their confidence in themselves vastly increased. But even yet if he should divorce himself from the influence of reactionary advisers and put himself at the head of the popular movement the past would be forgotten. It is not the overthrow of monarchy the people seek, but the adoption of representative institutions.

But the Czar hesitates. A despatch from St. Petersburg states that M. Witte has urged him to sign a constitution guaranteeing "four liberties—freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press and freedom of the person," and he has refused.

This is not a time for inaction. The people in the cities must soon feel the pinch of famine. With railway traffic paralyzed and industries idle there can be no other result. Hunger is a terrible enemy, and if added thereto is the stubborn refusal of the government to grant reforms, riot may become revolution. It may be said that there is no great leader in sight at this moment, and that the Czar has the army at his back; but at each a time a leader may spring up in an unexpected quarter, and there are hints that the loyalty of the army is not entirely above suspicion.

Let us quote again the calm and reasonable statement of the Zemstvo of Taurida, published nine months ago, and addressed to the Czar:—

"Your decree of Dec. 25 held out to the nation hopes of internal peace in the future, which everywhere is dependent on the law and equal rights of citizens, on freedom of conscience and religion, freedom of speech and the press, freedom of association and public meeting. We are strongly convinced that the fulfilment of your great intentions for their inalienability can only be assured by the participation of elected representatives of the whole nation in the legislative power. We sincerely believe that in the union of the power of the state with that of the people can be found the only pledge for the complete development of the productive forces of the country. If you summon representatives of the nation to take part in legislation, finance and administrative control, and fulfilment of the law and the intentions of your imperial majesty, you will make Russia powerful and invincible from without, and flourishing within her borders in the light of right and truth."

At the same time, another of the Zemstvos wrote thus:—

"During our whole lives we have been forced to observe silence in all our new ideas. The authorities see red spectres threatening to destroy the foundation of the state. For forty years we have said 'All is well.' We had been so accustomed to this course that to say otherwise would have been a political crime. This attitude on the part of the people debased to slavery has led Russia to a crisis through which she cannot safely be brought by palliatives or half measures. Russia is on the road to complete ruin and the fatherland is threatened with terrible danger, not alone by the foreign enemy with whom she is now struggling, but by an internal foe against whom the bureaucracy has long been fighting with disastrous results. The danger lies in the prostration of the general development of the country, brought about by the bureaucracy. The development of Russia has been artificially arrested and all her institutions stricken unto death."

This is the condition that faces the Czar today. Since the above statements were made the cause of the government has been weakened and that of the people strengthened. The Czar still has the army, but the people have the consciousness of growing power and a firmer conviction of the righteousness of their cause. Civil war rears its head in the cities, and the hand of the Czar is for the moment paralyzed.

The world waits with bated breath the next act in this grim drama in the life of a nation struggling to be free.

THE SALVATION ARMY

Commissioner Coombs and his officers are welcome to St. John. Times have changed since the first representatives of the Salvation Army came among us and began their service. Not only in Canada but throughout the world it is recognized that the Army is doing a great work for the betterment of the condition of the people among whom it labors. In St. John the value of that work is recognized by all, and the institutions conducted under its auspices do not appeal in vain for popular support. There has been a doubt in some minds whether the Army as it grew in numbers and in influence would retain the simplicity and real earnestness of its earlier struggles, but up to the present time that doubt has not been justified. The very nature of the work in which it is engaged is indeed a guarantee that nothing less than profound earnestness and devotion can ensure success. It is the seamy side of life with which the Army is forever in contact, and with those conditions which appeal most strongly to human sympathy. It is doing a work that needs to be done, and without which the cities and towns of Canada would have more serious social problems than they have today. Therefore the coming of Commissioner Coombs is an event which is of interest to far more than those who wear the uniform of the Army.

Touching the recent disclosures in New York the Montreal Witness observes:— "The true remedy lies in the stern, uncompromising administration of justice, whereby the man who acquires millions by fraud shall be punished like an ordinary thief. The only compensating feature, indeed, in the revelations in New York which convict the directors of several big life insurance companies of making unwarrantable use of policyholders' money, is to be found in the fact that the people and papers are universally scandalized thereat and that the offenders themselves are on the repentant stool and are very likely to suffer criminal prosecution."

St. John has few memorials of national significance, and therefore that which was unveiled in Trinity church yesterday will be the more appreciated. Aside from that which commemorates the event of yesterday was notable because it brought together under the gaze of the citizens not only representatives of the local militia and men who have seen service on the battlefields of the empire, but also men of the British navy, that branch of the service which protects the commerce of the empire and is the greatest guarantee of imperial peace and progress.

The postal authorities will make a mistake if the office in Carleton is closed and the mail for the West Side distributed from the central office on the East Side. There will be great delay because the carriers will have to come to the East Side, wait until the mail is sorted, and then await the pleasure of the ferry-boat. In winter, especially, such a system would prove most unsatisfactory. It may be hoped that the convenience of the people served will be considered in the matter.

Today's despatches from Russia show that the situation is growing worse. There has been much bloodshed in Odessa, the strikes are spreading in other cities, and the outlook grows hourly more ominous.

The situation in Russia will have a further tendency to develop a feeling of caution in the money and stock markets.

BOOK ON RUSSIA, POSTPONED

The volume on "The Birth of the Russian Nation," by E. J. Dillon, which was announced by McClure-Phillips for publication this fall, has been postponed. The closing of the war, the signing of peace with Japan, has made it possible for Mr. Dillon to write the latter chapters of his book with more definiteness, and the work of revision will delay the publication of the book for several months.

Open till 8 to-night.

St. John, N. B., Oct. 30, 1905.

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THE COST OF NEWSPAPERS

Illustration of the Financial
Outlay Entailed in the Production of a Modern Journal

Modern newspapers cost a tidy sum to produce, even though the best of them can be bought for a cent. There is no article turned out in any workshop that costs so much to make and is sold for so little as a newspaper. For instance, the weekly composition bill on the Boston Globe is \$4,200. On the St. Louis Globe-Democrat it is about \$3,000. On the Cincinnati Enquirer it is \$1,200. For special telegrams the Chicago Tribune pays over \$5,000 a month, the Cincinnati Enquirer over \$3,500, the New York World about \$10,000, the St. Louis Globe-Democrat \$12,000, and the Boston Herald \$8,000. This in addition to the Associated Press, which costs so much per week according to the size of the town and number of papers therein receiving it. The cost of white paper is one of the large items. The New York World pays about \$700,000 a year for white paper, the Chicago News about \$350,000, the Boston Globe and Herald about \$350,000 each, the Cincinnati Enquirer about \$300,000, while a number of papers pay from \$100,000 to \$250,000. On Canadian papers salaries are not enormous, but on the large papers in the States they run well up into the thousands. Ink, postage, press work, electric lighting, also run up to sums of magnitude. The circulation and distribution department are also items of heavy expense. If anybody has money to spare and is particularly desirous of getting rid of it, my advice to him is to start a newspaper. — Canadian Printer and Publisher.

A NOBLE EXAMPLE

(The Daily Telegraph.)

This is a country of small fortunes, as fortunes go in this age of money, though some estates recently devised in New Brunswick have been large ones. A great deal of space in this issue is well devoted to the will of the late L. P. Fisher, of Woodstock, who crowned an admirable life work by a distribution of his wealth that must command admiration wherever it becomes known. There is no intention here to follow in detail the bequests set forth at length on another page, but of the general character of the document by which Mr. Fisher distributed some half million some mention is due. Public spirit is the keynote of this great citizen's last will and testament. His words are those of a Christian gentleman who was a leader of high example and good influence during his long and active life, and who coming to die, put in force the view that had guided him while he lived—that the wealth he had accumulated was only held by him in trust that he might use it for the benefit of his fellows who survived him.

To a marked degree Mr. Fisher ignores the common view that it is well to enrich a few persons. Upon individuals, for their comfort, or for the exercise of their individual ideas as to their duty to the community, he confers little; surprisingly little in view of his fortune, many will say. A hospital, a school, a free public library, a park, all for the common benefit of those who need them most—these things are his gifts to the people of Woodstock.

Perhaps, too, as a result of his wisdom, there will be started a superannuation fund for teachers, not only in Woodstock but for the province. The churches and many good causes receive assistance. No debtor is to be pressed for money due. Throughout the long document runs the spirit of justice and of charity and of love. These are days in which money and the love of money and luxury have attained a false importance. The life and the will of L. P. Fisher constitute a noble example that must bear good fruit.

IN NEW YORK

An exchange thus sums up the platform of the three mayoralty candidates in New York:

McClellan says: His administration is the issue of the campaign. He looks for reelection.

He is the friend of labor and has shown it by acts, not words.

Under him New York has made more strides for municipal ownership than any other city.

No sane man would promise that the city should build rapid transit tunnels and condemn gas plants.

If the city waited till it had the money to do it, it would wait for many years.

He agrees with Roosevelt on government ownership of things private capital can handle just as well.

Hearst says: He elected he will hold the city for the citizens of New York, not for grantees.

That the city should cancel and not renew gas franchises, and make and sell gas.

That the city should build rapid transit tunnels and operate them.

That business men should not be frightened at him because he is a business man.

That he is the strong pure friend of the working man and has fought their battles for them.

Travis says: He will promise not to run for mayor again if elected.

Will McClellan promise not to run for governor?

That he will seize the gas works under condemnation proceedings and operate them.

That he is no man's man and will serve the city without regard to party.

That he believes in city operation as well as city ownership of franchises.

That he is the only man who can be elected mayor who will have a legislature in sympathy with him.

That only through him can the regeneration of New York be attained.

THE CZAR

Last January Algernon Charles Swinburne contributed to the Pall Mall Gazette a sonnet, entitled, "Czar! Louis XVI! Adieu! Omen."

Peace on his lying lips, and on his hands blood, smiled and lowered the tyrant, seeing afar

His bondslaves perish and acclaim their New, sheltered scarce by Murder's loyal hands,

Clothed on with slaughter, naked else he stands—

He flies and stands not, now, the blood red star

That marks the face of midnight. As a scar

Tyranny trembles on the brow it brands

And shudders toward the pit where death—

Leaves no life more for liars and slayers to live

Flry, coward, and cover while there is time to fly.

Cherish awhile thy terror-shortened breath,

Not as thy grandeur did, if justice give judgment, but slain by judgment thou shalt die.

"Do you like an open countenance on a person?"

"I thought I did till my mother-in-law made us a visit."—Houston Post.

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