

bringing to heel primitive peoples, annexing vast territory, and pursuing its cherished purpose, in fulfilment of what it believed to be its destiny—"to break from ice-bound coasts and gain access to warmer waters on the Pacific shore."

In November, 1894, death overtook Alexander III. The victim of a hateful tyranny, his life was one of unceasing endeavor to cope with domestic revolutionary forces of which he personally was in constant terror, and from which he secluded himself in his palaces, closely guarded by a triple cordon of soldiers and police. He failed to subdue the anarchical spirit which tormented his country. Indeed, under his stern repressive rule the doctrines he dreaded took firmer root. In his vast ambition to shape a huge world-power out of heterogeneous peoples, he sacrificed the opportunity which his father's reign brought to him of establishing the Empire on the rights and affections of his subjects.

Nicholas II. from the first adopted as his own the policy which guided his predecessor—that of a military, world-grasping regime, unillumined by the loftiest aims. In January, 1895, he made it clear that the Zemstvos must not be regarded as possessing the germ of representative government; that the Czar intended to maintain unflinchingly the principle of autocracy. All classes, save the bureaucracy, had hoped for a different pronouncement; and their bitter disappointment was not greatly mollified by "clemency manifestoes." A decade of persecution and intermittent famine deepened the chagrin of his people, and stimulated the subterranean forces that threaten his throne. Posing as a leader of monarchs who are "resolved to maintain the world's peace in a spirit of right and equity," he has shown himself to

be an unscrupulous lover of power in his attitude toward Manchuria. It may be that he is but the tool of a strong oligarchy; but in his treatment of enlightened public men who entertain liberal opinions, as well as in his dealings with anarchists, he has displayed none of the qualities that, in a great sovereign, constrain the admiration of the world.

It will give some idea of the magnitude of the new enterprises when we state that prior to the war £19,000,000 was invested in steel works alone. But extravagance in equipment, over-remuneration of officials, over-production, and mad speculation, culminated in a crisis in which many firms collapsed, with the usual results of scarcity of work and disaffection among the workmen. These rapidly increasing urban populations, drawn from the peasantry, are throwing off the slough of serfdom, and growing in importance year by year. Factory hands number about 2,000,000, and these with their families represent a population of 7,000,000. Add to these about 9,000,000 employed in trades, shops, etc., and we have an urban population of 16,000,000 of industrials. The docile beast of burden is being erected into a man with ideas and aspirations. The Socialist propaganda finds ready listeners.

The fact that thousands of workmen were arrested during the past five years for taking part in labor demonstrations does not make the proletariat the more friendly towards the Government. And they are missionaries to their own kin still bound to the soil. Many of them are employed in the towns during part of the year only, and periodically return to their homes in the country to work upon the land, and to sow widely progressive ideas.

That the peasantry, who constitute