

London Advertiser.
TWO EDITIONS DAILY - WEEKLY.
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LONDON, SATURDAY, FEB. 18.

The Moscow Tragedy.

Unhappy Russia! On horror's head, horrors accumulate. The Grand Duke Sergius, if reports are to be believed, was a type of the most virulent reactionism in the empire. He was identified in a peculiar degree with the policy of repression with which the Government has met the recent resurgence of Russian liberalism. It is improbable that the terrorists would have marked him out for assassination if his record, before the late demonstrations in Moscow, had not been against him. During these troubles he took refuge in his country villa, but when quiet had been ruthlessly restored by the bayonet and saber, he returned to the city, but remained within the walls of the Kremlin, the ancient citadel. It was thought that the problem of his personal safety would be simplified in this way, but in spite of elaborate police precautions, the Kremlin walls were no shelter against the emissaries of vengeance. The assassin is reported as saying after his arrest, "I don't care; I've done my job." Whether this is authentic or not, it is the spirit of those who undertake these crimes, and apparently no human ingenuity can circumvent men who count it a species of martyrdom to give up their lives in taking the lives of others. The Grand Duke Sergius had ample warning, and was escorted by police at the time of his death. The Minister of the Interior, de Plehve, was assassinated a few months ago in precisely the same manner, though accompanied by his bodyguard.

Those who pretend to write with authority on the political evils of Russia invariably ascribe the largest share of the responsibility to the array of grand dukes, the useless and brothers of the Czar, among whom Sergius has been painted as the most unworthy, in his private character and public conduct. They are accused of thwarting the good intentions of the Emperor and checking every movement to redress the abuses of the present system. Whether this is strictly true or not, it is certain that the grand dukes are the special aversion of the Russian reformers. The assassination of the enlightened father of the Grand Duke Sergius, the Czar Alexander II., stiffened the neck of Russian despotism, but by postponing reform, it merely invited revolution. It remains to be seen whether the present rulers of Russia are so blind to the lesson as to repeat the policy which followed the death of Alexander. So long as they try to postpone the inevitable, Nemesis will tread in the shadow of every agent of the system from the Emperor down.

The War Operations.

The Russians celebrated the close of the first year of the war with another defeat. It is now apparent that the attempt of the Russians last week to roll up the Japanese left flank was as complete a failure as former efforts of the Russian commander-in-chief. Incidentally, it developed a quarrel between Kuropatkin and Gripenberg, which culminated in the latter resigning his command, and returning to St. Petersburg. According to his side of the story, a great and decisive victory was within the grasp of the Russians had not Kuropatkin displayed unnecessary timidity, refusing reinforcements at the critical moment, and ordering a retreat which narrowly missed becoming a rout. If Gripenberg's account be correct we may shortly see the recall of Kuropatkin.

On Monday the Russians commenced an extensive cavalry movement across the Hun River. Nine thousand horsemen were engaged in this maneuver, which, as with all the Russian movements of late, was aimed at the Japanese left flank. Although heavily supported by the artillery, the division was apparently intended for a raid without the enemy appearing in force.

A number of Gen. Nogti's great siege guns from Port Arthur have reached the front, and are engaged in shelling Poutouff Hill, the key to the crossing of the Hun. This point, which is at present held by the Russians, is, judging from the desperate combats that have been waged for its possession, of the greatest strategic value. Judging from the execution done by the siege guns at Port Arthur, Poutouff Hill cannot withstand the terrific battering of the monster ordnance. With the menace of this position removed, a Japanese general advance may follow.

Admiral Togo is once more at sea, and when last heard of was heading south in search of Rojevstevsky. Where the two fleets are likely to meet can only be conjectured, but with the possibility of his ships being crippled, it is reasonable to suppose that the Japanese admiral will keep within easy distance of his own dockyards. Ship for ship, his fleet is faster than the Russian, and once in touch with them he can draw them on to battle-grounds of his own choosing. While possessing four battleships to the Russians' seven, the Mikado's fleet is much stronger, in both quality and quantity, as to armored and protected cruisers, while the crews will go into battle with all the confidence bred of experience and victory.

The third Russian Pacific squadron sailed Wednesday to reinforce Rojevstevsky, but it is probable that long before it reaches the Indian Ocean the command of the seas will have been settled.

Admiral Uri continues to blockade Vladivostok, and reports many captures of blockade-runners, most of them British ships.

Law Reform.

The new Premier, as already stated, has announced that in a short time he will vacate the position of Attorney-General in order that Hon. Mr. Foy may take it, and take up also the question of law reform.

The subject is one that is always open, and calls for treatment as the years pass. The Mowat Government abolished the old common law procedure, introduced the judicature act, brought about the fusion of law and equity, and constantly sought to perfect the administration of justice. There are, however, further changes which might be made with advantage. For instance, there is one central guardian of infants' and lunatics' estates, located at Toronto, while there ought to be one appointed in each county. It will not be contended that a competent man cannot be found in each county. It should be plain that many instances will arise in which local knowledge is valuable, personal consultation desirable. It may be replied that an agent could furnish these to the Toronto official guardian, but the answer again is that he who comes into direct contact with the parties interested, and is as well qualified as the official at Toronto, ought not to be an agent—he ought to be the principal.

Suppose a man dies at Sault Ste. Marie, or in any of the counties excepting the county of York, leaving infant children—why should whatever legal assistance these infants require not be supplied where they live, where the facts can be accurately ascertained and the best course in their interest taken? The only answer ever given is that practitioners in the country might not be trustworthy. If any impropriety were discovered, the solicitor could be changed. The inspector of legal offices could inspect these cases. The judges would require proper evidence. There is no scarcity of competent, conscientious men, and with the double check of inspection and the supervision of the judge, there is little chance of wrongdoing.

The present system has outgrown its usefulness, and should give place to the one suggested, by which a guardian would be appointed in each county for infants' and lunatics' estates.

The Weakness of Graded Schools.

On but few questions does the pendulum of public opinion come to rest. The local orators of our school days used to point out the superiority of the modern method of class instruction, by which the teacher teaches 40 pupils in the same time that his predecessor taught one by the individual method. Now Dr. Stanley Hall informs us that the most important change on the horizon of the school is individual instruction. Superintendent Maxwell's report on the backward pupils in the New York city schools is just published. The name, age and class of every pupil in the city have been reported to him. The reports have been tabulated by his clerks, and the summaries show that from 23 to 42 per cent of the pupils, the percentage varying in the different schools, are two years behind where they should be at their age, and he has announced plans that must be tried to bring these backward ones up to the standard if possible.

At the farewell tendered Mr. Eckert in the Lorne avenue school, Vice-Principal Dearness is reported as saying that there is a temptation for teachers to teach and inspectors to inspect children as masses or classes, instead of individuals, and that the secret of Mr. Eckert's success, as he knew it several years ago, lay in the extent to which he individualized his instruction. No pupil was permitted to slip along with the crowd.

A current exchange describes a novel method of securing the end Mr. Eckert is said to have reached by what is called the Batavian system. At the St. Louis Exposition, Batavia, N. Y., was awarded a gold medal for its system of elementary education, and it has since attracted visitors to study its schools. One of these writes that the first thing that strikes an observer is that there are two teachers of co-ordinate rank in nearly every room. While one of these is teaching by the usual class method, the other is giving individual assistance, and keeping the backward ones up to the march.

This division of labor seems at first sight to be a very simple one, but the superintendent declares that no other problem of school management is more difficult than to secure perfect adjustment between the class and individual instruction. "It would be a superficial generalization to say that the Batavian system is simply a two-teacher one. Its essence, whether there be two teachers or only one in the room, lies in economizing time by class instruction, and securing efficiency by seeing that every pupil does his work. The teachers say that the secret of their success is two 'Don'ts'—Don't tell the child what you can get him to discover for himself; don't do things for him, but see that he does things for himself.

Undoing a Wrong.

Our local contemporary cannot be serious in crying "partisanship" because Mayor Campbell has redressed the wrong committed by his predecessor in the appointment of local assessors. Mr. J. W. Little, when mayor, appointed one Conservative and one Liberal assessor, in a spirit of fair play, which was respected by his successors, until Mr. Beck introduced his machine system. If unscrupulous politicians controlled the assessment department they might disfranchise citizens by the score, and in appropriating property, discriminate in favor of party friends. We are not suggesting that any attempt has been made to intimidate the assessors by the party machine which has controlled the city

hall during the past three years, but the principle adopted by Mr. Little was a guarantee to citizens of all parties that partisanship would be minimized in the work of the department. Mr. Beck's conduct in this matter created uneasiness among Liberals, and Dr. Campbell would have been re-elected Mr. Little's wholesome precedent. Any future mayor who violates it will stamp himself, like Mr. Beck, as a partisan, and the city may well hope to be spared such another infliction. Peace and amity have reigned at the city hall this year, because the chair is occupied by a man who is more intent upon serving the city than his party or his own ambition.

No despotism is bomb-proof.

Don't grumble at your station in life. You might have been a Russian grand duke.

Manitoba doesn't want the earth. A slice of the Northwest Territories will satisfy her.

Hon. John Dryden is having the unique experience of being praised by his political opponents before he sleeps in dull cold marble.

The American lumbermen say they would be ruined if the duty were taken off Canadian lumber. The Canadian lumbermen say they will be ruined if a duty is not imposed on American lumber. This is an old game, played at the expense of the people on both sides of the line.

How fast time flies! It is just seven years since the whole civilized world was startled by news that the United States battleship Maine had been wrecked by a mysterious explosion in the harbor of Havana, Cuba. Two officers and 264 members of the crew perished in the catastrophe, which was a prelude to the Spanish-American war and the independence of Cuba.

The United States Senate is trying to prevent the Minneapolis millers from securing a drawback of the duty on Canadian wheat, imported and ground for export. The Senate realizes that this principle, once accepted, would apply to a wide range of industries and undermine the protective system. Yet the American millers must have Canadian wheat or lose their export trade. The loss will be the gain of Canadian millers, but it will deprive Canadian wheat growers of a new market.

Statistics show that Canada is the most temperate liquor-drinking country on earth. The following table shows at a glance the per capita consumption in gallons of alcoholic beverages in twelve countries, including our own:

	Wines.	Beers.	Spirits.
United Kingdom	0.4	23.7	0.99
Germany	1.3	25.6	1.7
France	0.4	3.8	1.56
United States	0.4	15.0	1.22
Italy	0.00	24.2	0.28
Spain	19.0
Portugal	18.3
Holland	0.4	0.4	1.72
Belgium	1.0	47.7	1.19
Austria	1.2	1.2	0.92
New Zealand	..	9.5	0.75
Canada	..	4.8	0.83

The report says that, although exact figures are not available, the consumption of wine in New Zealand and Canada is relatively insignificant.

United After 50 Years.

[Hamilton Spectator.] James Daly, now living in Detroit, came from Boston, Mass., to Dundas in 1860 in search of work. He was successful in getting a job, and after working in Dundas for a time he moved to London, and later to Detroit. For more than 50 years he has been in Detroit, where he is now living in Detroit with his relatives, whom he left in Boston, but for years a sister has been hunting for him. She was successful in getting trace of him recently in Detroit through a son of James Daly, who is curate of Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church in Detroit. The sister, Mrs. Armstrong, expects to be in Detroit in a few days, where she will not only meet her brother, whom she has not seen for nearly half a century, but also a sister, who has been living in Detroit for the past 25 years.

Woes of an Absent-Minded Man.

[Kansas City Journal.] During the rush home before dinner the other night a dignified man, deep in thought, smoking a cigar and carrying a handsomely-bound book, boarded a Troost avenue car at the Eighth street viaduct. The wind whistled in at the open door of the back platform, and it evidently occurred to him to go inside where it was warmer. Absently, with a quick, nervous gesture, he threw the book over the railing to the street below, thrust the lighted cigar into the outside pocket of his overcoat, and started off the crowded aisle. But there was no lack of attention in his manner when the pocket began to smoke and he realized what he had done. He got off the car at Wall street and went back after the discarded volume.

Not Now.

[Chicago Chronicle.] I used to wear a thin straw hat. And gauzy shirts, and things like that. But I don't do it now. I used to go without my vest. And don't the breezes from the west. And think a shanty street the best. But I don't do it now. I used to go without my coat. And wear no collar at my throat. But I don't do it now. On open cars I used to ride. And leave my window open wide. And ice and tea I poured inside. But I don't do it now. I used to fume and stew and fret. Perspire, and sometimes even sweat. But I don't do it now. I used to let the wind blow to blow. And loved to see the sunlight go. And even wished for ice and snow. But I don't do it now.

Japanese Civilization.

[London Graphic.] "We Japanese," the Japanese Minister at Paris is supposed to have said, "have for many generations sent to Europe exquisite lacquer work, delicately carved figures, beautiful embroidery and many other commodities which showed how artistic we are; but the Europeans described us as 'uncivilized.' We have recently killed some seventy thousand Russians, and every

European nation is wondering at the high condition of civilization which we have attained."

Oxford and Goldwin Smith.

[London Times.] The birthday greeting sent to Mr. Goldwin Smith by his old friends at the University of Oxford was as follows:—"Thirty-six years have passed since you left Oxford, and not many remain of those with whom you lived then and who were wont to look to you for light and counsel; and yet you are left desirous to take the occasion of your having passed your 80th birthday to assure us of the sense we retain of the services you rendered to the University when you were among us, of the undiminished affection which we bear to you, and of the admiration we feel for the energy and freshness of mind which have enabled you to fill your later days with work in which we find all the qualities which delighted us at the time when you lectured here. "We hope you may have many years left in which to instruct and to inspire with high ideals not only your contemporaries, but the younger generation which has grown up since your fame became established as a national possession."

The Fast Waste.

[Life.] Edna—What did Dr. Dix mean when he spoke of that "vast waste of human energy?" Maud—Bachelors, of course, dear.

Newfoundland's Best Friend.

[Ottawa Free Press.] The United States Senate having squeezed all the substance out of the Hay-Bonow bill, the colony will not accept the shell. Perhaps after seeing the fruits of his long and patient labors scattered remorselessly to the four winds Sir Robert Bonow may be prevailed upon to turn to Canada. He will be sure of finding here the best and truest friend of the colony.

Ode to a London Fog.

[Pall Mall Gazette.] Let now my throat give forth a note Of jubilant and joyful gloat, Upon the glories of the fog Which at this time is wont to clog My larynx when I stroll the town, And make my coffee brown and brown, I love thee, fog! Though never fixed, Thy colors are most subtly mixed; At times like green, like soup of pea, Another yellow as can be; And sometimes brown and sometimes black. Variety thou dost not lack. Besides, we find thy goodly scent With pleasing variations blent; At one time it suggests a cheese, At another time it pleases please; At other times of pines I find It will unconsciously remind, But that though it stays And stops our going out to plays? What though the frightened horses glide On greasy pavements and collide, And many a weird and curious word From angry 'busmen then is heard? But, fog, reveal thy hidden plans, Most regular of all our friends. So let us greet with kindly zest Our savory and punctual guest.

A Seeming Paradox.

[Detroit Tribune.] While wealthy Londoners are living in Canada, these funds raised in London and Winnipeg to help the London poor.

A Busy Man.

[Toronto Star.] The new Provincial Secretary is so busy seeing visitors that by the time the Legislature meets there will be nothing in his gift, not even a vacant cell in the asylum, that will not be spoken for.

Doctors' Race at a Fair.

[Chicago Chronicle.] An amusing feature of the closing day of the North Georgia Fair held at Chickamauga, Ga., was a "doctors' race." The twelve physicians who took part in the contest had their horses stabled near by and were themselves undressed and in bed at the stroke of the gong. They had to dress, hitch their horses to their vehicle and drive one mile to a supposed patient. The race was won by Dr. J. H. Elder, who was second, and Dr. Hunter third.

In Harmony.

"Yes, sir," says the ice dealer, "the price of ice will be much higher next summer. You see, there has been a poor ice crop this winter." "But you deal in artificial ice," argues the patron.

Painted Paragraphs.

[Chicago News.] The quack doctor is a patient-worker. Fortunate is the man who is able to bear misfortune. A man who loses his temper always manages to find it again. As a rule, a man brings a wisdom in all affairs—except love affairs. The heavier the load a man is carrying the lighter his head is apt to be. A man's capacity for work often depends upon whether he is working for himself or others.

Hobson's Choice.

[Toronto Telegram.] The Czar can either have Peace the way he can get it, or War the way Japan will give it to him. "It is hard for a young man to tell just what he is fitted for." "That is true," answered Mr. Stormington Barnes. "Those who see me play tragedy advise me to play comedy, and those who see me in comedy recommend tragedy."

Uncertainty.

[Washington Star.] "It is hard for a young man to tell just what he is fitted for." "That is true," answered Mr. Stormington Barnes. "Those who see me play tragedy advise me to play comedy, and those who see me in comedy recommend tragedy."

The Tricky Thaw.

[Hamilton Times.] The January thaw does not trouble the London people to any extent, but the March thaw always looked forward to with dread by them. There is a big accumulation of snow lying up above that city, and if it melts suddenly the March thaw will look for it to be hoped that with the experiences and warnings they have received every precaution will be taken by the authorities to protect the people and their property.

MESSRS. C. C. RICHARDS & CO. have long ago had a bad attack of quinsy, which laid them up for two weeks and cost a lot of money. Finding the lump again forming in my throat, I bathed it with MINARD'S LINIMENT, left it on all night. Next morning the swelling was gone, and I attribute the warding off of an attack of quinsy to the free use of MINARD'S LINIMENT. G. F. WORDEN, St. John.



SPECIAL:—Keep in mind the high quality of our Rugs; also remember the prices—low prices, honest prices. Buy the best and pay the least. The regular prices marked are positively correct. It means money in your pocket.

\$12 English Balmoral Rug for \$9.

Special bargain of only one English Balmoral Rug, size 3x3½ yards; regular price \$12. Sale price, \$9.00.

Tapestry Rugs at \$6.50

Ten Tapestry Rugs, 3x3½ yards. Sale price, \$7.50.

Seven Tapestry Rugs, 3x3½ yards. Selling at, \$7.50.

One Tapestry Rug, 3x4 yards. Clearing sale price, \$8.50.

\$24.00 Wilton Rugs for \$21.20.

Money-saving opportunities are no more apparent than in this great sale of handsome Rugs. Special selection of 20 Fine Royal Wilton Rugs, in shades of greens, crimson, terra cotta and blue. Size of Rugs is 3x4 yards. Regular price is \$24.00. Clearing sale price, \$21.20.

\$21.00 Wilton Rug. \$18.50.

Magnificent selection of twenty of the best Royal Wilton Rugs, in all the newest and most predominating colors of greens, crimson, terra cotta. These Rugs are direct importation, size 3x3½ yards. These sell regularly for \$21.00. Can be bought at this sale for \$18.50.

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