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The Toronto World

FRIDAY MORNING MARCH 16 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES

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VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,274

EMPEROR NICHOLAS QUILTS THE THRONE FOLLOWING SNAP REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA

Russian Ministry, Charged With Corruption and Incompetence, is Swept Out of Office Following Dissatisfaction With Prosecution of War, and Duma Now is in Complete Control--Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch Becomes Regent While the Czar is Besieged in His Palace--Two Ministers Reported Killed, Others Under Arrest.

London, March 16.—A Petrograd despatch to The Daily Chronicle, dated Wednesday, says the Emperor of Russia has been placed under guard. PETROGRAD, March 15.—The emperor of Russia has abdicated, and Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, his younger brother, has been named as regent. The Russian ministry, charged with corruption and incompetence, has been swept out of office. One minister, Alexander Protopopoff, head of the interior department, is reported to have been killed and the other ministers, as well as the president of the imperial council, are under arrest. A new national cabinet is announced, with Prince Lvoff as president of the council and premier, and the other office held by the men who are close to the Russian people. The members of the new national cabinet are announced as follows: Premier, president of the council, and minister of the interior, Prince Georges E. Lvoff. Foreign minister, Prof. Paul N. Mikoukoff. Minister of public instruction, Prof. Manuiloff of Moscow University. Minister of war and navy, Gen. Vladimir, A. Guchkoff, formerly president of the duma. Minister of agriculture, M. Inokhine, deputy from Petrograd. Minister of finance, M. Tereschtenko, deputy from Kiev. Minister of justice, Deputy Kerenak, of Saratoff. Minister of communications, N. V. Nekrasoff, vice-president of the duma. Controller of state, M. Godneff, deputy from Kazan.

ernment institutions, which apparently it was not seen fit to destroy, are piles of charred embers, showing where wreckage and documents had been dumped and consumed. The defenders of the old regime put up a last feeble defense last night from the roofs of the wrecked Astoria military hotel and St. Isaac's Cathedral, facing on two sides of the same square. They were soon silenced by the sharpshooters of the new authority. With the reopening of bread, sugar, tea and meat shops queues of women with shopping bags and baskets lined up, often to the length of a block, to replenish stores exhausted by the long siege. The most phenomenal feature of the revolution has been the swift and orderly transition, whereby the control of the city passed from the regime of the old government into the hands of its opponents. Until Sunday disorders in the streets, which never went beyond quiet gatherings or mild demonstrations, could not properly be termed a revolution at all. Held All Petrograd. After 26 hours of continuous street fighting the whole area of Petrograd was on Tuesday noon in the hands of the revolutionists. Regiments called out to disperse street crowds which were clamoring for bread, refused to fire upon the people, but mutilated, slaying their officers in many cases, and joined the swelling ranks of the insurgents. With the exception of a Finnish regiment, which took possession of the admiralty building on the Neva and kept up a desultory rifle and machine gun fire, the last regiments to remain loyal to the government had capitulated after a sustained battle on the Morskaya, and there was no further resistance to the revolutionists, who controlled the entire city. The police had disappeared from the streets, which were patrolled by automobiles packed with soldiers and students, and were wildly cheered by the people as they sped by. Government Overthrown. The government was declared to be overthrown by the duma leaders, who met in the Mavertchiksky palace after the regular sessions had been adjourned, and in a telegram to the emperor the popular representatives declared that a special committee composed of the leaders of the various parties in the duma would submit a list of names for the new cabinet. Simultaneously it was reported that

all the ministers except M. Protopopoff had resigned. The imperial palace at Tsarskoe Selo is said to be in a state of siege, but thus far no firing has been reported between the guards defending the palace and the revolutionists and troops. It is stated that Gen. Michael V. Alexieff, former chief of staff, has been offered the military dictatorship. On Monday, which was the turning point in the battle between the government troops and mutineers, all the principal strongholds, arsenals, factories and barracks, including the Peter and Paul fortress and artillery headquarters, fell into the hands of the revolting troops, and the revolutionists were plentifully supplied with rifles and ammunition. At the same time all the prisons for political offenders were thrown open by the revolutionists and the prisoners marched out to join the emancipators. Could Not Stem Tide. They went from one part of the town to another with the rapidity of a thunderstorm, and as the day progressed it became apparent that nothing could stem the tide of revolution which swept westward from the neighborhood of the duma and the chief military barracks up the Nevsky Morskaya to St. Isaac's Square. The economic and industrial life of the city came to a complete standstill. Street car service was suspended from the beginning of the disorders, and stores were closed. The two leading hotels, which housed officers were wrecked, others restricted their services to regular patrons. In response to an appeal by the revolutionist committee citizens distributed food to the soldiers. The duma was dissolved by imperial order, effective March 11, the imperial ukase reading as follows: "The sittings of the duma are adjourned, owing to extraordinary circumstances, until further notice. They will be resumed not later than April."

On Monday the duma members, except the rightists, met in executive session notwithstanding the dissolution order. The result was a virtual unanimous vote to place the duma square on the side of the revolution and to authorize the executive council of that body to declare the present a provisional government. President Rodzianko, who presided, sent a telegram to the emperor, informing him of the developments and calling on him to listen to the voice of the people. "The hour has struck," he said, "when the will of the people must prevail." The following have been named as the "staff" of the temporary government: Michael V. Rodzianko, N. V. Nekrasoff, A. I. Konovaioff, I. Dmitriukoff, A. F. Kerenak, M. S. Pshkeidze, V. V. Shulgin, S. I. Shidlovsky, Paul N. Mikoukoff, M. A. Makarukoff, V. N. Lvoff, V. A. Rjevsky, Col. Englehard. The order dissolving the duma was issued by the emperor just before he left for the front recently. That troubles would result was evidently anticipated and the residents of Tsarskoe Selo were warned to make all arrangements to remain in the suburb for an indefinite period, and the roads leading to the town were guarded. The immediate occurrences leading to Monday's developments began at 5 o'clock Sunday evening, when the men of the Volynsky regiment shot their officers and fired upon striking workers marching to one of the factories. Other Regiments Join. Another regiment detailed against the mutineers also joined the revolt. The news spread rapidly to the other barracks and four more regiments went over. Some of the revolting troops marched to the famous St. Peter and St. Paul fortress on the left bank of the Neva, and after a brief skirmish with the garrison took possession of it. On Tuesday revolutionary publications appeared in the streets with the simple caption "News," containing a resume of the developments. They were eagerly read by all classes. Rodzianko's telegram to the emperor and others to the commanders of the troops at the front were reproduced. The first message to the emperor was as follows: "The situation is grave. Anarchy reigns in the capital. The government is paralyzed. The transport of provisions and fuel is completely disorganized. General dissatisfaction is growing. Irregular rifle firing is occurring in the streets. It is necessary to charge immediately some person trusted by the people to form a new government. It is impossible to linger, since delay means death. Praying God that the responsibility in this hour will not fall upon a crowned head."

Latest, President Rodzianko sent the following to the emperor: "The position is becoming more serious. It is imperative that immediate measures be taken, because tomorrow will be too late. The last hour has come when the fate of the fatherland and the dynasty are being decided." Similar telegrams were sent to all the commanders at the front, with an appeal for their support of the duma's action. Gen. Alexis Busloff, commander-in-chief of the armies of the southwestern front, and Gen. Nicholas Ruzsky, commander of the northern army, replied promptly. The former sent this message: "Have fulfilled duty before fatherland and emperor." Gen. Ruzsky's reply read: "Commission accomplished." The visible signs of revolution began on Thursday, March 8. Strikes were declared in several big munitions factories as a protest against the shortage of bread. Men and women gathered and marched thru the streets, most of them in an orderly fashion. A few bad shops were broken into in that section of the city beyond the Neva, and several minor clashes between strikers and police occurred. No Early Violence. Squads of mounted troops appeared, but during Thursday and Friday the utmost friendliness seemed to exist between the troops and the people. There was practically no violence. The patrols rode slowly thru the crowds to keep them moving, joking with the people and being cheered by them. On Saturday, however, apparently without provocation, the troops were ordered to fire on people marching in Nevsky Prospect. The troops refused to fire, and the police, replacing them, fired rifles and machine guns. Then came a clash between troops and police, which continued in a desultory fashion thru Saturday night and Sunday. The Nevsky Prospect was cleared of traffic by the police, and notices were posted by the commander of the Petrograd military district warning the people that any attempt to congregate would be met by force. The factory strikes and street demonstrations, comparatively innocent in themselves, provided the spark which set aflame the growing unrest and angry discontent with the government that pervading the entire population of Russia, has reached the indignation point. Thus small manifestations of hungry factory workers crying for bread changed in a single day into a revolution which swept the whole city, spread to the government troops who had been called to hold the crowds in check, and, supported by the duma, ended in the downfall of the government. Wave of Protest. The revelations in the duma of government stupidity and corruption, and allegations of treason against the chief members of the cabinet, sent a wave of protest thru the country, and all political factions, except a small reactionary group, still cherishing traditional ideas of the old regime which existed before Russia received a constitution, declared themselves firmly against the sinister influences which had been undermining the best efforts of the country successfully to carry on the war. Even the imperial council, which never before in the history of the country had allied itself with the popular will, held special meetings, in which attention was called to the "serious conditions to which the country had been brought by the unscrupulous designs of governmental heads." With unanimity unprecedented the entire population presented a solid front against the government. The belief prevailed everywhere and was expressed that pro-German court circles and the government were doing everything in their power to interfere with the proper conduct of the war

Regent of Russia

more loudly expressed. It was the opinion of the majority of the deputies in the duma that, despite this state of affairs, an open revolution was impossible as the country realized that a revolution would seriously interrupt the work of the war and would be playing into the hands of those who had this very end in view. Open letters were printed in the Petrograd newspapers from popular duma leaders and proclamations were posted in the streets urging the population not to create demonstrations or cause any disorders which might lead to interruption of the manufacture of munitions or paralyze the industrial activity of the city. Food Became Scarce. Manifestations already arranged for March 6, including a general strike and the marching to the duma, of a deputation of workmen, were in this way averted. But the moment was only postponed, as by this time the people, who had been long vaguely disturbed by the political unrest and who were convinced finally that they were being exploited by the hostile government, received what they considered to be the last proof of the inefficiency and corruption of their own government when they were apprised that the already insufficient supply of food had become still more meagre and that for some days it would be necessary to go without bread altogether. Patient and long-suffering by nature, this was too much for the population of Petrograd, who knew that the interior of Russia was stored with immense quantities of grain and all kinds of provisions, and without any other motive at first than to voice a demand for bread, the people paraded the streets and the demonstrations began which soon kindled into a revolution. The scene at the duma before the revolution was in full flame was extraordinary. The members stood about the corridors talking calmly, members from the provinces in top boots and blouses mingling with well-groomed and frock-coated representatives. At the front gates the troops began to assemble. They were without arms. They were revolting regiments. One body in marching order entered the side gate and halted before the entrance. A duma member spoke from the steps, explaining the attitude of that body and assuring the regiments that the duma was with them. A Revolutionary GATHER. Auto trucks packed with men, soldiers and civilians, with and without arms, rolled up the circular drive and stopped before the door, while some occupant delivered a lurid oration, and then went on, cheered by crowds.

Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, the new Regent of Russia, is the younger and only brother of Emperor Nicholas, with whom he has been at odds for many years. Until the birth of Grand Duke Alexis Nicholavitch, son of Emperor Nicholas, in 1904, he was the first in succession to the Russian throne. Grand Duke Michael is the favorite son of the Dowager Empress Marie Feodorovna, sister of Great Britain. He also has been strongly opposed to the German influence in the Russian imperial family. Banned from Russia by his brother early in 1913 because of his morganatic marriage, Grand Duke Michael spent some time in exile in England. He returned to Russia late in August, 1914, and was reported to have taken a command in the army. Since then there have been no reports of his whereabouts and activities. Born on Nov. 22, 1878, he is ten years younger than the emperor. His education was wholly military, and he has held many honorary commands in the army. As the next in succession to the Russian throne prior to 1904, and afterward, Grand Duke Michael often acted as the personal representative of Emperor Nicholas at royal funerals and marriages. In 1908 Grand Duke Michael had his first serious break with the emperor, and the grand duke was transferred to the command of a cavalry regiment at the front in southern Russia. The next year he was permitted to return to Petrograd, and in 1911 he surprised his brother and imperial family by his marriage to Mme. Sheremetievskaya, a divorcee. After his marriage he renounced his rights of succession to the imperial throne. On Jan. 1, 1913, Grand Duke Michael was banished from Russia by Emperor Nicholas, and relieved of the command of the Chevalier Guards, because of his marriage. A few days later, an imperial manifesto relieved him from his position as regent-designate. A few months afterwards it was reported in police circles in Russia that evidence had been discovered connecting Grand Duke Michael with the plot against the emperor, and the Grand Duke Alexis. At the outbreak of the European war, however, he returned to Russia, and apparently resumed his former dignities and positions. and bring about a separate peace. Sturmer, Rasputin and Protopopoff formed a picturesque trio, known as "the dark forces," against which the chief animosity of the country was directed, but powerful as they were, these figures were declared to be only symbols of German influence, which was "militating against the patriotic desire of the mass of the Russian people for war until victory." Appeals to Emperor. After the assassination of Rasputin and the removal of Sturmer from the premiership, the same ministerial influence, wearing a new mask in the form of a changed cabinet, duma officials declared, still flourished with undiminished strength. Direct appeals were made to the emperor by all sorts of representative bodies and influential officials to save the country from the disaster which threatened it and to appoint a new cabinet which might enjoy the confidence of the people. But the government, except for empty concessions and compromises, remained obdurate to all appeals and showed not the slightest inclination to change the direction of its policy or to accede to the demands more and

Began a Week Ago. Events leading up to the revolution began a week ago with street demonstrations of working men, who quit work as a protest against the shortage of bread. The first two days mounted patrols kept the crowds moving without resorting to violence. When ordered to fire on the people they refused. Police were substituted and a battle occurred between them and the troops. Regiment after regiment joined the revolutionists and seized arsenals and other strategic points. Until Sunday night there was no intimation that the affair would grow to the proportions of a revolution. From then until Tuesday morning almost continuous fighting in the streets and throughout the city occurred leaving the revolutionists in full control. The latter then proceeded to reorganize the government. Today the city emerged from a week's nightmare of revolution and fearfully smiled under a brilliant flood of sunshine following the series of gray days ending with a snow-storm yesterday evening. Planks were pulled down from windows long closed. Stores, banks and business establishments of every description reopened their doors for the resumption of ordinary activities, seemingly as confidence in the new temporary government gained in force. Truck sledges and little sleighs for hire, the most widely appreciated conveniences of Russian cities, began to appear again in the streets, which for six days had been absolutely void of any means of transportation. Newspapers, with the exception of revolutionary publications which sprang into life with the success of the revolt, had failed to appear. Street car service at noon had not been resumed, but it was believed that night would see partial service. Buildings Burned. The only visible signs of the desperate clash of authority which turned the city into a battleground were the charred ruins of the jail, which are still pouring a cloud of smoke skyward and here and there the remains of other police institutions and the homes of the few individuals who were regarded as offenders against the rights of the people. In front of other gov-

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Donlands Democracy. Helped to get a settlement of the Yonge street, transportation muddle by expropriation of the Metropolitan franchise within the city. This will give a new pavement as well. It is getting the Toronto railway service extended up Pease avenue to Danforth. It looks with satisfaction at the early extension of the Danforth civic car service westward across the new Danforth viaduct to the head of Parliament street and then on to Sherbourne street. It is helping to get a new bridge and civic street car service across the Reservoir ravine and on up Mount Pleasant road. And it hopes that Sir Adam Beck and the radial and power companies will join together in a big clean-up. And most of all it hopes to see Toronto and all its suburbs served by a public-owned street car system that carries anywhere for a single fare and gives a universal transfer. The Revolution in Russia. Will extend into Germany. Upeat Turkey. Force a shock to predatory privilege in the United States. And jolt undue profiteering in Canada.

GREAT RAILWAY STRIKE IS CALLED FOR IN U.S.

Movement Will Begin Saturday, and Within Five Days Four Hundred Thousand Men Will Be Idle, Tying Up Transportation Thruout Country--Wilson Will Make Final Effort to Settle Dispute.

New York, March 15.—A "progressive strike" of the 400,000 members of the four great railroad brotherhoods, to begin at 6 o'clock (central time) Saturday on eastern roads, was ordered here late today. The walk out will extend to all the railroads in the country within five days. Chiefs of the workers' organizations set the strike machinery in motion within a few minutes after an ultimatum delivered to the conference committee of railroad managers had been received. A compromise proposal offered by the managers was declined without debate. Only successful intervention of President Wilson, it appeared tonight, can avert a strike. The brotherhood leaders gave no indication that even an appeal from the nation's chief executive can change their purpose to obtain a basic eight-hour day and pro rata time for over-

time thru the use of the "protective features" of their organizations. They refused flatly to submit their case to the eight-hour commission headed by Major-Gen. George W. Goethals, or to admit the decision of the supreme court on the constitutionality of the Adamson law. Freight Employes First. Freight employes, yardmen and engine hostlers on the New York Central lines, east and west, the Nickel Plate and Baltimore and Ohio Railroads and in the great yards in Chicago and St. Louis will be the first to leave their posts. They will be followed on Sunday by the same classes of workmen on the Southern Railway, the Norfolk and Western, the Virginian, Chesapeake and Ohio and on a group of northwestern roads. No formal outline of the brother-

hoods' program, beyond the plans for these two days, was made either to the managers or to the public. It was said, however, that the freight employes on the other roads in the country would be called out in groups at 12 or 24-hour intervals after Sunday. Hope to Maintain Service. If the paralysis of freight traffic thus caused does not bring surrender by the railroads before that time, the employes on all passenger trains will be ordered out Wednesday. The railroad managers said tonight they expected that enough of their men would remain loyal to enable them to operate a skeleton service on most roads. The managers some time ago caused a census of their employes to be taken to determine how many would refuse to go on strike. This

Yard... 17th... Day, 500... 10... 15... 25... Company Limited

Wave of Protest. The revelations in the duma of government stupidity and corruption, and allegations of treason against the chief members of the cabinet, sent a wave of protest thru the country, and all political factions, except a small reactionary group, still cherishing traditional ideas of the old regime which existed before Russia received a constitution, declared themselves firmly against the sinister influences which had been undermining the best efforts of the country successfully to carry on the war. Even the imperial council, which never before in the history of the country had allied itself with the popular will, held special meetings, in which attention was called to the "serious conditions to which the country had been brought by the unscrupulous designs of governmental heads." With unanimity unprecedented the entire population presented a solid front against the government. The belief prevailed everywhere and was expressed that pro-German court circles and the government were doing everything in their power to interfere with the proper conduct of the war

and bring about a separate peace. Sturmer, Rasputin and Protopopoff formed a picturesque trio, known as "the dark forces," against which the chief animosity of the country was directed, but powerful as they were, these figures were declared to be only symbols of German influence, which was "militating against the patriotic desire of the mass of the Russian people for war until victory." Appeals to Emperor. After the assassination of Rasputin and the removal of Sturmer from the premiership, the same ministerial influence, wearing a new mask in the form of a changed cabinet, duma officials declared, still flourished with undiminished strength. Direct appeals were made to the emperor by all sorts of representative bodies and influential officials to save the country from the disaster which threatened it and to appoint a new cabinet which might enjoy the confidence of the people. But the government, except for empty concessions and compromises, remained obdurate to all appeals and showed not the slightest inclination to change the direction of its policy or to accede to the demands more and

Donlands Democracy. Helped to get a settlement of the Yonge street, transportation muddle by expropriation of the Metropolitan franchise within the city. This will give a new pavement as well. It is getting the Toronto railway service extended up Pease avenue to Danforth. It looks with satisfaction at the early extension of the Danforth civic car service westward across the new Danforth viaduct to the head of Parliament street and then on to Sherbourne street. It is helping to get a new bridge and civic street car service across the Reservoir ravine and on up Mount Pleasant road. And it hopes that Sir Adam Beck and the radial and power companies will join together in a big clean-up. And most of all it hopes to see Toronto and all its suburbs served by a public-owned street car system that carries anywhere for a single fare and gives a universal transfer. The Revolution in Russia. Will extend into Germany. Upeat Turkey. Force a shock to predatory privilege in the United States. And jolt undue profiteering in Canada.