

Russia To-day Is A Powder Magazine; Needs Only A Spark To Explode It

The "Ritual murder" trial, horrible and insulting as it is to our common humanity, has nevertheless rendered a signal service to the cause of progress; it has put the Russian counter-revolutionary autocracy on its trial before the bar of public opinion and the autocracy has been unanimously condemned.

In the present state of Russia it could not have been otherwise. For a number of years Europe has been regaled with reports and statistics showing the marvellous progress made by Russia since the defeat of the revolution and public opinion has been carefully taught to regard the conditions in that vast empire as normal, settled, and progressive.

These are no empty phrases. The fact has just been openly proclaimed by M. Gutchkoff, the masterful leader of the Octobrists, the party of the commercial classes, who on the

closing day of the National Local Government Congress at Kieff, in the teeth of the order prohibiting all discussion of politics, delivered a powerful speech denouncing the Government for violating all the principles laid down in the constitutional manifesto of Oct. 30, 1905, and warning it, if it should persist in its policy, that the country would be shaken to its foundations.

These men, Opportunists as they are (or just because they are Opportunists), know what they are speaking about. Even Novoe Vremya feels the gathering electricity in the air and cannot help admitting that "our society is at present ill at ease."

The nation, it says, is seized with a feeling of dissatisfaction at the course of Russian political life, and is passing through a mood which vividly reminds one of that which prevailed in 1904 and 1905. The revolutionary elements are once more gaining the upper hand, and though "a revolution may be distant it would be idle to shut one's eyes to the dangers of the road on which we are travelling."

The reactionary sheet writes this in order to call for more repression but the diagnosis is valuable all the same.

In fact, take any class of Russian society, and observe its sentiments. What the commercial and industrial classes feel is clear enough from M. Gutchkoff's utterance. But M. Gutchkoff is a politician, and politicians often speak with a view to tactical advantages.

Take the other end of the social scale—the working class, the militant army of the first revolution. Stunned by the heavy blows of the counter-revolution, it lay low for a number of years. In 1905, the year of the revolution, the number of strikes amounted to 14,000 and the

number of persons involved to 2,867,000. In the five following years the number of strikes gradually fell to 322 and the number of persons involved to 47,000. Seeing that in Russia every strike is a revolt against the police authorities, and to that extent a political act, the down-grade movement of these figures is significant.

But already in 1912 the number of strikes rose to 404, with 103,000 persons involved and in 1912, according to the official report, which only takes cognizance of factories and workshops subject to inspection, the number of strikes was 1,918, with 683,000 persons involved. The Moscow Association of Manufacturers however, has compiled a general report of its own, and puts the number of persons involved in all the strikes in the Empire at 1,069,000. It is obvious that the barometer among the working class is rapidly rising to the level of 1905. Moreover, out of this number 855,000, that is, 78 per cent, struck work directly for political objects on such occasions as the Lena Goldfields massacres. First of May and so forth.

Disaffected Fleet. What about the navy and the navy? The naval mutinies at Sevastopol and Kronstadt, as well as the formidable military mutiny at Tashkent in the summer of last year, suffice to show that not everything is an order even in this quarter. But there is still more recent and very eloquent fact which is now for the first time going to be mentioned in the public press. During the recent visit of the Russian fleet to Portsmouth under Vice-Admiral Ruzhicki, two hundred sailors from the biggest ships deserted; and the present writer is credibly informed by one of these men that the whole of the crews, amounting to many thousands, would have forsaken the ships had not the admiral ordered the fleet immediately to leave the too hospitable waters!

Is it necessary to proceed further with the analysis? Is it necessary to mention the academic youth which has just now in many educational centres proclaimed a twenty-four or forty-eight hours' strike as a protest against the Belliss trial? The only class in Russia which is tolerable quiet at present is the peasantry. The Government is busy engaged in buying up the lands of the "old nobility" at exorbitant prices and selling them to the peasants on the "hire system." The peasants take the lands and till them. But the time will come when they will have to pay for them, and then there will be compulsory sales and evictions, and a terrible Jaquerie.

Such is the present state of Russia—a veritable powder magazine, only wanting a spark to explode. Will the Belliss trial be that spark?

Will the Belliss trial be that spark? The fire was then all around him, and I knew there was no chance to rescue him. A couple of men struck me, and I ran to work their way toward him, while two others, who could not be seen from my position, pleaded piteously for help. The man whom I could not see was held by a timber over his knees, and he grasped and clawed desperately to pull himself out of the wreckage as the fire surrounded him, and he pulled off his lower limbs. He writhed in terrible suffering and moaned agonizingly before he finally fell back into the heat of the inferno and was cremated, with the others.

"Hall was a brick and dretted us, despite his terrible injuries. Both his legs were broken by the impact, but the right one was caught in the wreckage. We secured a shaker bar from the engine and used it for a lever to lift the weight off him, but four of us could make no impression upon it. I tugged away for an hour and 40 minutes before he was released, and the last few boards I pulled from about him were then burning. Had he been five minutes longer in that position he would have met the fate of the others.

"I had confidence that we could get him out until the fire spread all about us, and a burning bunk cushion fell on our heads, and we were worked. Hall then showed his grit and begged us to get an axe and chop his leg. 'Better that than be roasted to death. Go to it boys,' he said us.

We carried him to the engine which had struck us, and left him there for a time where he could get warmed up. His right hand, with which he grasped an iron bar to hold his body up out of the fire, was frozen to the wrist. Later, fearing that the fire would spread to the cab of the engine as it threatened to do every moment, we cut down a curtain off the cab, and carried him on it to the caboose at the other end of the train.

"Both cabooses on the 'out train' were smashed to splinters and burnt all within a comparatively short time. The light of the fire engulfed us in the night, but as it spread it threatened even further fatalities. A flat car was next to the vans on the train and crumbled up when the impact came. The wreckage was thrown almost against an oil tank car and for a time we looked for the tank to explode miserably.

"Our anxiety was still further increased by the fact that No. 4, the Chicago express, would plunge into the wrecked train, and one of the injured men who was doing good work in the attempts to rescue, was sent away to protect us."

It was impossible to find our calls for assistance, and doctors did not arrive until 1 o'clock. Then Coroner Dr. Kelly and Dr. Brandon and Newell came from Watford. They attended the men and later Dr. Brandon came through the London, where he was assisted at Victoria Hospital by Drs. F. P. Drake and E. Seaborn, both G. T. R. physicians.

WILLIAM MOFFAT MET SAD DEATH

Wanstead. The locomotive was cut off and started off light in an effort to make the next water spout. She also failed, however, and to prevent possibility of explosion, the engineer pulled into a siding at Wyoming and demulating Hall, dumped his fire in a like manner.

Snow Makes it Difficult to See. In the meantime the blizzard raged and Stapleton and Holleran attempted protecting the rear end of their train. Snow fell in great clouds through which it was impossible to see even the "fuses" signals more than a couple of car lengths. A terrific gale blew out of the northwest and to remain long in the open meant death for any man who would attempt it. Although he was travelling

"I dropped off to sleep and Hall and the others of the crew who had previously been riding in the locomotive cab, came back to the tail-end for food. After a meal they also turned in and were in their bunks when the crash came.

Freight Dashes On. "Curley" told me that he had occasion to go out while the others were in the car and as he slammed the door and peered into the darkness the headlight of the onrushing freight loomed up like a big yellow moon in the storm. He screamed and jumped, but he did not hear his warning.

Enveloped in Flame. The fire was then all around him, and I knew there was no chance to rescue him. A couple of men struck me, and I ran to work their way toward him, while two others, who could not be seen from my position, pleaded piteously for help. The man whom I could not see was held by a timber over his knees, and he grasped and clawed desperately to pull himself out of the wreckage as the fire surrounded him, and he pulled off his lower limbs. He writhed in terrible suffering and moaned agonizingly before he finally fell back into the heat of the inferno and was cremated, with the others.

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THE LEAGUE TABLES

Table with columns for League, Division, and various football clubs with their respective scores.

How British Football Leagues Are Standing

Table showing the standing of various football leagues including English League, Scottish League, and Southern League.

Carpet Ball

Salisbury Lodge, S. O. E. have formed a carpet ball league among their own members, and they are looking forward to some exciting games this winter.

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THE CITY COUNCIL IN SHORT SESSION

Commission should consist of members, one of whom shall be Mayor and the other two to be elected in accordance with the statute of the city, and that the Solicitors be instructed to take the necessary by-law.

The committee had double number of transformers, and exceeded their estimate. They had this in order to take care of their business, as well as street lighting. The report was carried with a Hydro-By-law.

The Hydro-Electric by-law for a Board of Commission three members, two to be elected by the Mayor to sit on the board office. The Council went into committee of the whole on the matter. Pletcher occupying the chair. The board elected receiving the number of votes remains for one year, the next remains for one year. After that each member elects for two years. If two members die, the man having the highest assessment acts. If a vacancy occurs during the year, the council appoint a man to fill the job until expiration of the term. Ald. H. S. Suddaby wanted to know if salaries to be paid. Ald. Spence said that the Hydro-Electric Commissioners should be themselves properly, most of the council would see its way to follow the precedent established in connection with the Water Commission. The by-law was carried out dissent and it is now up to people to elect their commission.

West Street Closing. Ald. Suddaby submitted a by-law for the closing of West Street adjacent to Grace church, for Bell memorial Park purposes. The by-law went through the council without objection. Ald. McEwen objected to the

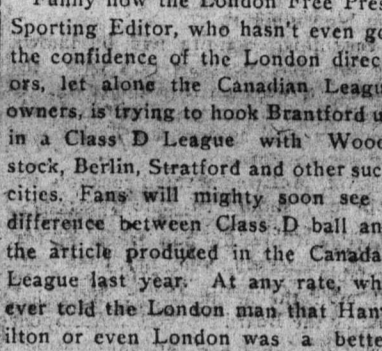
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THE MODERN CARPET OF BAGDAD

There are few people who do not know the story of the wonderful carpet on which the owner had but to sit, wish to be at some place and, lo! immediately he found himself there.

Some agents of this nature would be appreciated by many a manufacturer in jumping the demand for his product into a thousand places, a thousand miles away from his factory. Apparently to such a man there is no means of "getting there" and placing his name and his goods right into that territory, except by slow, laborious bit-by-bit acquaintance—and mouth-to-mouth testimonials.

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Ever hear of Tilson's Oats? The "braw Scot" who stands for this product stepped over night, as it were, from a small town in Ontario to practically every town and village in Canada.

Wrigley's Gum—Sunshine Furnaces—Comfort Soap—all have taken advantage of this Modern Carpet of Bagdad—Newspaper Advertising.

TO THE MANUFACTURERS OF CANADA: If you have a name and a product that you wish placed in demand throughout Canada, take advantage at once of the modern carpet of Bagdad—Newspaper Advertising.

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on all your plumbing work, no matter how small or big the job. If we can't give you better work than others, and at a lower price, then we are feeling our selves. We employ only practical and experienced help, use only the best materials and do every job as carefully as if our reputation depended upon the doing of that alone.

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Don't stay stuffed-up. Quit blowing and sniffing. Ease your throbbing head! Nothing else in the world gives such prompt relief as "Pape's Cold Compound," which costs only 25 cents at any drug store. It acts without assistance, tastes nice, causes no inconvenience. Be sure you get the genuine.

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