

REVOLUTIONISTS CAN SUCCEED.

Acts of Terrorism Probably Will
Continue and Vengeance May
Be Wreaked.

VIEWS OF PROMINENT RUSSIAN

Most Important Question Is Solving
Problem of Land Hunger of
The Peasants.

St. Petersburg, March 25.—The Associated Press is able to give the results of an important conversation with a high personage regarding the situation in Russia. Neither the name nor the position of this personage can be indicated, but his competency to speak upon the situation can be vouched for.

The conversation covered a wide range, and left the distinct impression that the assembling of the national parliament would bring a crisis, but not the one anticipated abroad. The government, evidently, is absolutely convinced that an armed revolution or a general uprising would menace its life is no longer possible and that the danger is not that the government will be overthrown, but that it will be driven to abandon its path of reform.

The guerrilla warfare which the revolutionists at present are conducting," said the personage referred to, "cannot succeed. Acts of terrorism doubtless will continue; vengeance may be wreaked upon governors-general and police masters. Count Witte, the premier, and Minister of the Interior Durnovo may be assassinated; banks and buildings may be blown up, and there may even be riots in the streets—but attempts to produce widespread risings in the cities or a repetition of the railroad strike are doomed to failure. The government has from now on every measure to prevent excesses will be taken.

Besides, the situation has been completely altered since last fall, when practically the whole of the urban population joined the protest which led the emperor to grant the manifesto of Oct. 17. The government was then unable to cope with the revolutionary situation. The army in European Russia was at a low strength and filled with reservists bordering on mutiny owing to their anxiety to return to their homes and to their families. The new recruits everywhere were prevented from joining the colors. Since then all is changed. The reservists have been discharged and the recruits have been drilled and joined the ranks. Regiments which then consisted of 400 now have 2,000 men.

It is not a question of the fall of the government, but whether reform or reaction will prevail—whether the present struggle to supplant the old regime and secure larger liberties for the people will enter the present parliamentary phase, or a counter revolution will sweep away the entire program on which the government has entered. The emperor is sincerely and honestly desirous of meeting the wishes of his people and has given them his word to this end. But this reactionary party exists. It is composed of the aristocracy and with a powerful backing in high places, and above all it enjoys the support of the military faction.

The charges that the government is interfering with the elections are true. The present indications are that the parliament will be conservative, and it might, instead of raising a clamor for the overthrow of the government, set seriously to work to solve the great and pressing questions on

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which the future depends. The ab-

sorption of the extreme elements from

voting in the elections may affect

somewhat the nature of the parliament

and its authority to speak in the name

of the whole people.

It is now clear that the element that

is abstaining from voting is purely

revolutionary. It is unwilling to ad-

vance gradually by the path of reform,

reducing all compromises and is deter-

mined to overthrow everything, society

as well as the government, and estab-

lish a reign of socialism. It is un-

fortunate that this element that the government

unfortunately was forced to pro-

ceed energetically. The alternative

was either that or abdication. Harsh

measures were used and perhaps there

was much injustice; but the movement

had to be stopped.

Doubtless it is true the military au-

thorities frequently abuse the power

conferred on them, but the government

has no choice. When military is called

upon to cope with a situation in any

country, civil laws and rights are tem-

porarily suspended. The training of

an officer is against leniency. He is

given a task to accomplish and force is

the only method he knows. Yet, per-

haps it must be admitted that the kil-

ing of a score in time often saves the

lives of thousands. The stories that

from 70,000 to 100,000 persons have been

imprisoned are exaggerated, and I be-

lieve it might safely be affirmed that

the number will not exceed 20,000.

The most important question, how-

ever, and the one on which the future

of the country and its prosperity de-

pends, is the adoption of some method

for satisfying the land hunger of the

peasants, who comprise 50 per cent of

Russia's immense population. Many

projects have been submitted to the

government, and Premier Witte has a

mass of information on the subject, but

instead of presenting a project that the

government would prefer to leave a

solution of the question if possible to

parliament.

Regarding the financial outlook, the

present difficulty in securing a loan is

due rather to the political situation

abroad than to internal conditions, as

foreign financiers realize that they can

obtain better terms for a loan now

than after parliament meets.

HAWTHORNE MANUSCRIPTS

BADLY DAMAGED BY FIRE.

New York, March 25.—A score of

original manuscripts of famous works

of Nathaniel Hawthorne were damaged

by a fire which destroyed the home of

his son, John Hawthorne, in Yonkers

today. Several of the manuscripts

were destroyed and others were badly

damaged by water.

In addition to the manuscripts, many

letters, some bearing the autograph of

the author of "The Scarlet Letter" and

other addressed to him from intimate

ELECTION METHODS USED IN RUSSIA.

Are Cumbersome, Confusing and
Totally Unlike Those of the
United States.

NO POLITICAL ORGANIZATION.

Parties Have Tickets, Elector Votes
For Any Resident of His Dis-

trict He Wants To.

[Correspondence Associated Press.]

St. Petersburg, March 13.—The elec-

tions to the imperial duma and the

council of the empire—Russia's first

parliament—bear only a slight resem-

blance to elections in the United States.

The ministry of elections is both com-

plex and confusing, and the lack of

political organization on the part of

the numerous parties in the field serves

to increase the uncertainty of the re-

sults.

For the duma, or lower chamber,

practically the old machinery employed

for the election of dumas or town coun-

cils is used. The members of the im-

perial duma are elected by provincial

congresses, composed of representa-

tives of four classes—the peasants, the

nobles, the land owners and the city

population as a class.

Certain of the large cities, however,

like St. Petersburg, Moscow and Odes-

sa, elect a certain number of representa-

tives irrespective of the provinces in

which they are located. The number of

such city representatives is based upon

aggregate population.

For instance, St. Petersburg elects

six delegates to the duma, and the pro-

cedure is as follows: The city is divid-

ed into 12 districts, identical with the

districts formed for the elections of

members of the city council. In each of

these districts a polling place is opened

under the supervision of a president

and commission appointed by the mun-

icipal authorities. At a specified day, from 9 o'clock

in the morning until 9 o'clock at night,

have the privilege of voting for dele-

gates, who are to be chosen from each

district to the city congress. The dele-

gates, or "viborschiki," as they are

called, must be qualified electors and

residents of the district.

The parties of course have tickets in

the field, but the elector votes for any

resident of his district without regard

to whether he chooses a minority or

the majority. The five electors

receiving the highest number of votes

become the viborschiki of the district.

The qualifications of the voters of the

city are very low, including practically

all except the floating population. In

St. Petersburg, for instance, the regis-

tration list totals almost 150,000 in

a population of a million and a quarter,

50,000 of which are debared because

they belong to the army or navy.

Neither do the registration lists in-

clude the artisans who work in the

factories and mills. A special provision

is made for the latter as a class. The

workmen of each factory employing

over 50 men choose, according to their

numbers, delegates to a general as-

sembly of their own, which in turn

chooses delegates to the city congress

—in the case of St. Petersburg 24. The

city congress then chooses a quarter

of the delegates to the provincial con-

gresses.

This balloting is conducted by balls,

the names of the qualified candidates, i.

e., members of the congress, are read,

and after each name is pronounced

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man," is usually named in relation to

fill such public duties as his group is

called upon to exercise, his mission be-

ing regarded rather in the nature of a

duty than a privilege and honor.

COMMENT ON PRESIDENT'S

MOROCCAN POLICY.

London, March 25.—The Times corre-

spondent at Algiers considers it im-

possible that Mr. White at Algiers

could have originated the alleged "Am-

erican project," because he could not

have imagined such a project would

have satisfactory results, and says it is

together misleading to compare this

trivial incident with President Roose-

velt's beneficent intervention at Port-

smouth.

"President Roosevelt," he adds,

"doubtless has watched things closely

but he exercised no pressure, and Mr.

White's activity has been confined to

playing the role of a disinterested am-

icus curiae. The Washington cabinet,

animated by a desire for peace, is

ready to agree to any measure the Eu-

ropean governments adopt so long as

they do not interfere with the American

interests. In short, the beneficent in-

fluence of American statesmen has been

in entire harmony with the general

trend of American policy since Pres-

ident Roosevelt's accession and with the

personal view of the president, who is

recognized in both hemispheres as a

peacemaker."