

self into a fury too blind to know fear. The statistics of the week ending the 18th showed that fifty-eight officials were murdered and forty-three were wounded in Russia proper; that fifty bomb depots were discovered; that six safes were rifled of money and that sixty-three persons were robbed. These official figures do not take into account the pillaging in the country. The center of the movement has seemed to be in Poland, and on the 18th three bombs were thrown at the Governor-general of Warsaw, wounding him seriously. Official Russia is reported to be panic-stricken, no official's life being deemed safe. The police are included in this panic, and not without reason, for reports of the 16th from St. Petersburg stated that on that day scores of policemen, soldiers and petty officials had been shot down; and that at Aelotsk, at a preconcerted signal, every policeman in the streets was killed or wounded. More remarkable still is the account of a rout of the Cossacks by organized peasants, armed only with their agricultural instruments. Says a press report of Aug. 17th:

A detachment of thirty Cossacks had been dispatched from the town of Penza to a neighboring village to arrest agitators. The villagers sounded the tocsin on the church bell, whereupon a crowd of 500 peasants, armed with scythes and other rustic weapons, gathered and advanced to the rescue of the prisoners. Undaunted by the Cossacks' whips and sabers, the peasants charged and forced the Cossacks to take refuge behind a stone wall. A volley from the carbines of the Cossacks failed to check the peasants, and finally the soldiers were obliged to flee. The peasants are reported to have fought more like wild animals than human beings.

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Ten of the Kronstadt mutineers, whose trial began on the 14th (p. 462), were condemned to death. The larger number were sentenced to terms of imprisonment at hard labor.

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The credit of \$7,500,000 voted by the Douma for mine relief (p. 370), has been exhausted. The government is expected to have recourse to an internal loan of \$27,500,000 to provide further means to prevent starvation and for seed for a new crop in the mine district. The St. Petersburg newspapers are said to report that Americans are negotiating for the purchase of the Nerchinsk gold mines, which "are supposed to contain quartz worth \$2,000,000,000," and which have been the source of a great scandal, implicating several of the grand dukes. The court "crowd" is believed to be anxious to dispose of them; it is said that the Americans are wary of purchasing a concession which might later be repudiated by a people's parliament.

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#### Advanced Civilization in the Far East.

Reports of how the Japanese met and conquered their famine of last fall, have reached this country. They seem to have acted with a broad grasp of general measures combined with an attention to detail at the West has probably never equalled in similar emergencies. The famine extended over a densely populated area 200 miles long and 75 miles wide. Early in the famine the people took to eating the roots and leaves of trees and shrubs, acorns and

straw. The government met this condition, since starvation will not wait, by sending chemists to ascertain the food values of these emergency rations, and to explain them to the people in lectures, in which they pointed out the suitable roots and leaves, and directed them in the preparation of food from acorns. The poisonous plants were described and food values demonstrated. In a few weeks contributions of food and money began to arrive, which the government distributed with care that the people should not be pauperized. In every village headquarters were established and food was given to last three days, but in no instance did it exceed in amount 2½ cents a day for each person. No money was given. Supervision was sufficiently minute to make certain that every man, woman and child was looked after. But most notable were the arrangements for the future. In distributing funds the government required the tilling of all lands. Says the Chicago Record-Herald, from which we have condensed the foregoing:

Laborers were put into fields which had been barren for two years, and they were cultivated and made ready for a rice crop. There was no confiscation. The government was looking to the prosperity of its people, and after tilling the ground and putting in the crop turned it over to the owner and said: "Here is your farm ready to produce. See to it that you make every effort to keep the ground tilled, and pay back in five years the cost of what the government has done."

Naturally, in such readjustments the "land question," as it is called in England, the "agrarian question" as it is called in Russia, came to the fore. It is reported that the government found many rice fields poorly laid out, and these it replotted with a regulation that each field was to be about one-fourth of an acre. And "if when surveyed it was found that a farmer did not have the required area, enough land was taken from his neighbors, and the local officials established the price to be paid for it." And the report states further that "this regulation is being enforced gradually throughout the Empire."

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#### The Filipino Independence Party.

On the first of July the Independence Party of the Philippines was formally inaugurated at Manila, at the Restaurant Luzon, by representative committees from the different provinces. The essential features of the party's platform, according to the Manila Renacimiento, as translated in the Springfield Republican, are:

To obtain the immediate independence of the Philippine Islands, so that they can constitute themselves as a sovereign, free and independent nation, protected, through the intervention of the United States of America, by an international treaty, which shall establish and guarantee forever the neutrality of the islands.

The party binds itself to work ad interim "for the establishment of two legislative chambers, to be elected by vote; for the complete separation of the branches of government; for provincial and municipal autonomy; for the realization of Roosevelt's principle, that the present government should be converted into a government of Filipinos, assisted by Americans; for the reorganization of the civil service on a more just basis."