

Telephone company paid ten supervisors \$5,000 each. The Home Telephone company paid ten supervisors \$3,500 each, seven supervisors \$6,000 each, and to Ruef and Schmitz together \$150,000. The San Francisco Gas and Electric company paid sixteen supervisors \$750 each."

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#### The Russian People Speak to the American People.

Alexis Aladin (p. 704), leader of the "Group of Toll" in the last Douma, and Count Nicholas W. Tchaykovsky, a leader in the Russian revolutionary movement of 1871, are speaking to audiences in the United States on behalf of the Russian people. They addressed 3,500 persons in the Auditorium in Chicago on the 24th at a meeting presided over by William J. Bryan. The meeting was characterized by the press as remarkable. "In boxes and on the stage were judges, lawyers, ministers, educators, business men, and representatives of almost every conceivable interest in the city." In his address of introduction Mr. Bryan said: "I believe our nation has a right to express its opinion on every subject that affects humanity in any place in the world; that our nation will not live up to its duty unless its moral influence is thrown on the right side of every question which arises touching upon the liberty of peoples. Wherever people struggle to obtain liberty we must let them know our sympathies are with them. Other nations must not be able to give the lie to our history." In admirable English Mr. Aladin set forth the demands made by the united Russian people upon the Imperial government, summarizing them as follows:

A general political amnesty, including the thousands of men and women in Siberia, sent there because of activity in the cause of freedom.

Abolition of all exceptional laws, such as drumhead military courts, regulations under which police can enter houses in the dead of night and seize men and women, laws under which governors of provinces have the rights of commanding generals in time of war.

Control of the expenditure of public money to be vested in the people's representatives.

Establishment of a responsible ministry, appointed from the Douma.

Immediate amelioration of the condition of the working classes.

He asked for his people that the American nation should remain neutral in whatever struggle should arise between the Russian people and the autocracy, and that Americans should not lend money to the Russian Government on bonds not authorized by the Douma. "If you lend money to the Government, and ever get it back," he said, "it will be spotted with the blood of innocent women and children. We believe 95 per cent. of the American people do not make out of the dollar an Almighty, and that they do not wish to lend money to wage war against freedom. And even the other 5 per cent., who might give money to the Government, should hesitate. For look, under the law—now that we have the Douma to represent us—the Government has to ask permission to make any law. If the Government issues bonds without permission of the Douma and then representative government is fully established—as it will be—who will pay those bonds? We ask you, then, to be neutral and not give money to the present Government. Then, in the second

place, we come to you to tell you that our men are tortured, our women are given to the Cossacks. Such atrocities would not be permitted in war. Why, we ask, should they be permitted between a government and its people? You would not allow these terrible cruelties and outrages if Russia were fighting another nation. Why stand by and permit them in factional strife? We do not ask you to liberate us, but we do ask that the mighty voice of America speak. We ask your moral support now, and in the future. If the necessity arises, we ask your material support." Mr. Tchaykovsky described typical outrages committed by the Czar's government in carrying out the present interminable policy of coercion to the death.

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#### Russia.

The drumhead courts-martial against which Mr. Aladin protested in his Chicago speech on the 24th, was under consideration in the Douma on the 25th and 26th. The law providing for trials by this method was to lapse on the 26th by expiration of its two months' limit, and the Government desired an extension of some form of court-martial law (p. 1213). Mr. Maklakoff, the Constitutional Democratic leader, showed the inconsistency of martial law with constitutional government, and declared that the "terrorism from below was simply evoked by the terrorism from above." On the 26th the Douma adopted the preliminary resolution of the Constitutional Democrats providing for the abolition of drumhead courts-martial, and instructing the committee to draw up and present a bill to this effect with as little delay as possible. The vote was almost unanimous, only twenty-two extreme reactionists voting in the negative. After the vote had been taken Mr. Stolypin, who had just had a long conference with the Czar, announced that so long as "the bloody miasma of terrorism overshadowed the land" the Government did not feel justified in withdrawing entirely such unfortunate repressive measures, but that orders had been given that drumhead courts-martial be hereafter employed only in cases of extreme and vital necessity.

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Constantine P. Pobiedonostseff, until two years ago Procurator General of the Holy Synod of the Greek-Russian church, died in St. Petersburg on the 23d at the age of 80 years. The Czar is the head of the Russian church, but the czars have never claimed the right of deciding theological and dogmatic questions, and practically the procurator general, who is the official next in rank, has exercised great power. Mr. Pobiedonostseff, of commanding abilities and irreproachable character, was a reactionary of the most pronounced type. Says Professor Milukoff in his paper, the *Rech*, "With Pobiedonostseff's whole era Russian history sinks into the grave. To him personally Russia is indebted for twenty-five years of postponement of constitutional life, which has made the delayed process of liberation so stormy and painful now. . . . When he lost influence he stepped out without a struggle, confining himself to an old man's mutterings of predictions of an unavoidable future of cataclysms. He always was afraid to permit the full play of life. Several years ago no one could have guessed that Pobiedonostseff could

survive himself, but this actually happened. His political opponents can afford magnanimity. The advance of the Russian people has already relegated his epoch to oblivion. He already is entombed in history."

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#### **Agrarian Revolt in Rumania.**

The Jewish massacres in Rumania reported last week (p. 1213) in connection with discontent with high taxation and landholders' exactions, proved to be but the beginning of widely scattered agrarian uprisings for which the peasants appear to have been making more or less organized preparation. News from Rumania through Germany is to the effect that "It is the purpose of the peasants to drive out the Jewish lessees of the extensive holdings of absentee landlords, and to seize the lands that the peasants rent from the lessees and upon which they are entirely dependent. The peasants claim that a system of extortion is practiced against them." Another dispatch states that "the movement is really more agrarian than anti-Semitic. The peasants are in revolt against the great farming trust, which has leased half the cultivatable lands in Moldavia. The absentee landlords who control the trust happen to be Jews, and this fact brings the ire of the peasants down upon any and all Jews that they meet, and to this antipathy is added strong racial feelings arising from other causes." On the 21st all the army reserves had been called out. On the 22nd all northern Rumania—the province of Moldavia—was declared to be in revolt. A score of towns had been burned, and 400 estates pillaged. Ten thousand Jews were homeless, and 8,000 had crossed the frontier into Austria. On the 25th four additional regiments were sent to Jassy, the largest city of Moldavia, where 12,000 troops had been already concentrated. All shops were closed, and the artillery was encamped on the principal street. From 40,000 to 50,000 peasants were reported as ready to attack the city. Encounters between the troops and the peasants have occurred at several places. Troops fired on the insurrectionists at Galatz, killing 200. A company of soldiers was routed at Bacess, where 2,000 peasants, armed with rifles and revolvers, were encamped. Forty peasants were killed. Dispatches of the 26th declare that the rising is assuming the proportions of civil war, and that the movement is directed not only against the Jews but also against the Christian land owners. The trouble now extends from one end of Rumania to the other, and even the capital city, Bucharest in Wallachia in the southern part of the country, is in fear of an attack, 4,000 peasants being reported as marching upon it. Reenforcements have been concentrated there. The royal palace is protected by artillery, and orders have been issued to use shrapnel to prevent the revolting peasants from invading the city.

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#### **Self-Government for Ireland Debated.**

In reply to interrogation in the House of Lords on the 20th in regard to the ministerial policy for Ireland (pp. 1113, 1213), the Earl of Crewe, Lord President of the Council, said the Government's policy was not home rule, but an advance in the direction of self-government which was not incompatible with

an advance toward home rule. The Marquis of Londonderry, a Conservative, who was formerly Viceroy of Ireland, declared that the English people had not given the Government a mandate to grant the demands of the Irish people. The dispatches state that there then followed a striking scene when Lord Loreburn, the Lord High Chancellor, leaving the wool-sack, declared that he, like Premier Campbell-Bannerman, was a home ruler, but he qualified his statement by saying he meant home rule in a parliament subordinate to the imperial authority. "All roads," Lord Loreburn added, "lead to home rule. It is as certain to come as that to-morrow's sun will rise." At a meeting of the Council of the Liberal League on the 26th, Lord Rosebery said that Great Britain would never tolerate a separate Irish parliament

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#### **The Transvaal Parliament.**

The first Transvaal Parliament under the new constitution (p. 1166) assembled at Pretoria on the 21st. The Boers are in a majority, and in the lower house they clamored for a use of the Dutch language, with the result that the proceedings were conducted alternately in English and Dutch, a speaker frequently beginning his remarks in one language and finishing in the other. The Earl of Selborne, the High Commissioner, in addressing both houses, said that the ministry had resolved that the employment of Chinese labor in the mines, a very serious grievance in South Africa, should come to an end. On the following day the upper house passed the "Asiatic ordinance," providing for the exclusion of the Japanese and other Asiatics, who are immigrating to South Africa in increasing numbers.

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#### **Berlin to Tax the "Unearned Increment."**

A brief dispatch from Berlin states that on the 21st the City Council adopted a measure that provides for the taxation for the so-called "unearned increment," in other words, the new value of real estate accrued since the last sale of the piece of property in question.

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#### **The War in Central America.**

The little war which has been running its course since January between Nicaragua and Honduras (p. 1214) seems to be about over. It was reported on the 24th that after a battle in which the Hondurans and their new allies, the Salvadoreans (p. 1214), had 200 men killed and about an equal number wounded, the Nicaragua forces had captured Choluteca, the most strongly fortified town of Honduras, and the President of Honduras, Mr. Bonilla, had fled. The next day, after another battle in which Gen. Barahona, Honduran minister of war and commander of the army, was mortally wounded and many military chiefs captured, the Nicaraguans entered Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, and the war was considered to be practically at an end. On the 26th it was reported that Salvador was asking Mexico to intervene.

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#### **Cuba.**

The formation in Cuba of a new conservative national party whose first plank is for an American