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LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1916

THE MOST PROFOUND CRISIS OF THE WAR

The dismissal of Stürmer, Prime Minister of Russia, at the demand of the Duma, with other Cabinet changes said to be impending, is an event not only of deep political significance but one that may have a tremendous influence o the course and outcome of the War.

The Petrograd correspondent of an of the Interior. English paper, in telling of the resolute and unanimous onslaught of the Duma on the Stürmer administration, stated that the dominant Duma and Council attended the note of the debate was one of determination to carry on the War to ultimate and decisive victory. This seemed to point to the incredible conclusion that the Stürmer Government was lukewarm, even in favor of an early and inconclusive peace.

Nowhere in the world is it more true than in Russia that the government is not the people. The Bureaucracy, that immense and complex army of officials through which the people are autocratically ruled, is known at least before the War to man and pro-German influences. It sian Zemstvo Union and the Union appears that it is not even yet purged of such influences.

A Russian writer in the N. Y. Times Magazine of Nov. 26, in an article, "Russia Faces the Most Profound Crisis of the War," shows that the incredible was what was actually happening in Russia.

"Not since the collapse of the Russian military machine before the seemingly irresistible Teutonic invasion of 1915 has Russia faced such a profound crisis as she does to-day. Bureaucracy, embittered and ex hausted, and democracy, exasperated and strengthened, have finally come to what appears to be the last round in the struggle they have been waging since the revolution of 1905."

The democracy, content to defer political reform, aided in every way tions sible the incompetent bureaucratic Government "in mobilizing all Cabinet to extend the original restrict the energies of the country for the tion so that every meeting, whether successful prosecution of the War." The immediate and impelling consideration which precipitated the present struggle was the food crisis. A. F. Kerenski, a leading deputy, said on the eve of the Duma's opening:

"Never before was the Duma's state of mind. Our immediate tasks are colossal. The difficulties of last zation of the Government is not a the stomach.'

Three political causes, however, contributed: (1) the incessant and meaningless cabinet changes, (2) the Governments attitude to the organizations engaged in rendering vital aid to the army, and (3) its attitude on the Polish question.

1. "The figures appointed to the high posts were well known to the people. Russia knew what to expect from these old bureaucrats. When, however, Boris Stürmer was appointed Premier, the country was shaken by a wave of nervousness. It was taken as the augury of a radically changed foreign policy. Reports of a separate peace between Russia and Germany

uneasiness and restlessness. The excitement was strikingly intensified by the resignation of Minister. Foreign Sazanoff had the full confidence of the people as far as the determination to continue the war to a successful issue goes. Boris Stürmer did not. To add fuel to the already blazing fire, Stürmer took over himself the portfolio of Foreign Minister.'

Reactionary as Stürmer was known promises. to be and deplorable as was his appointment of extreme reactionaries to the Cabinet, it was not until Powers were planning some kind of It would be folly for Catholic teach-

Interior that the people were deeply stirred. Protopopov last summer headed the Russian Parliamentary Delegation to England and France.

"It was on his way back to Russia that he committed the act that has given him wide notoriety and possi bly the post of Minister of Interior. A. D. Protopopov, while in Stockholm, met in conference an attaché of the German Legation there. How this fact leaked out it is difficult to discover.

Protopopov denied that his meeting had anything to do with the conclusion of a separate peace between Russia and Germany. But he was not believed, and he was also planning to found a great paper backed by several Petrograd banks whose capital is largely German.

"The Society of 1914 aims to destroy all German influence and the above critical emotions due to activity in Russia. Its original purpurely political events, an economic pose was to rid Russia, both politically and economically, from the Russian public life. Protopopov was a member of the society. The society maintains an open blacklist. This list records the names of those country. persons who are found to have relations, whether commercial or other, with Germany.

A committee of this society, haying investigated the charges against Protopopov, decided to recommend the Society to blacklist him.

"Before the Executive Council could pass on the matter A. D. Protopopov was appointed Minister It was therefore with the most profound interest that the nation followed the meeting of the council, which took place on Members of the Imperial Oct. 3. executive meeting of the Society of 1914. And in spite of the fact that the accused had been elevated to the position of Minister, the Executive Council, by an overwhelming vote, decided to present the recommendation to blacklist Protopopov before the general meeting of the society.'

2. But if the foreign policy of the Stürmer Cabinet was looked upon with grave suspicion, its internal policies and methods were regarded with consternation.

"One of the most revolting accomplishments of Stürmer's Cabinet was the attitude taken toward the social have been infected with strong Ger- organizations, notably, the all Rus-

of Municipalities. These organizations are doing nothing less than what in France and England the Governments are doing—they are helping the War nation. Ministry in its work of equipping, It is

supplying, and caring for the army. "But while the army and all those connected with it are frankly grateful to the Russian public for its wonderul activities and achievements, the hamper the work of these organizations.

The Zemstvo Union complained to

the Minister of War. "Some months elapsed without Then something incomprereply. hensible happened, something that made Russia stand aghast, full Zemstvo's request to repeal the circular prohibiting national conventions there was published in the decision of the of October executive, local, special, secret, extraordinary, held by any social organization, be attended by a police representative, in whom the power is a year and a half ago we strongly sole discretion.

When one remembers that the budget of the All-Russian Zemstvo Union alone had reached the colossal opening preceded by such a stormy sum of two and a half billions in the first two years of its activities, that the other social organizations are year seem insignificant with those of the present moment. The democratiorganizations are often of an absotheoretical demand now, but an lutely confidential, in the interests of urgent, practical problem. It is no the State, character, and finally. longer dictated by the mind, but by that they are exclusively devoted to helping the army and nation win the war, one can well imagine what it means to put this whole intricate and immense machinery under the supervision of the police, who are empowered at any moment they se to interfere with, or entirely interrupt, the movement of this mechanism.

When Protopopov decided against the legal status of the social bodies, There began to grow a realization in the minds of the entire people that the Government was either more concerned with losing the war than winning it, or that it preferred anything to the further rise and expansion of social, democratic Russia.'

filled the Slavic Empire, creating Russian writer emphatically asserts, of the act being \$550.00. "keenly feel the injustice of the sufferings to which Poland has been boards for 1% of the salary (or 20% of subjected in the past by Russia, and the premium) the teacher pays $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ are anxious to see Poland restored of salary and the Government $2\frac{1}{2}$ %. completely." The government had This disposes of the opposition of the nation and the individual to self of its full program for the restora- old age and disability Insurance Polimpatient for the fulfilment of these

"At the same time, reports were be-

Protopopov was made Minister of a big stroke on the Polish issue. The Russian people desired to forestall any Teutonic attempt to win over Poland on their side. But the

Russian Government did not. When Protopopov was appointed Minister of the Interior, it was generally expected that the Polish declaration would soon see light. But how chagrined was Russia when it became known that Prototopov, during his first audience with the Czar, advised the postponement of any action on Poland! The climax of indignation was reached when Germany and Austria-Hungary jointly declared, some time ago, the lishment of a Polish kingdom. Whatever this Teutonic declaration may mean to history, its significance cannot be mistaken as far as its effect on Russia is concerned. The nation felt that it had been outraged by its own Government.'

factor arose which spread the emo tional waye of rebellion and indig-German yoke. Its membership nation to every corner of the Empire, includes some of the leading men in gripping every group of its countless opulation, and solidifying and giv ing form to the tempestuous state of mind prevailing throughout the

"This factor was the unprecedented food crisis-more exact, the bread crisis. Prices have been soaring in Russia to altitudes undreamed o any other country today. Many articles could simply not be had for any price in certain parts of the Empire, though they could be found

in others in considerable quantities. "But the worst was to come. came in the form of famine. Suddenly the country found itself with bread. Starvation looked into the faces of tens of millions. Now. the country may have been patient even in such a situation, if the famine had only been due to natural causes. But it was not. Russia had a surplus of hundreds of millions of bushels of grain. Everybody knew it and nobody denied it.

We have quoted thus freely and at length from this remarkable and illuminating article.

The world can find no words to express its admiration for the marvellous resistance of France. It may yet be found, when all is known, that to the heroic Russian people and army the world owes an even greater debt of homage and gratitude.

The fall of Stürmer marks victory, (we hope a decisive one) for Russian democracy over the Germanized elements of a corrupt and reactionary bureaucracy which places its own interests above those of the

It is well to remember that the Russian people fully realize that their political emancipation is bound up with the defeat of Germany. For them the War is doubly Prime Minister found it necessary to a war of freedom. Bureaucratic Russia may be an uncertain quantity. Democratic Russia will be true to

Despite traitors within the gates, a hundred and eighty-two millions of people with the indomitable will to be free are an unconquerable force rage and rebellion. In reply to the in the cause of the world's freedom.

> TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION FUND

When the Bill to provide a Super annuation Fund for teachers was before the province for consideration vested to close such a meeting at his urged its acceptance by the religious teaching communities. After mature consideration and discussion of all phases of the question we are more than ever convinced that the reasons we then gave are well-founded.

Amended to meet objections urged in some quarters against the original measure it is again submitted for consideration.

In addition to the pensions (the minimum \$365, maximum \$1,000) on retirement after forty years' service as provided in the original Bill, provision is now made for the actuarial equivalent of such pensions for service. Also for the return of all contributions to the estate of a contributor to the Fund who may die

before receiving a pension. Other changes are intended to meet the objections of teachers who manently in the profession. The premium remains the same, i. e. five per cent. of the teacher's salary-3. "The Russian people," this the minimum salary for the purposes

> But instead of assessing the school the Province to which Catholics nec-

ers not to avail themselves of the govern it, and we see it incessantly generous and just provision of the Government.

With regard to the amended Bill now concluding paragraph of the RECORD'S editorial on the original Bill:

It is our firm conviction that it is in the interest of the schools, in the interest of the religious communities, in the interest of the Catholic people that we should bear the burden and share the benefits of the proposed Superannuation Fund.

"A LIBERATED POLAND."

When the Emperors of Germany and Austria proclaimed the "freedom" of Poland -- only Russian Poland though-we did not consider the matter of sufficient importance "While Russia was experiencing for editorial comment. The terms of the proclamation itself indicated limiting conditions which might mean anything:

"The Allied Monarchs express the confident hope that Polish aspirations national rights Europe sinned in for the evolution of the Polish State and for the national development of the Polish kingdom will now be realized, taking into due considera-tion the general political conditions prevailing in Europe and the wel fare and safety of their own countries and nations.

When as a further condition it was stipulated that Poland should raise proclaiming Polish "Independence" "with due consideration" of many only as a specimen of Germany's gentle methods of diplomacy. Her ployed."

Unfortunately a rabidly pro-Gerdid not have even the poor merit way into the columns of the RECORD. We can only apologize, and ask our indignant readers to remember that Pole. sometimes even Homer nods.

The unscrupulous partisanship of government of which it had been deprived by Russia." One can only conclude that the intention was to appeal to those who are ignorant of the fact that Catholic Austria and Protestant Prussia were equally with Orthodox Russia involved in the Poland.

And how has Germany, this liberafter a few days' warning, drove out of Prussia fifty thousand Poles, men women and children. He secured 300,000,000 marks the same year to carry out the policy of "colonizing" Prussian Poland as though it were uninhabited or inhabited by savages. He made the possession of land as burdensome as possible to Prussian Poles, and facilitated in every supplanting them by Germans. His policy is still the policy of Germany. Time has only made the ruthless Germanicisation of Prussian Poland more Bismarckian as it was found that Bismarck's comparatively mild measures failed to attain, satisfactorily, the desired object.

The only palliation of Catholic Austria's complicity in the dismemberment of Catholic Poland is that she, at least, has treated the subject Poles as a civilized people.

George Brandes, the famous Danish writer who made a sympathetic yet critical study of Poland, her people, ideals and literature, writes

"My stay in Galicia had this great interest to me, that here for the first time I saw the Poles as a free people I know a part of Prussian Poland. those who retire after thirty years and I know some of the leading men in Posen rather intimately. Russian Poland I may say, I am fairly familiar, after four different visits. But never before had I an opportunity of observing Polish life developing under self-government without any foreign pressure, with the rights of public meeting an have no intention of remaining per- freedom of speech. At least I have seen enough to prove that the Poles do not lack the ability to shape their life as an independent people.

Of the other nation - murderers

Brandes elsewhere says: "The two greatest military powers of the world, Germany and Russia, which are on bad terms with each other, but neither of which represents political freedom, the right long been promising a declaration school boards and gives the teacher an government, have at present one task in common; with all the means at their command they wage a war of tion of Poland, and the people were icy for one-half the regular premium. extermination against a nationality Half the Fund, therefore, comes of 16.000,000 people, which is tied from the Consolidated Revenue of and bound, oppressed and gagged as no other nationality in Europe is, but which nevertheless is treated by ginning to arrive that the Central essarily contribute their full quota. its rulers as if it overflowed

described as a danger or a threat.

"Poland in the presence of Russia before us we emphatically repeat the and Prussia, politically speaking, independence, freedom signifies justice, reason—that is to say whether these forces shall conque or succumb.

"That Poland's whole intellectual life is absorbed in the question of the existence of the Polish nationality is therefore not so poor a cause as it seems; for Poland, in the historical development of relations, has become synonymous with the right of kind to civil and intellectual freedom. and with the right of nations to independence. Poland is synonymous with our hope, or our illusion, as to the advance of our age in culture. Its future coincides with the future of civilization. Its final destruction would be synonymous with victory of modern military barbarism in Europe.'

Yes, the freedom and independence of Poland is a sacred cause. Against the sacred cause of freedom and is Christ the Lord." participating or acquiescing in the spoliation of Poland. For which made it possible, European civilization is now engaged pandered more than a century ago.

an army to aid Germany in the fight that same military barbarism that is years, Christ stands in the midst of key to its sacred mysteries. Such for "freedom," the scrap of paper to save Poland the long suffering the doctors in the temple. This is was the great revolution we are told, victim of tyrannical oppression, or the last glimpse we have of His successfully accomplished, which Poland "the symbol of all which the hidden life; for the purple vestments took place more than three hundred undefined things-seemed interesting best of the human race have loved, of Septuagesima remind us that the years ago. Still, they are lecturing and for which they have fought."

zeal for Polish "liberty" suggests triumph of their great Russian darker the shades become till they her charity for Belgian "unem- kindred over the military barbarism end in the night of His Passion and to review the process of Bible masterof Germany, a triumph at the same Death. Then follows the glorious ing as it has been in operation for time, as will be seen from the pre- dawn and the glad allelulias of the those three centuries and more. man article on the subject, which ceding article, over that Russian Resurrection. The Winter is past, But it would scarcely repay the of clever special pleading, found its ism, whose oppressive hand has been of man's redemption. How well mit. The results of the process are

the Freeman's Journal leads it, in its very soul by the long and bitter parable of the Good Shepherd, she man may decipher them for himself, the article in question, to struggle to attain it, that Catholic reminds us of Christ's burning love the process of deciphering has resultspeak of "restoring to the ancient Poland-and the Catholic Church in for sinners. Kingdom of Poland the rights of self- Russia also—must look for liberty.

> THE BEAUTY OF THE CHURCH'S LITURGY

The first Sunday of Advent marks great outstanding crime of modern year. There is beauty and harmony European history-the partition of in nature, as evidenced by the vari ous seasons each with its own particular charm, and each the compleator of Poland, treated the Poles in ment of the other. As Adelaide Prussian Poland? Bismarck in 1886, Procter has beautifully expressed it: Spring's real glory dwells not in the Gracious though it be, of her blue

hours; But is hidden, in her tender leaning To the Summer's richer wealth of flowers.

The same is true in the order of grace. A bird's-eye view of the Church's year will reveal something of of seasons, each one the more and Saturday or Sunday papers in Canada more perfect fulfilment of the or the United States, of which such and of the knowledge of the Son of vice, sermon-titles, etc., may be re-

of their Emmanuel is crystalized in English Bible." those words of Isaias. "Drop down

red as crimson, they shall be made guardian. white as wool." "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight His

shadows of Calvary are falling on "how to master the Bible." No, the hope of Poland lies in the athwart His path. Darker and

final advent. It will continue till possible source and centre. the last of the elect have been gathered in; and then there will be no of fruition.

THE GLEANER.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

promises of the one that precedes it liberal use is made by the sects to till we all meet in the unity of faith give publicity to their hours of ser-God, unto a perfect man, unto the garded as in some sort a religious measure of the age of the fullness of barometer, the atmospheric conditions of present-day Protestantism The Advent season is dedicated to are not reassuring. A glance over God the Father; for these four weeks the Toronto Saturday dailies, for represent the four thousand years example, yields curious results. One that elapsed from the time of the preacher, in a recent issue, promise in the garden until its ful- announced his text as: "What filment on Christmas night; during would you do if you had my job?"; which time the Father prepared the another held forth on "The church world by type and prophesy, by reward and its job"; a third queried "What and chastisement for the coming of the the devil does in Toronto"; a fourth Redeemer. The two dominant notes has for the subject of his discourse of this season are expectation and "Who cut your hair?"; a fifth was preparation; and each grows in to have as an accompaniment, intensity as the glad day of the "Sergeant -- on his wonderful one-Incarnation draws nearer. The stringed instrument," while a sixth longing of the people for the coming undertook to tell "How to master the thinking have forever lauded Knox

know that were it not for the insur- intolerance, carried out in open

The same crescendo is noticeable mountable barrier of the Old Church, in the note of warning which ends in | which they have been accustomed to exultation: "Behold I send my hold up to obloquy as the "enemy of Angel before thy face, who shall the Bible," the integrity of Holy prepare thy way before thee," "Wash | Scripture in the estimation of manyourselves, be clean, take away the kind would now be largely a thing of evil of your devices from mine eyes ! the past? But, as the Catholic cease to do perversely, learn to do Church gave them the Bible in the well: seek judgment, relieve the first place so will she effectually oppressed, judge for the fatherless, shield it from the iconoclastic defend the widow. And then come assaults of their critics and exegetand accuse me, saith the Lord: if ists in the future. The Bible is not your sins be as scarlet, they shall be in the keeping of the sects; the made white as snow; and if they be Church of God is its legitimate

IF, HOWEVER, the Toronto preachpaths," "The crooked ways shall be er's efforts were directed to enlightmade straight and the rough ways ening his hearers as to the right plain, and all flesh shall see the interpretation of Scripture, he was, salvation of God," "Ye shall drink it is to be feared, beginning at the waters with joy from the Saviour's wrong end. The prime purpose of fountains," "Behold I bring you good the Reformation, as we are so often tidings of great joy, for this day told, was to free the Bible from there is born to you a Saviour Who ecclesiastical control, and to place it in the hands of the people, that they The feast of the Nativity marks the might be their own interpreters as beginning of the second season, dur- to the precious truths which it coning which time Christ dwelt among tains. It was to be no longer a this sin, and for the decadence men. It has its joyful, its sorrowful, hidden treasure, kept under lock and and its glorious festivals. Long and key that they, the people, might conlovingly the Church lingers around tinue to be the dupes of a sinister in a life and death struggle with that the crib of Bethlehem, listening to and overbearing priesthood. No! it military barbarism to whose lust it the angels' song and watching the was to be every man's possession, shepherds and the Magi come and go. just as every man, no matter how It certainly is not the triumph of And now behold a youth of twelve ignorant or illiterate, held the master-

IT WOULD be curious and diverting bureaucracy, akin to Prussian militar- the Spring is at hand, the springtime trouble even did precious space perheavy on the native population of does the Church emphasize this! on the surface, and open to every Russia as it is on the subjugated The first Sunday after Easter she thoughtful observer. Suffice it here speaks to us of the peace that comes to recall that although on the It is to the democracy with the through the remission of sins, and Reformation theory, the truths of the appreciation of freedom seared into the following Sunday, through the Bible are so transparent that every ed in a multitude of sects, which fact But as Spring is followed by is in our day becoming a scandal Summer's richer wealth" so the even to themselves. Witness the third season, the season of the Sanc- growing desire for union among them, tifier, manifests the culmination of an inspiration most laudable in itself, God's love for man on earth. Ascend- but sought, as their current literaing into Heaven, Christ gave gifts to ture proves, to be attained by the men, and the greatest of these was explaining away or practical elimin the beginning of the ecclesiastical the Holy Ghost who was to remain ation of the distinctive doctrines with the Church till the end of the based on private interpretation of cycle. That long line of Sundays Scripture, which a generation ago after Pentecost extending through were guiding stars. Strange it is, the summer and far into the autumn and much to be regretted, that in the represents that period from the aspiration to unity, they should turn coming of the Paraclete until Christ's their gaze away from its only

> PREACHING TO the St. Andrew's more Spring or Winter but a glorious | Society in Toronto last Sunday, the never-ending Summer-the fulness Rev. Dr. R. Bruce Taylor, of Montreal, indulged in some curious flights of fancy. At the time of the Reformation, he told his hearers, John Knox 'who was on fire for God," "created the common people in religious. political and social life." Not only did the "great reformer" "found a new creed," he went on, "he likewise founded a new vital power." That has been the favorite theme with Scots Calvinists for three centuries, and despite the almost total break with the "new creed" which John Knox foisted on Scotland, they continue to acclaim him as the savior of his people and the maker of modern Scotland. The picture which in other paragraphs of his sermon, Dr. Taylor drew of modern Scotland was not particularly inviting, but that may rest for the moment. Let us look rather at the "new vital power" which, after his "new creed," was his greatest bequest to his

HISTORIANS OF Dr. Taylor's way of as the very incarnation of holy zeal. apostolic eloquence and courage dew ye heavens from above and let THE LATTER reverend gentleman beyond the lot of ordinary mortals, the clouds rain the Just One: let the should be given credit for his courage But later historians, who have been earth be opened and bud forth a at any rate. For over three cen- able to cut loose from the iron bound Saviour." As the gladday approaches | turies Protestantism has been trying | traditions of Presbyterianism in expectancy becomes more rife, as to "master the Bible," and if the Scotland, and have unearthed what shown in the antiphons of the suc- term "mastery" in this connection is lawyers call "the documents in the ceeding Sundays: "Behold a Virgin synonymous with "ascendancy" or case," have a very different tale to shall conceive and shall bear a Son "supremacy over," it seems in our tell. Dr. Taylor and declamators of and they shall call His name day to have at length pretty well his school would have us believe Emmanuel." "A Child is born to us succeeded. For, despite its much that the period immediately following and a Son is given to us," "Yet a vaunted hold over the hearts and that of Knox was the golden age of little while and He that is to come minds of our Protestant friends, are Scotland. Mr. York Powell, however, will come, and not delay," "Rejoice, we not continually reminded by the Regius Professor of Modern History Oh Jerusalem, with a great joy for thy Higher Critics among them that the in the University of Oxford, a recog-Saviour shall come to thee," "To- Bible is to be expounded and adjudi- nized authority on Scottish history, morrow you shall behold His g'ory," cated upon like any other book; that and by no means partial to the pre-"Behold all things are accomplished its manifest teachings, to which for Reformation Church, thought otherwhich were spoken by the Angel con- merly they clung with commendable wise. "The whole story of the Scotcerning the Virgin Mary," "And the tenacity, have now in effect been tish Reformation," he says, "hatched Word was made flesh and dwelt explained away? And, do we not in purchased treason and outrageous