EVENTS

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The Autonomy Bill Introduced.

IN one of the greatest speeches of his parliamentary life Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on Tuesday introduced the bill establishing two provinces out of the organized Territories of the Canadian Northwest. The announcement of the event of the sitting caused an attendance both in the House and in the gallleries that taxed the accommodation to the utmost.

During the last twenty years Laurier made two great speeches, one in 1886 on the Riel Rebellion and in 1896 on the Remedial Bill. On Tuesday he added a third to the record. The speech was worthy of the occasion and the occasion was a notable one. Hundreds of years ago the company of adventurers trading to Hudson's Bay had obtained from the Crown in England, largely through the influence of Prince Rupert, chartered rights in the vast wilderness extending from Lake Superior to the Pacific Ocean and from California to the Arctic Circle. Most of this territory, called Rupert's Land, passed to Canada shortly after Confederation in 1867. From that date to the present moment it has been administered in all important respects from Ottawa.

The Prime Minister rose to his feet amid loud cheers at a quarter past three in the afternoon. The House was crowded. The public galleries were packed. The correspondents and reporters for the Press were all in their places. The atmosphere was charged with expectation and interest of the most intense kind. He began quietly, as he always does in his great speeches, by alluding to the bill as indicative of the progress of Canada. This he claimed is our century, as the 19th century was the period of greatest progress in the United States. After glancing at the sway of the Hudson's BayCompany over these vast territories Sir Wilfrid described the first charter of self-government given to the people of the west, after Confederation had resulted in the purchase of the Territories from the Hudson's Bay Company. That was done by an Act of the CanadianParliament in 1875. The bill was introduced by Mr. Mackenize, at that time Prime Minister. It has never been repealed, but from time to time amended in the direction of granting further powers of self-government, and now, the premier said, they were about to crown the structure. This was in accordance with the intention at the time of Confederation, to extend local self-government from ocean to ocean. Manitoba as a province was carved out of these Territories in 1871, but, in the opinion of the premier, prematurely. He much preferred the gradual development of the Northwest Territories. The time had now come to hand over to the Territories complete powers of local government.

The Bill creates two provinces, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The territory lying between Manitoba on the west and British Columbia on the west, bounded north-

erly by the district of Mackenzie is divided evenly into two, by a line running north and south. The new province of Alberta includes the old district of Alberta and the westerly half of the district of Athabasca. The new province of Saskatchewan includes the old districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, and the easterly half of the district of Athabasca. The district of Keewatin is for the present to be left as it is, and the districts of Mackenzie and Yukon as well.

The main questions were dealt with by Sir Wilfrid Laurier under four heads:—

1. How many Provinces?
2. In whom should be vested the ownership of the public lands?
3. What should be the terms?
4. The question of the school system.

The first question he answered by dividing the territories into two natural divisions as to climate and productiveness, with the results given above.

The second was decided in favor of the Domnion. The crown lands are to remain the property of the Dominion. Sir John Macdonald refused in 1884 to give Manitoba her lands and there were still stronger reasons for refusing now to give these new Provinces their lands. But, and here Sir Wilfrid was very emphatic, they must be compensated generously.

This brought him to the terms. The population of each of the new Provinces is estimated at the present time to be 250,000 each. The original treatment of the old provinces at Confederation is to be applied to these new Provinces by allowing them an annual grant of 80c. a head Setting aside for a moment, for the sake of clear information, the basis of the various items, the minimum revenue of the new Provinces will be as follows:—

For Civil Government....	$ 50,000
The per head allowance...	200,000
For debt allowance........	405,375
Compensation for lands...	375,000
Total......	1,030,375

When the population exceeds 800,000 this amount will be increased to $1,125,000. or at least when the population reaches 1,200,000. These terms are necessarily arbitrary but no one can say that they are not liberal. In addition there is another allowance of $65,000 a year for public buildings at the Capital The Capital of Alberta is fixed at Edmonton, which is, perhaps, a return complement to Calgary for returning an opponent of the government last November The Capital of the new Province which include Assiniboia remains of course at Regina.

The exemption from taxes of the C.P.R. continues, for the reason that Parliament is debarred by the rights of contract of 1882 for repealing it. Sir Wilfrid regretted this.

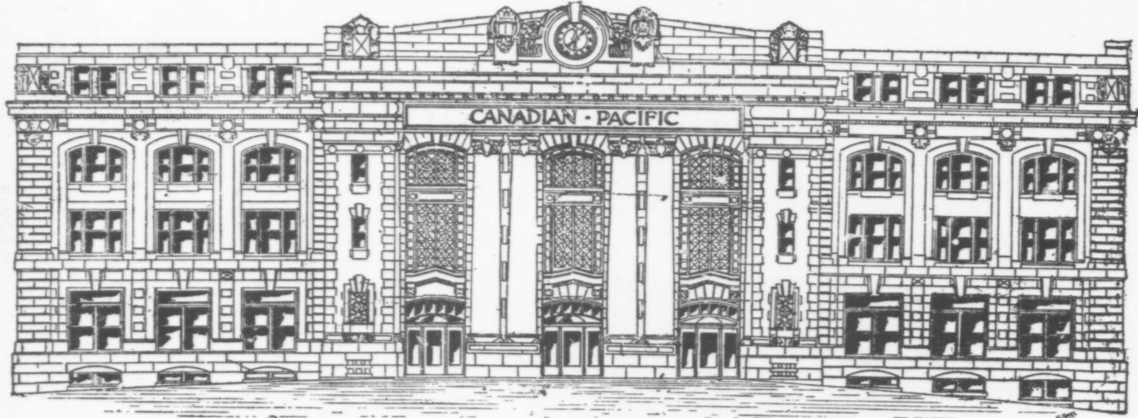
When the premier reached the last of his four points silence fell upon the chatterers in the galleries and in the Chamber itself. Old timers saw at once that the premier was going to say sometning and say it with that old time vigor and eloquence which formerly made the House sit up. The government, he said, had been warned and threatened, and warned and threatened from both sides. Such a subject has always aroused passions and prejudices, and at such a solemn moment it behooves them to approach the matter in a spirit of charity and tolerance.

It would be idle to attempt to reproduce this portion of the speech. It was eloquent, historical, argumentative, fervid, appealing, forcible, national, and presented with a skill as keen as a rapier. The system of separate schools established in 1875 by the unanimous consent of the House of Commons is not disturbed by this Bill, because it is a part of the constitution of Canada and made for the protection of the rights of the minority and in the sixties a necessary prelimniary to Confederation

The Prime Minister spoke for two hours and a half, the longest speech he has made in the House since he took office. On resuming his seat his followers broke into loud and prolonged cheers, and certainly the performance well deserved the acknowledgment.

The leader of the Opposition postponed any remarks on the Bill itself until he had an opportunity of studying it, and at the moment had not even seen it. For half an hour he twitted the premier with inconsistency in declining to introduce such a bill a couple of years ago and agreeing to do so now.

Mr. Haultain, premier of the Territories, and Mr. Bulyea, one of his colleagues in the government, occupied seats on the floor of the House during the afternoon within a few feet of the prime minister's desk.



Front view of new C. P. Railway station at Winnipeg

EVENTS

Published Weekly.

ARNOTT J. MAGURN, Editor

VOL. 7. FEBRUARY 25, 1905. No. 8

"CANADA FIRST", is the title of a publication issued in Toronto as the organ of "The Canadian Preference League." It is a monthly magazine, well printed, illustrated with handsome half-tones, and printed on extra good paper. The first number is dated February, 1905. It is, perhaps, a little difficult to discern the real object of the publication. It looks like an organ of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. In any case it is always interesting to see a new publication especially one like "Canada First" which pleases the artistic taste, caters to the national sentiment and endeavors to cultivate a national patriotism, in a sense the monthly also aims to be an organ of the Canadian Clubs, of Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, and other centres. It is pleasing to notice the appreciation shown by the magazine of such great Canadians as Archibald Lampman who died long before he was appreciated and to see a handsome reproduction of the bronze medallion which it is proposed to set up in token of Canada's remembrance of her lamented poet. Archibald Lampman was one of the sweetest characters and one of the truest poets the Dominion of Canada ever had.

WE present this week as a supplement or insert, a portrait of the leader of the Opposition in the Canadian House of Commons. Two weeks ago we ran a similar picture of the Prime Minister. Mr. Borden ranks second in the House only to the Prime Minister. He comes, as a matter of precedence, before any of the other cabinet ministers. Mr. Borden, upon receiving the nomination of the yeomanry of the county of Carleton, Ont., was greatly praised by nearly all of the parliamentary party. It is certainly one sign of a federated nationhood to see the people of one province opening to a man from a distant province a door by which to enter the House of Commons when it is felt that his presence there would conduce to the welfare of the whole country.

WE regret that the Autonomy Bill fails to provide for an extension of Manitoba's boundaries. Some hope was held out by the premier that after a while and after a conference between Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec, they might be extended northward. The question has been postponed not settled. We believe that the people of Manitoba would be satisfied with reaching up to Hudson's Bay, and the agitation for this should continue until it is successful.

HON. CLIFFORD SIFTON.
Minister of the Interior, who is in the South for his health, and is said to be suffering from insomnia, brought on by overwork.

Admiral Cervera's Account of the Battle of Santiago.

IN the Nuova Antologia (Rome), Admiral Cervera, in the course of an interview with Felice Santini, as reported by the latter, gives an account of the battle of Santiago. The admiral says that on the first breaking out of hostilities his squadron consisted of four cruisers, partially and very insufficiently protected. The gross tonnage of the squadron was about seven thousand. They were the Infanta Maria Teresa, the flagship; the Viscaya, Almiranto Oquendo, and the Cristobel Colon, which last was built in Italy and was the best ship in the command, as well as the most effective in action. "It would have dealt some hard blows to the powerful North American squadron if her revolving towers at stem and stern had not unfortunately been left unprovided with the four great guns which they were intended to carry."

"Under these conditions, aggravated by an insufficient armament, a scanty supply of provisions, and crews too small in number and enfeebled by the circumstances of the voyage, but still full of courage, I received orders to weigh anchor at Cadiz for Cape Verde, thus running the risk of being chased by the numerous and powerful United States cruisers. At Cape Verde I was to await orders and take under command the seven torpedo boat destroyers which, in the opinion of the government and my deluded country, Spain, would work miracles and make victory certain. However, I found them in such a wretched condition that I could only avail myself of the service of two, the Pluton and the Furor, which, as soon as we reached the open sea, we were obliged to take in tow, with no slight hindrance to the cruisers and great delay to the voyage, and curtailment of all liberty in tactics and strategic manoeuvre." Admiral Cervera declares that he had intimated to the government of Spain before leaving Cadiz the weak condition of the squadron in an official report forwarded to the Spanish war office. "But public opinion, with all its misconceptions brought pressure to bear upon the government. I received a second peremptory order to start, and I had no alternative but to obey." Of the voyage, he says:

"When I reached Cape Verde, I found neither the provisions I was in need of, the coal that was an absolute necessity of the voyage, nor any means of completing my armament. I merely found awaiting me instructions to force an entrance into Santiage de Cuba, which port was known, both in Madrid and all the world to be strictly blockaded by the numerous and powerful ironclads of Admiral Sampson. The catastrophe of our voyage may easily be imagined. The enemy was awaiting us at the entrance of the harbor. By good luck, the very audacity of the orders given me was such that the enemy was for a moment off their guard. They had been unable to imagine that we would attempt to enter Santiago, which it was so easy for them to blockade, and I thus was enabled to execute a somewhat difficult and singular manœuvre. We made our way with all our lights covered, for I hadn't even a swift scouting cruiser, officers and men standing at their posts ready for action, husbanding out fuel with the most rigorous economy, continually exercising our men, with eye and mind ever on the watch, and although weak and utterly outnumbered, eager to try the arbitrament of battle. At last eluding the cruisers of our powerful enemy, we succeeded in safely

entering the narrow passage of Santiago harbor."

The admiral describes the dismay with which he subsequently received orders to rush into the lion's mouth by sailing out of Santiago, and then describes the one-sided battle which ensued:

"The enemy was soon advised of our movements, and kept out of range of our land batteries, moving at half speed, in expectation of our appearance at the harbor mouth. I quickly shaped my course toward the hostile squadron and was the first to open fire, which was returned with terrible effect. Our birdges, decks and towers were soon crowded with the dead and wounded. The enermous projectiles tore asunder the sides of our vessels, setting them on fire, and dealing death on every side. My ships, which even if they had been in normal condition,—and they were far from being so, except as regards the courage of those who manned them—would have stood only as one to five against the enemy, did not for one moment relax their useless fire. The Americans had only one wounded, while, quite at the mercy of the enemy, whose superior speed easily overtook me, signaled to my ships now that hope of escape was past, to hug the shore and wreck their vessels there, rather than allow them to be captured."

In a short time what the admiral calls the "vain sacrifice" was consummated.

"We had paid for our effort by the best blood of Castile. Three hundred of our men were dead, some of them drowned, others burned—reduced to tinder—and a lesser number wounded. When once the vessels went ashore, they became a helpless target of the enemy's fire. I and my captain were the last to fling ourselves into the water from the deck of the Infanta Maria Teresa, which, like the other ships was on fire, though the flag of Spain still flew at the peak. The survivors were at last rescued from the waves and made prisoners by the Americans."

The Russell House, Ottawa—One of the parlors.

The Future of "Public House Trust" in England.

SINCE the opening of the Subway Tavern in New York City, the English movement, headed by Lord Grey, and having for its object the control of liquor selling by a disinterested "trust," has attracted a good deal of attention in this country. Writing in the National Review on "Constructive Temperance Reform," the Earl of Lytton sums up the "public-house trust" thus:

On the whole the prospects of the trust companies obtaining a large proportion of new licenses may be considered favorable. Their policy is clearly in accordance with the spirit of section 4 of the new act, and should entitle them to favorable consideration at the hands of the authorities. On the other hand, their prospect of obtaining existing licenses is only slightly improved by the act. No machinery has been established for the extinction of the present system, and, except where their number is excessive, and liable to reduction with compensation, existing licenses have been established more firmly than ever.

The only help which the trust receives from the act in respect of acquiring existing licenses is to be found in the words of sub-section 4 of section 3, which allow the compensation fund to be augmented from "other sources" than the charges on licenses. Under this section, it would be possible for a trust company to appear before a licensing bench and ask on public grounds that a license at present granted to the trade should be transferred to themselves on payment by them of the necessary compensation. On the second reading of the bill in the House of Lords, Lord Grey held that by this means, if the sanction of the licensing judge could be obtained, many houses would be transferred from the trade to the trust, and his opinion was supported by Lord Salisbury and other members of the government. To carry out this process on any considerable scalewould require much larger funds than are at present at the disposal of the trust, and as its surplus profits will in future be allocated to the relief of the rates, it seems hardly possible that any extensive use will be made of this method. At the same time, it may be found extremely useful in certain cases, where, for instance, the possession of the few existing trade houses would give the trust a monopoly in a particular village or town.

It has often been asserted that a trust house can do no good so long as it is in competition with the trade. This is not true, for in almost every case the introduction of a single trust house into a district hitherto served only by tied houses has had the effect of raising the standard in the latter with regard to both the quality of the liquor sold and to the general conduct of the business. It is, however, undeniable, that the trust experiment could be carried out with greater thoroughness and effect in a district in which all the houses were under trust management.

In the same review, Col. H. J. Crawford thus sums up the trust experiment:

It must be admitted that the experiment at this stage is an incomplete one; the reason being that it has not yet been possible to apply disinterested management on a large enough scale to be convincing. In the surrounding in which most of the trust houses find themselves, it is impossible fully totest their system of management in its effect on drinking, because when a man is refused drink at a trust house he is able, in nine cases out of ten, to get what he wants by going to the tied house a few hundred yards along the road. In this way the tied houses everywhere undo most of the good effected by trust management. Nevertheless, good is being done, and we believe any candid person who looks into the reports will admit it.

The Anglo-Japanese Alliance and the Anglo-French Agreement.

WRITING on the Anglo French agreement, the London correspondent of the North China Daily News recently declared that the conclusion of the said agreement would result in the lessening of England's sympathy with Japan, moderating at the same time the ill-feeling which has existed between England and Russia, because, in his opinion, the nature of the new agreement cannot be harmonized with that of the Anglo-Japanese treaty of alliance. Commenting on this opinion an editorial in the Kokumin Shimbun (Tokio), forecasts some of the possible effects which the Anglo-French agreement is likely to have upon the Anglo-Japanese alliance. In recent years England and France, says the Kokumin, have been gradually awaking to the folly of quarrelling with each other without any plausible reason, and their governments and peoples have been endeavoring to bring about a better understanding between the two nations. The conclusion of the Anglo-French agreement, it continues, was a natural outcome of the gradual rapprochement of the two countries.

"As the result of the new agreement many mooted cases which from time to time disturbed the peaceful relations of the two powers in various parts of the world have been amicably settled. There is a wide difference between an international agreement and a treaty of alliance. The former aims to settle international trouble in the past, while the latter concerns the future destiny of nations invovled in it. Viewed in this wise, the Anglo-French agreement is, in its nature and scope, not dissimilar to the Anglo-Russian agreement which deals with railroad concessions in China, or to the Russo-Japanese agreement dwelling with Korea's relations to the two nations entering into the said agreement has little to do with the grave question of war or peace affecting the contracting parties. On the contrary the relations of England to Japan, as the English minister at Tokio plainly explained at a recent banquet of the Japan Society, are those of an alliance aimed at the preservation of international peace. This alliance is of the same nature as the Russo-French alliance or the triangular alliance binding Germany, Austria and Italy.

Therefore, the Kokumin believes, the new agreement between France and England does not in the least invalidate the principle and purpose of the treaty of alliance between the two island powers. The two are perfectly consistent and in harmony. The diplomatic policy of England in entering into the new agreement with France is in no wise similar to that of Bismarck, who, uniting Germany, Austria and Italy on the one hand, concluded a secret treaty with Russia on the other It need hardly be assured that there is no reason, on the part of Japan, to see any danger in the entent cordiale existing between England and Japan on account of the appearance of the new agreement. Moreover, Japan has strong reasons for rejoicing over the inauguration of the Anglo-French argeement. The main purpose of Japan in forming an alliance with England was to maintain the peace of the far East, and also to assist in the promotion of amicable relations between the powers in all parts of the world. The Anglo-French agreement which has solved by peaceful means some difficult problemsthat

have been long disputed on both sides has no doubt been a powerful instrumentality for the preservation of peace in Europe.

"Although it was most unfortunate that peace in the far East was destroyed between Russia and Japan, yet it is at least consoling to observe that the new agreement between the two foremost powers of Europe will be of some service in preserving the peace of Europe, with the indirect result of restricting the sphere of the great international conflict now raging in the extreme East. Hence, the Anglo-French agreement is nothing but a powerful auxiliary to the Anglo-Japanese alliance."

As to the popular allegation that the formation of the Anglo-Japanese alliance was a strong impetus to the Anglo-French agreement, the Kokumin does not express any opinion. No matter what motive moved the two nations toward the conclusion of the new covenant, the Kokumin finds no reason whatsoever for speaking against the inauguration of a new institution which will assist in the cultivation of the arts of peace. "Should England and France continue to foster the feeling of enmity," says the Kokumin in conclusion, "there is reason to fear that the war in the far East would cease to be a conflict between Russia and Japan alone, but would asume a far gloomier aspect, involving other European powers in the disastrous affair.

The Russell House, Ottawa—The Rotunda at 5 o'clock in the morning

Russian Press on the Russian Crisis.

ANOMALOUS in the extreme has been the status of the Russian press, that is not subject to preliminary censorship, since the appointment of Prince Sviatopolk-Mirski and the revival of the liberal movement. Ot first it enjoyed an exceptional degree of freedom, and used it with great boldness and courage, demanding comprehensive reforms and hinting at constitutional government. Since the secret zemstvo conference, which the press was not allowed to report or even to mention, this freedom has been gradually restricted. Nothing has been said on or about the various meetings, resolutions, petitions and addresses which have preceded or followed the Czar's reform decree. The decree itself has been commented upon, but vaguely and guardedly, the most significant remarks being rather "between the lines" than in them. The advanced Russ notes this fact and complains that the article of the code in regard to the press that has been most objectionable is again being applied with the old rigor.

One paper has been suspended for three months, two have received second warnings for "pernicious tendencies," and several have been given first warnings. What is gained by such measures? asks the Russ, and continues:

"Every day tens of thousands of readers open their papers to find in them verification or correction of personal impressions experienced the day before or of reports of events by eye-witnesses. How amazed readers would be if, on the morrow of a flood, they found not a line descriptive of the event? They are not so unsophisticated as to suppose that editors pay no attention to the questions of vital interest to the country. . . . Seeing nothing in the papers, the readers resort to other means of obtaining information, and they succeed even in distant provincial corners. Foreign papers are smuggled in and devoured with avidity.

Why, then, attempt the impossible by means of coercion of the Russian press and of the Russian reader? The restriction of freedom of publication does harm rather than good. It leads to the dissemination of false and exaggerated reports of the very matters it is sought to keep from the public.."

The Novosti indorses these observations and adds that the advocates of the policy of silence and suppression resemble the ostrich in its proverbial folly of sticking the head into the sand as a means of escaping pursuit.

In spite of the Government's repressive measures and circulars and warnings, some of the more radical organs of opinion continue to exercise the freedom which officially has been withdrawn. The Rousskya Viedomosti, of Moscow, the organ of the university professors, says this about the fall of Port Arthur, and the whole war over Manchuria:

"Port Arthur is not Russia. For the mass of the Russian people it is something remote and unknown, a strange piece of Chinese territory which we have improperly occupied with the intention of keeping it. Russia will never forget the bloodshed and the terribly tragic end of a short-sighted policy, or the needless victims thereof."

The Czar's decree has evidently disappointed even the less liberal Russian editors. All praise it, but read into it

Robert Laird Borden, K.C., M.P.

The Leader of the Federal Opposition who re entered Parliament at the request of the Conservative Party.

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meanings of their own preference. The Novosti says that it will constitute a great step if the bureaucracy shall observe the conditions necessary to the success of the reforms. The St. Petersburg Viedomosti urges co-operation between the state and public bodies, while the Russ says that a great responsibility rests upon the ministers and that reforms cannot be accomplished by bureaucratic methods. It demands "participation by all classes of society in the work of legislation," and ample dicussion of the proposals by the press and public.

The cant of humanitarianism taints much Western comment upon recent blood, shed in Russia, declare sundry European organs, which deplore any further outpourings of lacrimose distillations upon the unchecked effervescence of public feeling. Mankind, we are told. is misled In place of an imbecile halt at the decisive hour, the London Saturday Review detects in the whiff of grapeshot whih drove the St. Petersburg mobs to cover evidence of an austere fitness to govern which less autocratic rulers do not always possess, although it is conceded by the English weekly that the mode of repression adopted was sicklied over with those inevitably mild sentiments into which every form of sway as gentle as that of Nicholas II. tends to subside. What really took place, to give the text of this authority's elucidation, was this:

"The Social Democrats at once made use of the opportunity, as they do on all such occasions, and rushed into the fray for the furtherance of their own political ends. A general demonstration of all available refractories was immediatelydeterminedupon with instructions to assemble in the palace square. The 50,000 strikers thus recruited by various political agitators, by the unemployed, by the riffraff of the capital, soon grew into a formidable crowd of rioters about 80,000 strong, liable at any moment to become an inflammatory menace to the whole city. A priest with ikons and a sprinkling of women and children were deftly added to the throng with a view to mollifying the military who were known to be in strong force guarding the street approaches to the palace. The organizers evidently reckoned that the soldiers would either refuse to fire on such a crowd or that, if they did so and injured the sacred ikons or killed some of the women or children, the sympathy of outsiders could be turned to considerable advantage on the side of the rioters. The orders issued to the military in such circumstances were naturally to disperse the rioters and prevent them by every means from gaining the precincts of the palace. The first measure adopted was the order for the Cossacks to attack the crowd with their whips, a less dangerous method, perhaps, than even our own police practise with the baton. But the concourse of insurgents was too great and too determined for the Cossacks to deal with; and the next order was to fire a volley of blank cartridges. This, however, had no better result, while the mob was growing in number and fierceness. At last the extreme measures usually adopted in our own and other countries in cases of riotous uproar were resorted to—the only difference being that no riot act was read—the order was issued to fire loaded cartridges. Then inevitably happened what we have seen placarded in our streets in such sensational terms 'slaughter of women and children.' That the strikers were permitted to approach in such great numbers almost to the precincts of the Winter Palace indicates that the action of the authorities was not after all so drastically cruel and oppressive as is generally asserted abroad. Compared with our Socialist demonstrations in Trafalgar Square—when the agitators werer rigorously confined to their place of meeting, with the threat of penalty if they attempted to move; and of reading the riot act, followed by its serious consequences—the Russian mob, which in numbers and composition was infinitely more dangerous, was, it seems to us, given an almost unmerited license."

Ideas of a similar kind suggest themselves to the Paris Gaulois, clerical and monarchical. It is amazed at "too tender journalists" who seem ready to "collapse with horror" because things do not happen in Russia as they happen elsewhere. The

Paris organ does not hesitate to assure such journalists that "reasonable men throughout the whole world—the Christian world of course and not the Japanese world—experienced an immense relief" at the news of the Czar's course. The Gaulois adds that it well knows what "the epileptics of humanitarianism" will reply, but it asserts nevertheless, as follows:

"To begin with, we are not ignorant of the kind of persons into whose hands certain factories for the production of press despatches have fallen—factories in which there are never strikes—and while we may be willing enough to buy what they have to sell us we desire at the same time to supervise them before believing wholly in what they say. In the next place, we note too much of a tendency to tacit agreement, in obedience to a hint, to sadden us because of the extraordinary number of women and children victims of the repression What a number of women and children there were in those uprisings! Were there really as many as are alleged? Did as many fall as we are assured? In particular, were there so many women and children in those moving columns of political demonstrators, who asked, it seems, 'separation of church and state' just like our own parliamentary groups in the Place de la Concorde.

"But, assuming that blood flowed in the streets as freely as it flowed in the press despatches, and that about the Winter Palace the day was as tragical as the newspapers make it, it would not be from the Czar or from the Cossacks that the Russian peopleought to askfor justice, but from the wretched international band which works under every mask, from the mask of fury to the mask of sweetness, with an interval beneath the dogmatic mask and even the apostolic mask for the paralysis of Russia. Explanations should be asked of the subterranean and penal sect which had some of its members interviewed in London at the very time they were fiercely reviling the Czar, through their organs in Paris, for remaining in his palace at Tsarskoe Selo. . . .

"As for the Russian national movement in the beginning of the twentieth century, it is precisely under the aspect which the world's press has so scandalously conspired to present to us, the same sort of bluff, of lying and of plotting, as was our own national movement at the end of the eighteenth century. There is the same kind of secular national power to overcome and we have the same kind of conspirators, filling with delusions the same kind of mobs by making use of the same kind of pretexts to effect an overthrow.

"If anything appears indisputable, it is assuredly the necessity of fundamental reform in Russia. The same was the case in France at the time of the great revolution. But the most elementary common sense indicates at the same time that the Russian 'people', in whose interest these reforms are essential, cannot accomplish them themselves and must leave their achievement to those whose function it is to bring them about, to those whose mission it is to decree them, just as it is the trade of cobblers to mend shoes, and of glaziers to fix windows. The Czar does not go into the factories and take the tools out of the hands of the workmen in order to show how they should be used. Is it any more rational, on the part of the workmen, to go in a crowd to the Czar to take his sceptre from him and show him how to wield it, all this under the leadership of a pope who would be doing much better if he stuck to his prayers Admitting even that the Czar does not use his authority absolutely for the best, can those whose function is not that of exercising it exercise it with more capacity! Does it follow that because a painter's pictures might be improved upon, a street sweeper or a coachman, who had never seen a canvas or a brush, could paint any better?

An Unsparing Criticism.

RESTLESSNESS and a hollow, artificial society, for which, the United States woman is mainly responsible, these are the characteristics of United States civilization which impressed a well known Swedish authoress on a recent visit to that country. The magaizne Varia, (Stockholm), which withholds her name but announces her eminence, gives her impressions in full. Besides remaining for several years in this country, says the editor of Varia, the writer has been a student of American conditions, particularly in the eastern part of the United States for more than ten years. American society is a hollow, worthless thing, she believes. When the poor artist coming from Paris or London, "freezes in his soul, he feels powerless in view of the lack of place into which to put his social energies. He is forced to choose between family and society life or a Bohemian existence which does not at all correspond to the companionship he enjoyed in Europe." The most fortunate people in America, this writer believes, are the middle-aged men who have means for expensive club life. She is, however, unsparing in the criticism of the clubs for women. "The so-called lady clubs are simply societies, with or without clubhouses, for discussion, agitation, and lecturing. A great deal of work is done ostensibly for the sake of woman, yet the whole thing makes a forced impression. On the other hand, however, there are many fine reading circles and afternoon courses of study."

It is hard to find a real American woman in New York, this Swedish writer declares She continues:

The women of the middle class which is the largest in New York, are characterized by their laziness, incompetence and vanity. They may know how to make a dress elegant, but poorly suited to their means, and yet, only very seldom do they know how to cook. Most of the dyspepsia and nervousness of their husbands is surely caused by the half cooked meals of the women. Besides, not being practical, they waste half the food they consume. Yet they trim their nails for hours, and live half the time on the street,—that is when they are not fortunate enough to be jammed around the bargain counter. This is not merely a European view of the matter —it is a frequent topic of admonition on the part of many American economic writers. While these offer many explanatons they all agree that there is an incalculable danger to the country in the increasing laziness of the middle-class woman and her unfitness to be the head of a household.

Much is being done in the United States the lady admits, in the way of popular education and enlightenment, but most of it she contends, is "along improper lines, and complicated by the red tape of superficial educational methods causing a confusion which is worse than the most rigid conservatism." American teachers, she declares, are a worthy class, but are generally "oppressed by pedagogical studies which they are unable to digest, confused by theories which they are not able to convert into practice. Alas for the American fetich worship of theories and long words"

A class of women which especially pleased this Swedish writer was the shop girl. Many of these, she declares, by their own "gifts and cleverness, stand apart from the great mass of the people—unsuccessful aritsts, half educated teachers, pretentious girls, foolishly known as salesladies and stenographers." When an American woman is practically inclined, how-

ever, "she is the most practical woman on earth." This foreign observer was also very much interested in the "richly developed girl bachelor's life, with really genuine American systems of making a living. As to the wives of millionaires, especially in New York, they have "no time for anything but sham society; no time even for serious reading to properly discharge the duties of membership on the women's club committees." The charitable work of American women comes in for much praise from this writer. Particularly sympathetic were the impressions it made on her by college-settlement work.

That Americans have degenerated, "especially in the East, is the final verdict. In Scandinavia, and in certain circles of English life, there is much more social dignity than in the United States, she avers The "Four Hundred" of New York, and those who seek to imitate them, "aa s rule are an mated by hypocrisy or a fear of losing caste."

The Russell House, Ottawa—A corner of the Cafo.

A Man, a Woman, and a Bayonet

THE Corporal in charge, who had been drinking steadily, hiccoughed his anecdotes. "Yellow imps! That's what they are, with teeth as long as your finger. first they shoot and then they eat you. Ugh!

Stepanovitch shivered. He was reviving from the stupor in which the events of the past few hours had plunged him. He had never expected to be called upon—he, a man just married. It was unfair—horrible. Why should he be sent out to this far and perilous country, called Manchuria, to be eaten by those yellow goblins? If what the Corporal said was true they would never come back alive. Why had he been such a fool when the yellow card was given him, to go to the depot and be enrolled? Why had he not done like others—crept out in the night and met the German agent who helped men to cross the frontier and go in a ship to a country where there was much gold. Was it too late?

The train rolled on through the frosty flats. It was a bitter cold night, but the carriage was stifling. The other recruits were asleep or stupid with fright. They lay back against the wooden walls of the carriage with closed eyes, heedless of the jolting. The Corporal, who had taken yet another drink from his bottle, seemed to be sleeping too. He was a fierce looking man in his sleep, fiercer even than when he was awake; but it was a thing to be thankful for that there was a breathing space from those monstrous stories of his. They hurt a man's inside, those stories.

To get rid of the feel of them, Stepanovitch tried to fix his thoughts on Katinka. She was a good girl and laborious, and it was a shame that she should be left—as good as widowed—so soon. How she had wept when the yellow card came! She had wept so much indeed that when the hour for his departing arrived, her eyes had been quite dry. He hoped that she would not forget the instructions he had given her, in case he came back; especially in regard to any money she might save. It was not likely that she would save any. Very few did in the village, and Katinka was a hungry one always. That was perhaps why she was so plump. She was the plumpest girl for miles round, and it was for this reason that Stepanovith had loved her. Well, it was not to be supposed that she could stay plump forever, especially with her man away. She would not have the food. That was natural enough—not to have much food when one's man was away—and Stepanovitch did not regret that he had kept secret from her the place under the floor in which his savings were stored. She might have been tempted to spend them, if she had known where they lay; and then when he came back and needed them, there would be nothing left.

But would he never come back? It seemed the question would recur whatever one fixed one's mind on. The railway carriage was altogether asleep now. There was nothing else but snores through the whole of it—snores that kept time with the monotonous vibration of the train. Stepanovitch, who was in the corner by the door, put his hand on the handle and turned it. He had not meant to open the door, but suddenly it was open. The train went very slow; he could see that by looking through the veriest c nk that caused no draught and disturbed no sleeper. A man could leap

into the snow very easily and take no harm. . . . .

Two days later in the evening, Stepanovitch stood outside the cottage in which he had left Katinka. It seemed a year since he had left her, but it was only two nights He had walked all the time, and run, too, except in the daylight, when he had hidden himself in a straw stack. He had eaten nothing, and slept not a wink. All the time, while he walked and while he hid, he had thought of this moment and what a surprise it would be to Katinka. He would go very cautiously in, put his hand on her lips lest she would cry out, and taking his money from the place under the floor beckon her to fly with him. That very night they would cross the frontier with the help of the German agent; and in the morning he would sleep—sleep all the way to the land of gold. What a morning that would be!

It seemed, however, as he stood outside the cottage that there was a noise within—quite a long and loud noise, as of someone singing. It could not be that Katinka was singing with him away, as she thought, among the yellow imps in the Manchuria country. Nor, again, was it her voice. It was a man who was singing. What man had the right to be singing in his cottage? Stepanovitch licked his lips which were very dry with the cold wind, and went to a crack he knew of in the wall of the cottage. There was a light burning on the table—a bright, wasteful light, so bright and so wasteful that it showed everything in the room at a glance the stone bottle of vodka on the table, the roubles he had hidden under the floor in the very hankerchief in which he had them tied up—only it was untied now, so that you could see the money quite clearly, the man—Stepanovitch knew him—standing with his back to the door singing, and Katinka looking at him with large eyes, her chin upon her hands as she sat at the table plump and well-liking. It did not occur toStepanovitch to wonder how she had discovered the place under the floor; or what she had intended to do with the money. He was aware only that the man had his back to the door, and that he Stepanovitch, had a bayonet in his belt. He had thrown his rifle away, as soon as he had leapt from the train, but he had his bayonet still. He crept round to the door very cautiously.

* * *

Ten minutes later the deserter came out from his cottage. He had not slept for two nights and more, and he rolled as he walked towards the frontier. In the morning he would sleep—in the morning when the German agent had put him on his way to the country where there was much gold. Sometimes, being very drowsy and forgetful, he would call to Katinka to hasten, before he recollected that Katinka was not with him, being already asleep.

The morning when it came was not quite so peacful or so joyous as he expected. But it was better, he thought, than it would have been if the train had been taking him to the Manchurian country to be shot by the yellow imps instead of the land of gold.

R. E. VERNEDE.