

A HALF HOUR WITH THE RUSSIAN CENSOR.

Dr. Rabinowitz Shows How All Writers and Publishers in the Czar's Empire Are at the Mercy of One Official, But a Little Money Often Helps Them Out.

(By Dr. Samuel Rabinowitz.)

Scene: The office of the government censor at St. Petersburg. A bald-headed, elderly person is bending over a large square table which is almost completely covered with piles of papers and surrounded on all sides with stacks of books of a variety of sizes and bindings. Leaning against the opposite wall in front of him with cap in their hands, legs drawn up as in a parade, and neck craning forward in an effort to catch the eye of the figure at the table, are about two dozen men of different ages, but all of them evidently belonging to the "literati" of the metropolis. At last the old man raised his eyes from the manuscript which he was reading and perceived the presence of the company in waiting.

"Ah! You are here, gentlemen," he called out in a tone of chill indifference. "What brings you here so early today?"

"There is a telegram to the Berlin Telegraph," said the spokesman of the company, "to the effect that Kurapatkin's left wing has been turned and that a strong column of Japanese is now pushing northward. Shall we give it to the public or not?"

"Do you think there is any truth in that telegram?" asked the old man, looking at him sharply.

"Well, as far as we know by past experience," said the spokesman, "there is every evidence of truth coming from that source."

"If this is so," said the old man briefly, resuming the reading of his manuscript, "you cannot publish it."

"Why?" called the whole company in chorus.

"Why?" repeated the old man mockingly. "I guess you are long enough in the business, gentlemen, to know that with the present state of public feeling no Russian reverses must be published which cannot be denied the next day; now, this report, as you admit it yourself, is undeniable, and consequently dangerous."

"Your honor," began another of the company, "it is rumored that his gracious majesty is about to call together a Zemski Sabor (convention of landed proprietors). Shall we mention the fact in today's paper?"

"The fact," repeated the censor with emphasis. "Wait until it shall have become a fact, which, as I presume, will be quite a long wait, and we have plenty of time to make up our minds about it."

"Your honor," said a small man with a squeaking voice, "I am the sub-editor of the Russky Vedomosty. We have received this advertisement from a stranger, which looks somewhat suspicious and we therefore decided to show it to you before publication."

The old man takes the slip of paper from his hand and reads the following: "Personal—Ivan Ivanovitch. As soon as you read this go to St. Petersburg, and talk to Fatima to give you that manuscript. As the red ink is now safe you will do well to take some fire arms with you."

"This is quite an innocent notice," said the censor sharply, "and I cannot see of what bothering my head about it. (Let the reader bear in mind that Ivan Ivanovitch is the national pseudonym of the Russian people as 'John Bull' is the pseudonym of the English people, that the czar is spoken of in Russia as the 'little father' and that the demanded constitution is alluded to by Ihermski by the guarded title of 'The Manuscript') and then let him read the above personal notice over again and he will find that it is not quite so innocent as the censor considered it."

"Your honor," said another of the company with a red face and a nose as sharp as a needle point. "Here is the editorial that I have prepared for today's issue of the Russky Vedomosty. Please glance it over and tell me whether it is satisfactory, as we intend going to press immediately." (The old man takes the manuscript and reads.) "We stand on most reliable grounds that Russia would not be averse to such overtures, providing they come direct from the Japanese government, and are offered with due humility. We understand also that the Japanese would most likely be acceptable to Russia: First, the recognition by Japan of Manchuria as Russian territory; secondly, the solemn assurance by Japan (with a guarantee of good faith by some of the great powers, such as England, for instance) that she will rebuild for Russia all the war vessels, which have been sunk by Admiral Togo & Co. since the opening of hostilities; thirdly, the payment by Japan to Russia of a certain sum of money (which shall be fixed by the latter government) for the free advertising which Japan received during this war through Kurapatkin's despatches to the Japanese press, which have always been given to the world, while those of the Japanese commanders have in most cases been kept private; lastly, the permission of the Japanese government to follow the Russian flag on the mikado's palace for a few minutes at least, so as to realize Kurapatkin's promise to the czar at the outbreak of the war that before the year is over the Russian flag shall flutter over the imperial palace of Tokio.

"If these demands are acceded to, it is understood that Russia will be willing to waive all further claims."

"Well done, Stanislav!" exclaimed the old man, tapping the sub-editor on the shoulder. "This is the kind of editorials we want, and mark my word, you shall one day be chief editor to the Russky Vedomosty (the Russian official organ)."

German. Will we ever be permitted to do so?"

"I am afraid not, Nasiboff," said the censor, coldly. "This is not the time for changing anything. The word has been given out from headquarters 'no changes of the press in Russia allowed' but I suppose you are aware that you have the privilege of making an appeal from my decision to the minister of the interior."

"An appeal!" exclaimed the editor with a bitter smile. "We have already made such an appeal five years ago and the answer was that we shall receive his decision through your office. Did you hear anything of the kind?"

"Not yet, sir, not yet, but we may hear from him any time."

"Yes," said the man grimly, "any time within the next century."

"You are growing sarcastic, Gospodin Stepanov," broke in the censor, sharply. "It would be well for you to keep in mind that your journal has already received the second notice, and even at this moment is under close surveillance."

(Any journal in Russia which happens to publish something displeasing to the government is given notice of such displeasure. The third notice of such nature means an absolute suspension of the journal.)

"Your honor," said a boyish-looking newsman, "I am a new hand on the staff of the Peterburzkie Listok, and an altogether ignorant of the laws of the censorship. I just got hold of a copy of a small leaflet appearing in the city which bears the seal of the office and contains much valuable news that has not yet been published in any newspaper. I know that my editor would pounce upon it as on a great find, but I am afraid that you will find some objections to the news, although the leaflet does bear the seal of your office. Now, what I wish to find out is whether I am permitted to copy a censored article from another paper without further examination?"

"Come a little nearer, young man," said the censor with a smile. "Have you got that paper with you?"

"Yes, your honor, here it is."

With these words the young man handed him a copy of a small-sized paper. The censor unfolded it and was the first to read the news. It was a copy of the Zemlia e Volia (Land and Freedom), the well known revolutionary paper which somehow finds its way into Russia in spite of the Argus-eyed vigilance of the censors. The very first article was headed "The Hour of the Autocracy has Struck." Under this heading the editor, upon every true Russian to join the ranks of the Liberals and throw off the yoke of the old and rotten despotism. Next comes an article headed "The Alliance of the Allies," in which the writer argues that the real hope and prayer of all liberty-loving Russians is for a crushing defeat of Kurapatkin's forces by the Japanese, which would lead to a certain Russian revolution opening the eyes of the Russian people to the inefficiency of the autocratic regime. After this there is a list of Russian prisoners with the number of political offenders which they respectively contain at the time of writing, totalling up the enormous figure of 200,000. The place of honor in the centre of the front page is taken by a cartoon of the Grand Duke Vladimir in heroic style, holding a tiny form of Tsar Nicholas in the palm of his hand. Another picture presents a Russian censor drawing his sword to slay a true Russian citizen in a dictionary. The rest of the paper is given to miscellaneous matters such as several formulas how to make dynamite bombs; portraits of some of the leaders who were killed or imprisoned during the laborers' procession to the palace square on that fatal Sunday. Warnings by the revolutionary committee to Grand Duke Vladimir, Sergius and others that they have been sentenced to death; resolutions condemning the French Republic for making an alliance with a despotic bureaucracy, etc., etc.

"Is this the kind of news you wish to copy?" asked the censor sternly. "And do you mean to say that you did not know this infernal stuff was unreasonable? I cannot believe it, but I shall give you a chance to prove your innocence to the procurator of the secret service. (To the order of the door.) A Soldier, arrest this man! and take him at once to the bureau of secret service."

At this turn of affairs the company of journalists looked at each other with dismay. "Hold on, gentlemen!" he said in a commanding tone, "I have noticed that up to this time none of your journals has yet made mention of the ukase of his gracious majesty granting freedom of the press to his empire, and this notwithstanding it is already over six months since that ukase was issued."

"Hem!" began the leader of the company, who was evidently a privileged person. "Fact the matter is, your honor, that we didn't notice any marked relaxation on the censorship of news since the promulgation of said ukase."

"You did not notice it?" exclaimed the censor with much vehemence. "I wonder what you gentlemen would call freedom of the press? Do you wish to be given a license to criticize the government or to press an opinion as to what the annual salary of the grand dukes ought to be? Or to agitate for the establishment of a parliament? Or to publish cartoons of the czar and his ministers as they do in Germany? Why, there is no satisfying you, and I am personally of the opinion that you are even now abusing the freedom of the press which his majesty graciously extended to you in his own free will six months ago. Now, boys, take the advice of an old man and when you go home sit down at your desks and write up long editorials announcing with proper enthusiasm his majesty's ukase regarding the freedom of the press, and comparing it to the granting of the Magna Charta by King John, the emancipation of the serfs by Alexander II, etc. This will have an excellent effect abroad, and will surely do no

harm at home. Will you do it, boys?"

"Well," said the first speaker, hiding a fletch smile, "if you suggest it I guess we shall have to do it."

"No, there is no 'have to,' boys," said the censor, "remember that we are having freedom of the press in Russia already for six months. I am only giving advice. Will you act upon it?"

"If it is only advice," said the spokesman, "I think we have plenty of time to make up our minds about it."

"Well—er—," stammered the censor, "it is, of course, pure advice, but have you heard what happened to the 'Evreyski Veshad' for acting contrary to my advice?"

"No, we have not. What happened to it?"

"O, nothing serious, only suspended for six months," said the censor smilingly.

This settled the affair.

"Guess we will take your advice," said the company in chorus, leaving the room.

(Enter a clammy old fellow, with a mass of scraggy locks dangling from under a musty cap.)

"I am Pchinka, the poet," he said in a cracked falsetto voice. "I wish to find out whether you are through with reviewing my volume of poems entitled 'The Crowing of the Cock,' which I left with you about year ago."

"Not yet, my dear poet," replied the censor. "I am afraid the crowing of the cock will be somewhat belated this time, as the office has lately been completely clogged up with manuscripts, and it will take some time before they are all passed upon. By the way, have you already obtained a publisher for your work?"

"Yes, your honor," said the poet, "the firm of Nemidoff & Kasaanoff are anxious to publish my poems, they are only waiting for the manuscript. The next day I will send them the manuscript."

"Well," said the censor in a somewhat mollified tone, "send them the manuscript, but in the state in which it is now it is not worth a kopeck to me. You can keep the books and I will make an appeal to the minister of the interior."

(The censor takes one of the volumes from the floor and runs through its pages with his thumb.) "I cannot see what you are making such a fuss about. There is quite a large number of white pages left, and who can say positively that an encyclopaedia should be printed in only 5,000 pages. In fact I consider it quite a presumption in the Poles that their rebel encyclopaedia should be made up of 20,000 pages. The Russian encyclopaedia has in it only about half that number of pages."

"But," pleaded the man, "I looked through the Poles' and I was shocked at the left and I found there so much matter to be altogether useless when a person does not know what is under the black patches which nearly all of them contain."

"If this is all," said the censor, ironically, "I can inform you what is under the black patches—treason, treason, rebellion, rebellion, rebellion, rebellion, does that satisfy you? Now go!"

FERROVIM
TRADE MARK
A TONIC FOR ALL
It makes new blood
It invigorates
It strengthens
It builds
BONE AND MUSCLE
Used with the greatest advantage by all weak people. Prevents fainting, makes weak people strong and healthy.
Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd., Montreal.

POSTAGE RATES TO CANADA.
Will Not be Reduced on British Magazines and Publications.

It Would Mean An Enormous Loss to the Home Department—United States Rates Should be Increased.

LONDON, March 16.—Postmaster General Stanley today informed a deputation headed by Sir Gilbert Parker that to grant their request for a reduction of postage on magazines and periodicals sent from England to Canada to the same rate as charged from the United States to Canada, would entail a loss of \$15,000,000 yearly. He fully appreciated the value of the circulation of English newspapers, etc., in the dominion, but it was impossible to adopt such a course. One American postmaster had denounced the American rate because it entailed a heavy loss on the United States post office. In the convention of 1875 Canada had practically given a bounty to America on publications, and any variation in the existing charges should be an increase of the American rate rather than a decrease of the English rate.

HOUSE BURNED
While Preparations Were Being Made For Funeral.

HOPEWELL HILL, March 16.—Boas Gross, an old and well known resident of Surrey, Hillsboro, died at his home there on Sunday, and was buried yesterday afternoon. At eleven o'clock yesterday morning, after preparations had been completed for the funeral, the family residence took fire from a defective flue and burned to the ground. The body of the deceased was removed from the burning building and taken to the home of the deceased's brother across the street. The contents of the house were also saved from the flames. The dwelling was a large two story building and was uninsured. The late Mr. Gross was about 75 years of age, and leaves a wife and several daughters and a large family connection.

MURDER HINTED
In the Death of Mrs. Lewis, Who Drank Aconite in Mistake For Cough Medicine.

BOSTON, N. B., March 16.—Since the death of Mrs. A. H. Lewis of Parre, N. B., from aconite poisoning, the Nova Scotia government of Uruguay, South America, on the charge of illegally catching seals with the territorial waters of that republic.

Cape Breton Copper Co.'s Property Sold—The Townsend and Downey Failure.

BOSTON, March 16.—The Cape Breton Copper Co. property, which was owned here, has been disposed of by auction for \$30,000. The plan of reorganization has been abandoned and the stock wiped out.

THE MAN IS MISSING.
NEW YORK, Mar. 17.—The body of the girl found in a Newark hotel last night, with evidence that she had been strangled, was today identified as that of Miss Mattie Dennis. She was a 20-year-old girl who lived with her relatives at 133 Hopkins avenue, Jersey City, but had not been seen by them since Wednesday morning, when she left home ostensibly to go to work.

KILLED HIS SON.
MONTREAL, March 18.—William Phelan, 56 years old, early this morning killed his seventeen-year-old son, William Phelan, Jr., by striking him across the head with a poker while the boy was in bed. Phelan's wife died recently and since then he has been acting strangely.

"Child's Play Wash Day" Surprise Soap
Means: To make the dirt drop out, not to rubbed in, use
the "Surprise" way without boiling or scalding the clothes. Its new way and a clean, easy method of doing the wash.
Surprise is all Soap: a pure Soap which makes a quick lather.
Read the directions on the wrapper.



DOMINION PARLIAMENT.
OTTAWA, March 17.—The galleries were crowded this afternoon in expectation of a ministerial statement concerning the autonomy bill, but Laurier was not in his seat and nobody else on his side dared say a word. There were two floods of petitions, those from Quebec in favor of separate schools, and those from the rest of Canada in defence of provincial rights.

CARLETON COUNTY COURT.
WOODSTOCK, N. B., March 17.—The county court is still in session and will not be through till the first of the week. In the case against Dickinson—false prisoner was acquitted on account of vagrancy and sentenced to one month in jail. In the case of Dr. Brown v. Overseers of the Poor for the parish of Kent for witnesses in this case on Millie Gee, the judge put a series of questions to the jury, who among other things answered that there was not an unqualified promise on the part of the poor masters to pay the bill; that Millie Gee was only a pauper; that Dr. Brown performed the services and that he was entitled by way of remuneration to \$70. On this finding the judge ordered the verdict to be entered for the defendant. A stay of proceedings was granted. The case of the King v. Aliman Canan, perjury, was begun before noon. There are a large number of witnesses in this case and the crown did not have their case on when the court adjourned. This case will take all day tomorrow. There is another civil case to be held.

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EX-REEVE'S RHEUMATISM CURED BY DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS.

Was So Cramped that He Could Hardly Get Around and He Could Not Rely on Doctors or Medicines.

REDFORD, Ont., March 17.—(Special.)—"Dodd's Kidney Pills cured me of Rheumatism sick and clean." Mr. W. G. Craig, the well-known merchant and ex-reeve of this place was the speaker and he evidently meant every word he said.

REFUSED TO ANSWER.
BALSTON, N. Y., March 19.—Miss Rebecca Jones, the woman who attained world wide celebrity some 25 years ago in New York by refusing to answer questions in the surrogate court, in the Gordon Hamesley will contest, and suffered imprisonment over one year for contempt without yielding, has been released from the New York State Reformatory for Women.

BURNED TO DEATH.
BASTPORT, Me., March 17.—Mrs. Mary Kenchett, aged 82 years, was burned to death today in a fire that destroyed a two story tenement house at 105 New York street. She was overcome before an alarm could be given. So rapidly did the flames spread that it was impossible for help to reach her.

PATENT REPORT.
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91,204—Wm. Jas. Clayton, Westmount, N. B., wearing apparel.
91,205—Ethan J. Hart, Westmount, Que., fireman's signaling system.
91,200—Norbert Chapdelaine, Montreal, Que., shoe clasp.

CASTORIA
For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Watson*

LOCAL LEGISLATION

FREDERICTON, N. B. house met at 3 o'clock. Hon. Mr. Tweedie tabled the evidence of the commissioners on a report for the past year. Hon. Mr. Tweedie tabled to amend the New Elections Act with respect of Alma, Northumberland, that it was desired additional polling place. Mr. Hazen thought to make a general bill other places which were polling places. In St. only two polling places where there were 1,300 polled. Hon. Mr. Tweedie tabled in such a case constitutional ballot boxes. Mr. Hazen said this done in Prince ward, worked excellently at election, and he thought to be congratulated. Hon. Mr. Tweedie said he desired changes in memorandum of what added to the bill. Mr. Hazen thought some uniform rules to be added with respect to of the act. For instance of St. John required names to be added to the list of voters. Hon. Mr. Tweedie said that he would accept of the leader of the opposition that no great injustice if no names were added were finally made up. Hon. Mr. Tweedie suggested that it have a permanent list that notice should be certain names were others to be struck out. Hon. Mr. Hill thought the act a man might resident of the place that was before him. Hon. Mr. Tweedie bill be referred to a (This was carried and passed by a majority of Tweedie, Pugsley, Copp, Hazen and Clouston.) Hon. Mr. Tweedie motion was referred to a vote. In moving this motion Mr. Tweedie said: In referring this motion to a vote I do not mean to say that I have taken up or that I have taken down. There were plenty of were quite certain that in regard to that subject when the decision was made. There were who declared their forehand that there was contention and that endeavoring to sustain that position. It was of that kind, for I had duty of any government, as well as of all in the legislature. It was the duty of the heart, to see that the voice was preserved, since with the principle moved this resolution in such a case about duty of the government do not guard the integrity voice may be subverted little confidence federal government pleased what position been in? In 1867, a underfunding, the federal undertook to deal with the provinces. If there were some that their rights were protected, and we fought on this issue, with the federal government wholly in the wrong would Ontario have stood up for the right of the federal government to draw the attention of parliament of Canada. The resolution fully the objects which the federal government decided the question putting the population of the territories into the hands of the provinces should not be dealt with. I feel that this is should be discussed on both sides of the question, and that the interests of the worthy of note that men who are very provincial rights who provincial legislatures indifferent to the to Ottawa. I remember Fielding and Blair in urging the franchise in the time in 1887, but who larger field they applied were pledged. I feel that it is a thing that all the we complain with the British Columbia, through without the admission of British Columbia into the union gave that province that number could but might be increased. I feel that it is a thing in the same province as the one of the confederation. I feel that it is a thing that all the provinces might reason of British Columbia. The same terms of the franchise when the bill was raised against it. Dr. Sproule, who bill, was told that matter of it.

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