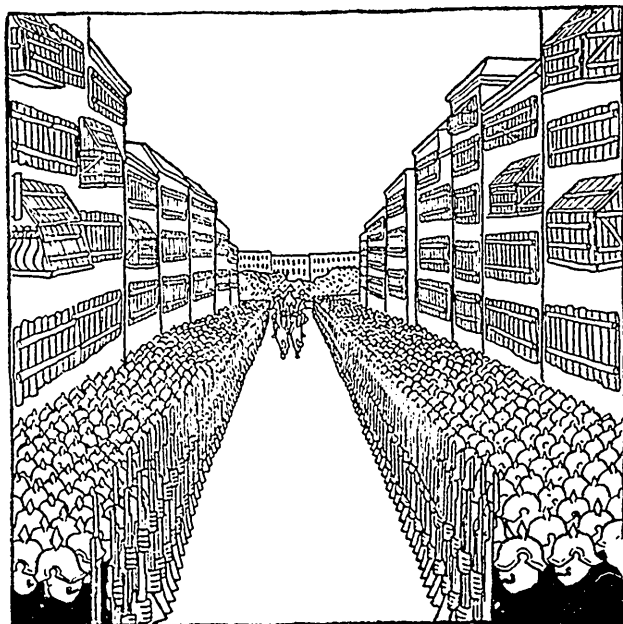


Current Topics and Events.



HAIL TO THE CZAR !

The brand of enthusiasm that has to be manufactured for his benefit.

—Simplicissimus (Munich).

IN PERICULIS TUTUS.

Nothing can be in stronger contrast than the way in which our beloved King Edward, Kaiser Wilhelm, and Czar Nicholas are held than the manner of their public receptions in their own and other lands. King Edward scorns military protection, and rides about in London without outriders or guards. Kaiser Wilhelm knows no fear, but is fond of military pomp and display. The poor Czar seems to tremble for his life, and the quaint German cut gives an, of course absurdly exaggerated, interpretation of the safeguards taken for his protection. Every window and balcony is closed, troops line the streets with serried ranks through which the cavalcade madly clatters.

Such is the difference between constitutional liberty and bureaucratic despotism.

It is stated on good authority that over 50,000 soldiers—cavalry, infantry, and engineers—guarded the railway between the German frontier and St. Petersburg on the Czar's recent journey from Darmstadt to his own capital. The sentinels along the lines were placed within sight of one another, and were instructed in special methods of signalling in case anything unusual should happen. The most extraordinary precautions were taken at the frontier station of Virballen. Every bridge was minutely examined and tested; houses in the immediate vicinity of the line were closely watched, and a multitude of