

# Russia's Wise Diplomacy.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Times, discussing Russian affairs, says that particular attention is now being bestowed upon England by the minister of finance in the way of advertising the work of his department and the material condition of Russia. No pains or money is being spared to produce a favorable effect by the proposed Russian section at the international exhibition to be held next spring at Glasgow. This attention toward England has been especially noticeable, says the writer, since Mr. Witte's recent visit to Paris, which is said to have left behind a very unfavorable impression.

'At the present moment,' he continues, 'the shareholders of French metallurgical companies in Russia, several of which, it appears, will shortly have to liquidate, are extremely angry with him on account of the losses in which they allege that his policy has involved them. Having put their money into Russian iron works on the strength of promises of government orders and the prospect of enormous profits to be made out of the forced development of industry and railway construction, they now complain that the minister of finance has fixed his own prices, that payment for executed orders has not been promptly made when due, and that they no longer receive all the support to which they consider themselves entitled. Extensive disaster is therefore prophesied, and stock is depressed on the market in consequence.'

'It is said that the dividends paid last year by the Belgian companies in Russia did not amount in the aggregate to more than 2 1/2 per cent, on the whole 600,000,000 roubles of capital invested, and seventeen of these companies paid no dividend at all. It is the old story of the government undertaking to do everything and to support everybody instead of releasing trade and industry in the country from all official tutelage and dependence; and when necessity drives the Government to retrench, to curtail railway work, to reduce orders, and make people wait for their money, then private individuals who put themselves into such a position naturally have to be sacrificed. At the very beginning of the boom in foreign metallurgical enterprise it was predicted, on the basis of calculating how long Russia could afford to go on spending such a large amount of money on railways, that it would probably not last longer than ten years. The unforeseen cost of Russia's share in the Chinese imbroglio, from which the government on this account would like to be free as soon as possible, will no doubt contribute largely toward the fulfilment of this prediction.'

Turning then to Russia's foreign politics the correspondent points out the essential differences between the conducting of it and that of England. When Englishmen are dissatisfied with their government's diplomacy, they generally reproach it for the inferior qualities displayed in comparison with those of the Russian. But it is pointed out that while the foreign policy of England is probably more difficult than that of any other European power, that of Russia is perhaps the easiest.

'There is nothing,' he said, 'so remarkably clever and astute in the conduct of Russian policy apart from the exceptionally favorable conditions in which it is formed, of which its directors are easily able to enjoy the full and enviable advantages in maturing and carrying that policy into effect. The first and foremost of these conditions are undoubtedly mystery and silence which are not allowed to be penetrated or broken on any account, unless and until the contrary suits the purpose of the government.'

'There is no cabinet of St. Petersburg, except that of the Emperor, which is merely one of the offices of the Ministry of the Imperial Household, unconnected with politics of any kind. Russian foreign policy is guided nominally or really, as the case may be, by the Czar himself, with the assistance of his one obedient minister in that particular department. Among all the 120,000,000 of his majesty's subjects, not another single man's opinion is of the slightest consequence, unless it is asked for, and not often even then. The Emperor Paul once said that no man in the Russian empire was of any importance except the one to whom he spoke, and then only so long as he was speaking to him.'

'If any official blunder is made it is rectified without anybody outside knowing that it ever has been committed. No damaging criticism is tolerated in the press and no explanation is allowed to be asked for. Adverse comment on the acts of the

government in foreign affairs is extremely rare, and then it is always either disguised in allegory, or couched in the most general and abstract form. Russian editors long ago discovered that the safest plan for themselves was to glorify every act of their own government and denounce everything done by the government of every other country. Russian newspaper criticism in any case is purely academical, without any force in practical politics. A minister can either learn from it, treat it with disdain, or have it stopped according to his humor. A terrible example of how the latter course is pursued is at this very moment being given to an astonished world by Gen. Bobrikoff in Finland.

'All outgoing and incoming telegrams on foreign affairs are, in Russia, strictly controlled and revised by a censor acting under continual instructions from the foreign office, and even official declarations of a British secretary for French affairs in the house of commons have been entirely suppressed in this way on reaching St. Petersburg by telegraph. At the same time the Russian press is privately admonished in regard to its tone and comments, either through the ministry of the interior, instigated by the ministry for foreign affairs, or through other available channels. The only exception to this is the free hand always allowed to Russian editors in attacking England, and this is all that could possibly have been meant by the assertion made here at different times to several British ambassadors that the Russian foreign office never interferes with the native press in its discussion on foreign affairs. Unfortunately, the ambassadors in question were not sufficiently acquainted with the secret tricks played upon the Russian press to appreciate the point of this otherwise inaccurate statement.

'And nowadays Russian emperors as a rule, never talk politics with foreign ambassadors. That practice has been as good as abandoned ever since the Emper-

or Nicholas I. created such difficulties for his government by discussing his startling proposal to dispose of the property of the Sick Man on the Bosphorus with Sir G. M. Seymour in 1854. It is not surprising if in such conditions Russia has been able to score successes and to spring surprises on the world.

'There is, however, one difficulty and that is the fact that a great part of Europe Russia is under the rule of military governors general, while everywhere in Russian Asia generals of the army reign supreme. On the eastern confines of the empire they have always been on the lookout for profitable opportunities and their military superiors in St. Petersburg have seldom been slow to back them up. In spite of the attempts of the Foreign Office to preserve peace and quietness. This conflict between Russian diplomacy and the military authorities in Asia, of which there have been many historical examples, has never been more conspicuously displayed than in connection with the present campaign in Manchuria. From the very commencement of it Generals Grodekoff and Gribsky had evidently made up their minds to annex the right bank of the Amur, from which the Chinese had so treacherously attacked the Russian at Blagovestchenk. Their published orders on the subject show that they regarded that annexation as a duty bequeathed to them by the greatest of all their predecessors in that region, Count Muraviev Amursky; but the emperor, siding with his diplomatic adviser, put his imperial veto upon it. Exactly the same thing was done by the first Emperor Nicholas in a similar case on the very same line of frontier in 1857, when the territory at the mouth of the Amur was annexed by a naval officer, Capt. Nevelsky, who acted in contravention of his instructions. The annexation in that case was finally maintained all the same.

'A recently published account of what occurred to the disobedient, but successful officer in question is highly interesting at the present juncture. Nevelsky was disgraced by being reduced to the ranks of a common sailor, and soon after his return

**\$200 IN GOLD GIVEN AWAY FREE TO BRIGHT PEOPLE.**

**LIFAXNA ECEBUQ ONTLEARN TAWATO OSINKNOT BOMOTOT NILTOMAN ONNDOL NIPEGWIN COUREVNAV TORVICAL**

Can you arrange these eleven sets of jumbled letters into the names of eleven Canadian cities? If so, you can have a share of the above prize, provided you comply with our one simple condition. This is no easy matter to be worked out in a minute, but by patience and perseverance you can probably get eight or nine of them correct. In the person sending us the best correct list will receive \$100 in Cash. The number of the second best list will be \$50 in Cash, and the number of the third best list will be \$25 in Cash, and so on. The number of the fourth best list will be \$12 1/2 in Cash, and so on. The number of the fifth best list will be \$6 1/4 in Cash, and so on. The number of the sixth best list will be \$3 1/4 in Cash, and so on. The number of the seventh best list will be \$1 1/4 in Cash, and so on. The number of the eighth best list will be \$1/2 in Cash, and so on. The number of the ninth best list will be \$1/4 in Cash, and so on. The number of the tenth best list will be \$1/8 in Cash, and so on. The number of the eleventh best list will be \$1/16 in Cash, and so on. The number of the twelfth best list will be \$1/32 in Cash, and so on. The number of the thirteenth best list will be \$1/64 in Cash, and so on. The number of the fourteenth best list will be \$1/128 in Cash, and so on. The number of the fifteenth best list will be \$1/256 in Cash, and so on. The number of the sixteenth best list will be \$1/512 in Cash, and so on. The number of the seventeenth best list will be \$1/1024 in Cash, and so on. The number of the eighteenth best list will be \$1/2048 in Cash, and so on. The number of the nineteenth best list will be \$1/4096 in Cash, and so on. The number of the twentieth best list will be \$1/8192 in Cash, and so on. The number of the twenty-first best list will be \$1/16384 in Cash, and so on. The number of the twenty-second best list will be \$1/32768 in Cash, and so on. The number of the twenty-third best list will be \$1/65536 in Cash, and so on. The number of the twenty-fourth best list will be \$1/131072 in Cash, and so on. The number of the twenty-fifth best list will be \$1/262144 in Cash, and so on. The number of the twenty-sixth best list will be \$1/524288 in Cash, and so on. The number of the twenty-seventh best list will be \$1/1048576 in Cash, and so on. The number of the twenty-eighth best list will be \$1/2097152 in Cash, and so on. The number of the twenty-ninth best list will be \$1/4194304 in Cash, and so on. The number of the thirtieth best list will be \$1/8388608 in Cash, and so on. The number of the thirty-first best list will be \$1/16777216 in Cash, and so on. The number of the thirty-second best list will be \$1/33554432 in Cash, and so on. The number of the thirty-third best list will be \$1/67108864 in Cash, and so on. The number of the thirty-fourth best list will be \$1/134217728 in Cash, and so on. The number of the thirty-fifth best list will be \$1/268435456 in Cash, and so on. The number of the thirty-sixth best list will be \$1/536870912 in Cash, and so on. The number of the thirty-seventh best list will be \$1/1073741824 in Cash, and so on. The number of the thirty-eighth best list will be \$1/2147483648 in Cash, and so on. The number of the thirty-ninth best list will be \$1/4294967296 in Cash, and so on. The number of the fortieth best list will be \$1/8589934592 in Cash, and so on. The number of the forty-first best list will be \$1/17179869184 in Cash, and so on. The number of the forty-second best list will be \$1/34359738368 in Cash, and so on. The number of the forty-third best list will be \$1/68719476736 in Cash, and so on. The number of the forty-fourth best list will be \$1/137438953472 in Cash, and so on. The number of the forty-fifth best list will be \$1/274877906944 in Cash, and so on. The number of the forty-sixth best list will be \$1/549755813888 in Cash, and so on. The number of the forty-seventh best list will be \$1/1099511627776 in Cash, and so on. The number of the forty-eighth best list will be \$1/2199023255552 in Cash, and so on. The number of the forty-ninth best list will be \$1/4398046511104 in Cash, and so on. The number of the fiftieth best list will be \$1/8796093022208 in Cash, and so on. The number of the fifty-first best list will be \$1/17592186044416 in Cash, and so on. The number of the fifty-second best list will be \$1/35184372088832 in Cash, and so on. The number of the fifty-third best list will be \$1/70368744177664 in Cash, and so on. The number of the fifty-fourth best list will be \$1/140737488355328 in Cash, and so on. The number of the fifty-fifth best list will be \$1/281474976710656 in Cash, and so on. The number of the fifty-sixth best list will be \$1/562949953421312 in Cash, and so on. The number of the fifty-seventh best list will be \$1/1125899906842624 in Cash, and so on. The number of the fifty-eighth best list will be \$1/2251799813685248 in Cash, and so on. The number of the fifty-ninth best list will be \$1/4503599627370496 in Cash, and so on. The number of the sixtieth best list will be \$1/9007199254740992 in Cash, and so on. The number of the sixty-first best list will be \$1/18014398509481984 in Cash, and so on. The number of the sixty-second best list will be \$1/36028797018963968 in Cash, and so on. The number of the sixty-third best list will be \$1/72057594037927936 in Cash, and so on. The number of the sixty-fourth best list will be \$1/144115188075855872 in Cash, and so on. The number of the sixty-fifth best list will be \$1/288230376151711744 in Cash, and so on. The number of the sixty-sixth best list will be \$1/576460752303423488 in Cash, and so on. The number of the sixty-seventh best list will be \$1/1152921504606846976 in Cash, and so on. The number of the sixty-eighth best list will be \$1/2305843009213693952 in Cash, and so on. The number of the sixty-ninth best list will be \$1/4611686018427387904 in Cash, and so on. The number of the seventieth best list will be \$1/9223372036854775808 in Cash, and so on. The number of the seventy-first best list will be \$1/18446744073709551616 in Cash, and so on. The number of the seventy-second best list will be \$1/36893488147419103232 in Cash, and so on. The number of the seventy-third best list will be \$1/73786976294838206464 in Cash, and so on. The number of the seventy-fourth best list will be \$1/147573952589676412928 in Cash, and so on. The number of the seventy-fifth best list will be \$1/295147905179352825856 in Cash, and so on. The number of the seventy-sixth best list will be \$1/590295810358705651712 in Cash, and so on. The number of the seventy-seventh best list will be \$1/1180591620717411303424 in Cash, and so on. The number of the seventy-eighth best list will be \$1/2361183241434822606848 in Cash, and so on. The number of the seventy-ninth best list will be \$1/4722366482869645213696 in Cash, and so on. The number of the eightieth best list will be \$1/9444732965739290427392 in Cash, and so on. The number of the eighty-first best list will be \$1/18889465931478580854784 in Cash, and so on. The number of the eighty-second best list will be \$1/37778931862957161709568 in Cash, and so on. The number of the eighty-third best list will be \$1/75557863725914323419136 in Cash, and so on. The number of the eighty-fourth best list will be \$1/151115727451828646838272 in Cash, and so on. The number of the eighty-fifth best list will be \$1/302231454903657293676544 in Cash, and so on. The number of the eighty-sixth best list will be \$1/604462909807314587353088 in Cash, and so on. The number of the eighty-seventh best list will be \$1/1208925819614629174706176 in Cash, and so on. The number of the eighty-eighth best list will be \$1/2417851639229258349412352 in Cash, and so on. The number of the eighty-ninth best list will be \$1/4835703278458516698824704 in Cash, and so on. The number of the ninetieth best list will be \$1/9671406556917033397649408 in Cash, and so on. The number of the ninety-first best list will be \$1/19342813113834066795298816 in Cash, and so on. The number of the ninety-second best list will be \$1/38685626227668133590597632 in Cash, and so on. The number of the ninety-third best list will be \$1/77371252455336267181195264 in Cash, and so on. The number of the ninety-fourth best list will be \$1/154742504910672534362390528 in Cash, and so on. The number of the ninety-fifth best list will be \$1/309485009821345068724781056 in Cash, and so on. The number of the ninety-sixth best list will be \$1/618970019642690137449562112 in Cash, and so on. The number of the ninety-seventh best list will be \$1/1237940039285380274899124224 in Cash, and so on. The number of the ninety-eighth best list will be \$1/2475880078570760549798248448 in Cash, and so on. The number of the ninety-ninth best list will be \$1/4951760157141521099596488896 in Cash, and so on. The number of the one hundred best list will be \$1/9903520314283042199192977792 in Cash, and so on.

Address Toronto Publishing Co., Jordan Chambers, Dept. 7, Toronto.

to St. Petersburg the Czar Nicholas I. sent for him to come to the palace. The Emperor received him with a severe frown of displeasure and after a minute's pause said: 'It appears, Nevelsky, that you dare to undertake expeditions of your own, and to change your instructions to suit yourself. I have here,' continued his Majesty, holding up a paper, 'an order reducing you to the ranks. What have you got to say in self defence?' Nevelsky was too much afraid to answer, and remained perfectly silent. The Emperor then took a map and began to run his finger along the line of the Amur River from its source to the Pacific. 'Here,' said the Emperor, with apparent signs of beginning to relent, 'here, at this point, you are a simple sailor, further on a Lieutenant, still further on a Captain, then a Commander, and here, at Nikolaievsk, you become a Vice-Admiral. But no, Nevelsky, not quite so fast, you must first of all be punished for disobedience.' The Emperor then rose from his chair, embraced Nevelsky, and decorated him with the Order of St. Vladimir, 'Spasibo (thanks), Nevelsky,' said his Majesty, 'thanks for your zeal, but in future be more careful and do not exceed your duty.'

by, to favor Russian hopes on the Amur. Those of today have certainly not lost sight of the lesson. The Russian flag was distinctly hoisted with much ceremony and bravado, this time on the site of the new Russian military settlement on the right and Manchurian side of the Amur, and the commanders under whose orders it was done had been thanked and decorated. Figuratively speaking, that flag was afterwards hauled down by the diplomats in the official declaration that the Russian troops would be withdrawn from Manchuria as soon as there was no longer any necessity for their presence. But Russian military authorities have a diplomacy of their own, and it is yet too early to judge whether the parallel with the case of Nevelsky, as far as it goes, will be carried any further.'

### CHINESE PRISONERS HAVE TO WORK.

Greatly Impresses the Common People—Living in the South Abolition.

Included in the advices received at Victoria, B. C., by the Empress of China are translations of Chinese accounts of the conduct of the allies at Pekin and other happenings there taken from interviews with late arrivals from the capital and printed in the native Shanghai papers. Of all that has occurred in Pekin that which seems most to impress the average Chinese is the fact that nobles and high officials, even princes of the royal line, have been compelled to perform manual labor. The bitterest reproaches are heaped upon these because they did not possess sufficient courage to destroy themselves rather than submit to such degradation, a degradation which has fallen not upon themselves alone but upon the country.

While the trouble in the south seems to have abated, it is by no means over for the Empress brings news that over one hundred boats, all of which were 'commandered,' containing Black Flags, have arrived at Canton to demand wages and many outrages are reported to have been committed by these troops. They made a determined attack on the roman catholic church at Lok Cheung, but were repulsed with heavy loss.

The annual popular fete of Tochi-Noich, in the Kanda district of Tokio, was scene of a terrible accident. Great crowds attended the festivals and when the affair was at its height, heavy rain fell. A rush was made for shelter and twenty people were crushed to death. Kerosene lamps fell to the ground and exploded, the burning oil running over the floor and setting fire to the building. Three hundred and twelve wounded people were carried out of the building.

It is reported on good authority in Japan that the Russian minister at Seoul, Mr. Ravlobovas, advised the Emperor of Corea to place his country under Russian protection, since Manchuria has become a Russian possession. Along with this report it is said that Russian troops recently crossed the Korean frontier. A report comes from Seoul that several of the Korean ministry are under arrest and will likely lose their heads.

The following mail advices have arrived by the Empress of Japan: The North China Daily News says it is strange that his Majesty the Emperor, Kwang Hsu, and the Empress Dowager should have selected the Shenai province as a place of refuge, a province which cannot be mentioned by name in the civilized world without a shudder, owing to the great calamity that has fallen upon it.

The latest news from the plague-ridden province of Shenai is that the market town, where their majesties are abiding, human flesh is being hawked about the streets for sale. The famine is at its acute stage and the death rate is appalling. The poor have no food but grass and roots, and many of them who have money have been driven to buy and eat human flesh.

The magnitude of the operations of the newly formed branch of the Standard Oil company in Eiohge, Japan, is astonishing to inhabitants. Two special officials have been dispatched by the Japanese customs in connection with the handling of the company's plant. The company will project a line of delivery pipe, forty five miles long. The Japan Mail says indications point to a combination of all the Japanese oil men.



VISITING THE BABY.

### Music a The

Rehearsals for Nellie Blais and those who thought over the opera that it will be a great success.

Reports from New Edouard Strass is in health and will probably road again.

A Bach festival is Joachim at Berlin in connection with it will be an autographs and relics.

William H. McDona "The Bostonians" will the art of singing in sea company visits this season.

Lulu Glaser is reading of a new musical opera with a view to using "Sweet Anne Page," just finished an engagement.

Madame Lucie Grabin Paris in 1898, and after the famous Pas de Quatre Theatre, is still living, seated 400,000 marks Burgomaster of Munich students and poor young dame Grabin, then only in 1856 on her marriage Young.

The sudden death of mont, the young prima tonians, ends a very pretty young singer was Bartlett Davis, who was the shock that she has abandoned her engagement this week and take a home in Chicago.

Grip is getting in its musical and dramatic pro York and quite a number people are laid up by among them being:—J. Jr., of the Empire Theatre; Johnstone at the Casino; Hope, Adele Ritchie, Ed. Spong, Cissy Lottus, E. Dillingham, Olga Nethe Barrymore.

The city of Paris has the memory of Charles G of the Opera, by giving of the streets of the city, suggested to give his name new streets laid out on prison of La Roquette, but sel prevailed and the Rue immediate neighborhood of be renamed for the great much more appropriate, street being near the build masterpiece.

One of the brightest and plays given here in some ful Valley, which was the the Valentine Stock's for Opera House. The piece a New York newspaper m Russell and is replete w quiet, refined kind, and nature breaking out here, where all through the piece.

A feature of the production appearance of Mr. Robert last year's greatest favorite popularity ample testimony the reception accorded him. So prolonged was the enthusiasm that it was severe for Mr. Evans could proceed He played Hosea Howe the Valley, in a manner that left capabilities as a good, consistent lines were clearly spoken, and all through the was a source of pleasure.

Miss Kate Blanche was women of the Valley with joys and sorrows under her revision and so strongly depicted that all through her work rupted by outbursts of again in the more pathetic tribute to her good acting. Miss Nora O'Brien play Virginia Road in a charming graceful manner and won the audience. She and Miss made a bright little ingen beautiful gowns during the Hagar played the villain in telligent way, he interpreted and Mr. King, Mr. Chas. Whitty also had roles of w the most.

Entirely new scenery production and added great The Black Flag is the at open house to day at