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\$1.00 PER YEAR, STRICTLY IN ADVANCE, TO ANY ADDRESS IN CANADA, UNITED STATES, OR GREAT BRITAIN.

A WARNING TO THE CZAR'S SUBJECTS

GOVERNMENT DECIDES ON VIGOROUS MEASURES

Disorders Will be Suppressed With a Firm Hand—Zemstvos Must curb Their Activities.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 27.—The following communication was issued by the government early this morning:

"In the autumn of this year there was a meeting in St. Petersburg of several Zemstvos of the various governments...

"Such movements against the existing order of the government are inadmissible in the eyes of the state...

"New duty of the government is to preserve order in the state and to protect the public confidence from all change in the true course of internal life...

"Zemstvos and town councils must not go beyond the limits of their powers and must not concern themselves in questions in the consideration of which they have no legal authority...

"Moscow, Dec. 27.—The Zemstvo congress of the Moscow government opened today, Prince Trubetzkoi, the president...

"Chicago, Dec. 27.—One of the most severe storms of years has raged between the Rocky mountains and the Gulf of Mexico today, causing much trouble to street cars, railroads and telegraphs...

"In his extent the storm was the most widespread of any in fifteen years...

"Reports from Kansas City early today were that the storm was accompanied by high winds and snow, which has been blowing for some time...

"The damage in the city of Madison, Wis., is estimated at about \$100,000...

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"According to the same source of information, during the riots at Baxon two railway bridges were blown up, and an attempt was made to dynamite the statue of Alexander II, but only the steps were injured.

"One question not touched by the ukase is that of the constitutional assembly. Neither is the Jewish religion specifically mentioned, though freedom for converts is granted, whether Christian or otherwise...

"The reform subjects will be referred to committees for early report. The imperial decree, which is entitled, 'A Scheme for the Improvement of the Administration of the State' is as follows:

"In accordance with the revealed will of our Creator, the welfare of the realm entrusted to us by God, we regard it as our duty and the government's duty, in conjunction with the underlying maintenance of the immutability of the fundamental laws of the empire, to have utilising care for the country's needs, distinguishing all that is really necessary from the superfluous...

"Simultaneously with a detailed investigation of the initial proposals of the ministry of the interior, which are being carried out locally, conferences are now being held by commissioners selected from among the most experienced of the highest administrative officials regarding the most important questions of peasant life...

"First—That the adoption of effective measures for safeguarding the law in its full force as the most important pillar of the throne of the autocratic empire, in order that it involve fulfillment for all alike shall be regarded as the first duty by all the authorities and in all places subject to us; the first non-negotiable shall inevitably bring with it legal responsibility for every arbitrary act, and that persons who have suffered wrong by such acts shall be enabled to secure legal redress.

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WILL FIGHT TO THE LAST SOLDIER

BESIEGED RUSSIANS ARE CONFIDENT AND CHEERFUL

Another General Killed at Port Arthur—Seventy-Four Japs Perished While on Special Duty.

London, Dec. 27.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Tokio cables as follows: 'December 10th the Japanese signalled the Russian hospital ships protecting the destroyers in the roadstead of Port Arthur to change their positions, and the Russians requested a respite of six hours, which meant giving the destroyers the benefit of darkness. The sequel is not known.

"Foreign correspondents from Port Arthur declare that the fortress is the strongest that was ever attacked, and compare it to Sebastopol, with his armament, though freedom for converts is granted, whether Christian or otherwise, is among the subjects which will be dealt with.

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"In accordance with the revealed will of our Creator, the welfare of the realm entrusted to us by God, we regard it as our duty and the government's duty, in conjunction with the underlying maintenance of the immutability of the fundamental laws of the empire, to have utilising care for the country's needs, distinguishing all that is really necessary from the superfluous...

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FOUR CHILDREN BURNED TO DEATH

PERISHED IN FIRE WHICH DESTROYED HOME

Fight With Desperado at Moose Jaw—Wagon Went Through Ice, Two Lives Lost.

North Bay, Ont., Dec. 27.—The farm house of La Freniere, situated a short distance from Callender, was totally destroyed by fire with all contents and four children of the family, the eldest being about six years of age, perished in the flames. The mother of the children had temporarily left the little ones alone while she went to deliver some milk to nearby neighbors. Noticing flames issuing from her house, she started home with all speed, hoping to be in time to rescue the children; but when she arrived the flames had already enveloped the house and the lives of the children were past saving. The poor woman, almost distracted by the terrible calamity to her home and family, was prevented from making into the midst of the flames only by a number of neighbors, who hurriedly extinguished the flames. The children, who were subsequently gathered from the ruins, were all severely injured. The father of the children, who is unemployed, was absent in camp at the time.

"Halifax, N. S., Dec. 27.—The sheriff of King's county, P. E. I., yesterday gave his decision in the disputed election case, declaring Premier Peter (Liberals) and H. D. McQueen (Conservative), both elected for the same seat, each having polled 515 votes. It is likely another election will be held.

"Destructive Explosion. Halifax, N. S., Dec. 27.—A portion of the building of the Canadian Paper works, at Waverly, fell from this city, blew up, to-day, and the concussion shook the country and broke windows for leagues around. Fortunately, no one was killed, although ten of the employees, who had just left the power works when the explosion took place, were thrown violently to the ground and stunned. The plant is situated a mile outside of Waverly, yet every window in the town was broken, and many people on the streets were cut by the shower of broken glass. The property loss is estimated at \$25,000.

"Captured by Police. Moose Jaw, W. T., Dec. 27.—Twelve shots were exchanged on the station platform here to-night between Mounted Police and an American desperado named McLean. He defied them when they went to arrest him, and let them return, but not before he had shot the officer's knee. He was taken to the hospital, but he is recovering. He was taken to Regina jail.

"Shot Himself. Melville, Sask., Dec. 27.—A rancher named McFargat committed suicide when he was shot by shooting himself while suffering from melancholy, the result of a lonely life.

"Fire Followed Explosion. Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 27.—Drink-water's tailor shop was burned here this afternoon, the result of an explosion of gasolene. A serious fire broke out, but was averted only by the excellent work of the brigade, as it is right in the heart of the city. The loss is about \$7,000.

"Winnipeg, Dec. 27.—P. W. Blanche, alias A. Brown, arrested here, today charged with embezzling \$22,000 from the Sargent bank in Minneapolis, waived extradition proceedings.

"Burned to Death. Port Francis, Dec. 27.—This morning a house of Mrs. J. H. Blanche, was burned and one of the inmates, Octavia Lyndie by name, was cremated. The other inmates all escaped.

"Two Drowned. Dumville, Ont., Dec. 27.—Last evening Danis Dunham, of Stroness, was driving down the Welland canal to his home with his wife, two children and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anger. When about a mile from the bridge, the wagon broke, throwing the occupants into the canal. Charles Anger and Dunham's three-year-old boy were drowned.

"Were Rescued. St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 27.—W. O. Demers and Fred Pelletier, the Curlew Island fishermen, who were brought into port yesterday after being practically given up for lost by friends. At the time of their rescue both men had given up hope of being taken ashore this season and had made the best preparations possible under the circumstances to spend the winter on the lonely island. They had half a barrel of flour and a large quantity of fish.

"EMULATING WILLIAM TELL. Young Man, Who Heil a Bottle on His Head, Instantly Killed. Chicago, Dec. 27.—While Elmer Hunt, 19 years old, balanced a bottle on his head William Dougherty, who had been boasting of his prowess as a marksman, it is alleged, attempted to emulate William Tell by shooting the bottle. At the second shot Hunt fell to the floor with a bullet between his eyes, and died almost instantly. Dougherty escaped, and the police are searching for him.

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