

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Wednesday, July 25.

The Douma Is Dissolved.

Once more autocracy rules in Russia. The Douma which had been slowly becoming unified and articulate (p. 370), proceeded from its passage of a famine relief bill (p. 370) to frame an agrarian address to the people of Russia. The influences seeking to control this manifesto ranged from the tottering throne itself to the most revolutionary radical. The first draft of the address was so toned down that its faults lay in its weakness when it was adopted at two o'clock in the morning of July 20, after a continuous session of 12 hours, by the votes of the "center" (the Constitutional Democrats); the "left" (the "group of toll") abstaining from voting because they favored a more radical measure, and the "right" voting against it. After its passage the Constitutional Democrats pointed out that the document was not technically an appeal directed specially to the people, but might be considered as an "explanation" addressed to nobody in particular and was from this standpoint harmless. But in spite of the comparative mildness of the measure it was announced that the Czar regarded its passage as an act of open rebellion, and early in the morning of the 22d an imperial ukase was issued dissolving the Douma. The text was as follows:

According to paragraph 105 of the fundamental law we order the Imperial parliament dissolved and fix the time for the convocation of the newly elected parliament for March 5, 1907. Regarding the time for the new elections to the Imperial parliament we will later issue special indications. The ruling senate will not fail to take proper measures to place this into effect.

Peterhof, July 21.

NICHOLAS.

Almost immediately another ukase followed, putting St. Petersburg under what may be called a new kind of martial law; and later in the day the Imperial manifesto that finally dissolved the parliament was promulgated as follows:

We called the representatives of the nation by our will to the work of productive legislation, confiding firmly in divine clemency and believing in the great and brilliant future of our people. We expected benefits for the country from their labors. We proposed great reforms in all departments of national life. We have always devoted the greatest care to the removal of the ignorance of the people by the light of instruction and to the removal of the burdens of the people by facilitating conditions of agricultural work.

A cruel disappointment has befallen our expectations. The representatives of the nation, instead of applying themselves to the work of productive legislation, strayed into a sphere beyond their competence and have been

making comments on the imperfections of the fundamental laws, which can only be modified by our imperial will. In short, the representatives of the nation have undertaken really illegal acts, such as an appeal to the nation by parliament.

The peasants, disturbed by such anomalies, seeing no hope for the amelioration of their lot, resorted in a number of districts to open pillage, destruction of other people's property and disobedience of law. But our subjects ought to remember that improvement in the lot of the people is only possible under conditions of perfect order and tranquillity. We shall not allow arbitrary, illegal action, and shall impose our imperial will on the disobedient by all the force of the power of the state.

We call on well-disposed Russians to unite for the maintenance of legal power and the restoration of peace to our dear fatherland. May calm be re-established in the Russian land. May God help us realize the chiefest of our tasks—that of reform of the lot of peasants. Our will on this point is unshakable, and Russian husbandmen, without other people's property being encroached upon, will be supplied, in cases where peasants' lands are too small, with legal and honest means for the enlargement of their property. Representatives of other classes will, at our request, devote all efforts to the realization of this great task, which will be performed definitely in a legislative manner by a future parliament.

In dissolving parliament we confirm our immutable intention of keeping this institution, and in conformity with this intention we appoint March 5, 1907, the date for the convocation of the new parliament by ukase addressed to the senate.

With an unshakable belief in divine clemency and the good sense of the Russian people, we shall expect from the new parliament a realization of our efforts by their introduction of legislation in accordance with the requirements of regenerated Russia.

Faithful sons of Russia, your emperor calls on you to unite with him for the regeneration of the holy fatherland.

We believe giants in thought and action will appear, and that, thanks to their assiduous efforts, the glory of Russia will continue to shine.

Peterhof, July 21.

NICHOLAS.

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In the meantime a hurried, secret conference of members of the Douma was held, and it was determined in view of the fact that their place of meeting, the Tauride palace, was in the hands of the military and absolutely closed to them, to go over into Finland and hold a final session at Viborg, about 100 miles from St. Petersburg. By midnight 300 members were gathered at the Hotel Belvidere. The meeting was called to order, as a regular session of the parliament, in the dining room of the hotel, which was crowded to suffocation, with members of all parties, including conservatives. During the few hours of its session, while Governor Rechanberg was threatening to use military force to disperse them, and troops were converging upon their place of meeting, the outlawed parliament hurriedly prepared an address, which was adopted and signed by 186 members; elected a perpetual executive committee headed by Prince Paul Dolgoroukoff, vice-president of the House, to carry on the work of liberation, and then adjourned. Up to the last moment it seemed that the desire for unanimous adoption of the manifesto would be wrecked, so sharp were the differences between the Constitutional Democrats and the revolutionists. The latter wished to proclaim the House in perpetual session and abrogate

the allegiance of the people, while the Constitutional Democrats favored the declaration of a pacific general strike, without resort to revolutionary measures, as a protest against the Emperor's dissolution of parliament. A few members, including some of the more conservative, returned immediately to St. Petersburg. The Constitutional Democrats returned in a body the following day. And some of the radicals, fearing arrest upon their return, have stayed in Finland or returned secretly. Thus closed the first Douma—organized with rejoicing the 10th of May; dispersed by violence the 23d of July.

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The final address of the Douma is as follows:

To the People From Their Popular Representatives—Citizens of All Russia: Parliament has been dissolved by ukase of July 21. You elected us as your representatives and instructed us to fight for our country and freedom. In execution of your instructions and our duty we drew up laws in order to insure freedom to the people. We demanded the removal of irresponsible ministers who were infringing the laws with impunity and oppressing freedom.

First of all, however, we wanted to bring out a law respecting the distribution of land to working peasants and involving the assignment to this end of crown appanages, monasteries and lands belonging to the clergy; and compulsory expropriation of private estates. The government held such a law to be inadmissible and upon parliament once more urgently putting forward its resolution regarding compulsory expropriation parliament was dissolved.

The government promises to convoke a new parliament seven months hence. Russia must remain without popular representation for seven whole months, at a time when the people are standing on the brink of ruin and industry and commerce are undermined, when the whole country is seething with unrest and when the ministry has definitely shown its incapacity to do justice to popular needs.

For seven months the government will act arbitrarily and will fight against the popular movement in order to obtain a pliable, subservient parliament. Should it succeed, however, in completely suppressing the popular movement the government will convoke no parliament at all.

Citizens, stand up for your trampled-on rights, for popular representation and for an imperial parliament. Russia must not remain a day without popular representation. You possess the means of acquiring it. The government has, without the assent of the popular representatives, no right to collect taxes from the people nor to summon the people to military service. Therefore, you are now the government. The dissolved parliament was justified in giving neither money nor soldiers.

Should the government, however, contract loans in order to procure funds such loans will be invalid without the consent of the popular representatives. The Russian people will never acknowledge them and will not be called upon to pay them. Accordingly, until a popular representative parliament is summoned do not give a kopeck to the throne or a soldier to the army. Be steadfast in your refusal. No power can resist the united, inflexible will of the people.

Citizens, in this obligatory and unavoidable struggle your representatives will be with you.

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In the meantime violence everywhere increased. On the 22d, while the members of the Douma were fleeing to Viborg, riots broke out in different spots in St. Petersburg, only to be put down by the Cos-

sacks. Hundreds of persons believed to be revolutionary agitators were arrested, and four newspapers were seized on the 24th. Odessa reported murderous attacks on the Jews and a state of panic on the same day. And serious agrarian disorders are reported near St. Petersburg, including the destruction of the magnificent estate of Gen. Baron Fredericks, aid de camp to the Emperor, forty miles from St. Petersburg, which was plundered by peasants. General Fredericks asked for troops from Gatchina, but was informed that the situation was too serious to permit of any change in the present military dispositions. On the 22d the Czar appointed Mr. Stolypin premier, in place of Mr. Goremykin, and on the 24th Mr. Stolypin sent to the governor generals, the governors and prefects throughout Russia a telegram ordering the sternest measures of repression to be used in putting down all revolutionary movements.

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On the other hand, workman's councils are said to be everywhere preparing to give the expected revolutionary movement organic coherence, and the terrorists are scattering proclamations announcing that the death sentence has been imposed on the Emperor, General Trepoff, M. Pobledonostseff, who was procurator general of the holy synod; General Orloff, the "pacificator" of the Baltic provinces, and others.

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Russian securities are reported as having met with a heavy fall on the Paris bourse and the London stock exchange. Wall street asserts, according to press reports, that any effort on the part of the revolutionary party in Russia to repudiate the Russian bonds will undoubtedly lead to intervention by France, as well as by other great nations.

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It is noted that neither the Imperial ukase nor the Imperial manifesto mentions the status of the Council of the Empire, as the upper house of the parliament is called. Whether this was by design or oversight has not yet been cleared up. As a coordinate branch of parliament it must be adjourned or dissolved when the lower house is prorogued, but it remains to be seen whether new elections will be ordered for the upper chamber.

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Conference of the Interparliamentary Union.

During the last stormy hours of the Douma, delegates from that body were meeting in peaceful convention in London with the delegates from other parliamentary bodies at the opening session of the fourteenth conference of the Interparliamentary Union on the 23d. Great excitement prevailed when the Russian delegates announced that they would be obliged to withdraw on account of the dissolution of the Douma, since, as they were officially appointed to represent that body, the existence of which had been terminated, they no longer had any standing in the deliberations of the Union. The declaration was met with friendly protests and cries of "No!" "No!" but the Russians insisted that they must leave England for Russia at once and

return to the "battlefield." Previous to this incident, the Premier, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, in his address of welcome, had given especial attention to the Russian crisis, closing with a sudden access of enthusiasm in which he shouted: "La Douma est morte! Vive la Douma!" ("The Russian parliament is dead! Long live the Russian parliament!"), upon which the 500 delegates rose to their feet, and a storm of cheering continued for a couple of minutes. The conservative press has characterized the Premier's action, in thus taking sides in a foreign controversy, as "a gross blunder." The liberal organs speak of it as a blend of high courage and deep caution, nothing over which diplomacy can stumble.

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The especial subject of discussion at the conference was the proposed model treaty of arbitration offered at the meeting of the Union last year at Brussels (vol. vii, p. 342), by the American delegates, and left during the interim in the hands of a commission. The commission offered the model treaty, with some amendments, to the Union for adoption, with a recommendation to the Powers that when arbitration is impossible, recourse should be had, singly or jointly, to the mediation of a third Power before declaring war. William J. Bryan, who was a member of the conference by invitation, offered an amendment to the commission's report, saying that he did so "that there shall be no more shedding of human blood." On the session of the following day Mr. Bryan's amendment was adopted in slightly different form from that in which it was offered, reading as follows:

If a disagreement should arise which is not included in those to be submitted to arbitration the contracting parties shall not resort to any act of hostility before they separately or jointly invite, as the case may necessitate, the formation of an international commission of inquiry or mediation of one or more friendly Powers, this requisition to take place, if necessary, in accordance with Article VIII. of The Hague convention providing for a peaceful settlement of international conflicts.

In speaking to the amended resolution, Mr. Bryan said that his

amendment was intended to widen the scope of arbitration so as to include questions of national honor, the chances being a hundred to one that the proposed investigation of facts also would settle any question of national honor. If the hand of war could be stayed till the conscience awakened, wars would become more remote. The amendment therefore was a long step in the direction of peace.

Mr. Bryan's speech is reported to have aroused great enthusiasm.

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The Pan-American Conference.

While the Interparliamentary Union was holding the first session of its present conference, the third Pan-American Conference, composed of American republics, was opened at Rio Janeiro, Brazil. The first of these conferences was held in Washington in October, 1889, in accordance with a plan for the development of close relations between the governments of North, Central and South America, conceived by James G. Blaine, then Secretary of State. Among other subjects discussed at the first confer-

ence were arbitration; the survey for the intercontinental railway, now nearing completion; provisions for uniformity of customs regulations, and reciprocity. A result of that conference was the creation at Washington of the Bureau of American Republics, of which the late Clinton Furbish was the most noted director. The second conference was held in the City of Mexico in 1901-2, and brought about agreements on the basis of The Hague instruments (vol. vii, p. 41). Prominent on the program for the discussions of the present conference is what has come to be known as the "Drago Doctrine" (vol. v, pp. 577, 580), from its exponent, Dr. Luis M. Drago, a learned publicist of Argentina. Reduced to its simplest terms, this doctrine is stated to be a declaration that no nation has a right forcibly to undertake to collect debts owing to its citizens by another nation. And the proposition before the Pan-American conference which it is asked to submit to the great Hague tribunal is to what extent, if at all, the use of force is justifiable in the collection of such debts.

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At the first session of this conference, held in the evening of the 23d, Joaquim Nabuco, Ambassador of Brazil to the United States, was chosen permanent president of the congress; and on the following day Baron de Rio-Branco, the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Secretary Elihu F. Root, of the United States, were elected honorary presidents.

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Peace in Central America.

The sudden little war between Guatemala, Salvador and Honduras, which we reported last week (p. 369), has been brought to a close. A treaty of peace between the three states was signed on the 20th on the United States cruiser Marblehead on the high seas off the coast of Guatemala. Following is a condensation of the principal articles of the agreement:

Article 1. Peace established; withdrawal of armies within three days; disarmament in eight days.

Art. 2. Exchange of prisoners; the release of political prisoners; general amnesty recommended.

Art. 3. Vigilance of emigrados to prevent abuse of asylum.

Art. 4. To negotiate treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation within two months.

Art. 5. Any difficulties over treaty and all future concrete complaints between the three countries shall be submitted to arbitration by the President of the United States and the President of Mexico.

Art. 6. This treaty made with the moral sanction of the mediating nations and others assisting at the conference—Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Press reports state that the recognition of the articles by Costa Rica and Nicaragua as constructive parties to the peace conference is regarded by the State Department as being very significant, in that it really makes all five Central American governments parties to the peace negotiations.

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Labor in American Politics.

At a meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor at Washington on the 22d, a decisive step was taken with a view to throwing the influence of organized labor into political contests. The action of the council was based upon