

Canada Law Journal.

VOL. LIII.

TORONTO, MARCH, 1917.

No. 3

THE AWAKENING OF RUSSIA.

One of the most interesting and remarkable events in modern history is the almost bloodless revolution which has just taken place at Petrograd. On the 15th of March the Czar Alexander II., Emperor of all the Russias, under pressure from the Duma, representing the people of that great country, abdicated his throne for himself and for his young son.

That which it took England centuries and so many wars to accomplish; that which cost so much to the United States of America in the two great wars of its history; that which deluged France with blood at the time of the French Revolution, has been accomplished, in a country of vastly greater extent and more populous, in the course of a few hours. The same mail which brought the news of the end of the old Empire brought the news of Russia's birth to a government "of the people, by the people and for the people." Whether the new Government will take the shape of a limited monarchy or of a republic remains to be seen. We trust it will be the former, and we say this because recent experiences of our cousins to the south of us clearly indicate that a limited constitutional monarchy, such as that of Great Britain, responds more rapidly to the will of the people and is much more satisfactory in many respects than that which came into existence under the Declaration of Independence.

It would seem from later reports that there is a growing feeling in Russia that the family which ruled and reigned in Russia for so many centuries is not to be trusted so long as there is the possibility of sinister intrigues by Germany or by the pro-Germans of the Baltic Provinces. This remarkable change in the government in a country so great in territory and population as Russia