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EDITORIAL

The Russian Revolution.

In despotically dissolving the Douma, the Czar has made another grim contribution to the parallel (vol. vii, p. 529; vol. ix, p. 209) between the French revolution and the Russian revolution. The Douma has indeed disturbed the perfect lines of this parallel, by allowing itself to be dispersed; but in first holding a defiant session at Viborg, it went far enough to leave little that is essential to complete the parallel but the execution of the Czar by a Revolutionary government.

The fatuity of governing classes in circumstances akin to these is marvelous. Like the mad dog on the highway, they turn neither to the right nor to the left to avoid an obstacle, but insanely rush at it, snarling and biting. They remember nothing, they learn nothing. Obsessed by love of dominion or greed of spoils, they seem to lose all rational sense. Even in its lowest form of business sense, rationality seems to depart from them. This is true all the way up, from a street car combine in Chicago to the hereditary oligarchy at St. Petersburg.

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Because they found that the Douma would win the confidence of the people if left to itself, and so make the suppression of democracy impossible, the Russian oligarchy prevailed upon the Czar to disperse the Douma now, while he has the military power. But no prophecy could be truer than that the putting down of the Douma now will be followed inevitably by further resistance to despotic authority, again and again if necessary. Revolts against despotism are never permanently suppressed, unless the suppression is followed not by greater despotism as in Russia, but by more liberty as in Germany. It is almost certain that the Czar will not be able even now to suppress the revolt caused by his dispersal of the Douma. The natural effect will be to radicalize the conservatives and add enthusiasm and power to the revolutionists. The Czar is playing with dynamite, and the result will turn rather upon the mystical law of chances and the influence of his own luck than upon political tactics and statesmanship.

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Nationalizing Industries in Japan.

The economic meaning of the industrial nationalization in Japan which is reported in Washington dispatches is not clear. If the Washington correspondents themselves understand it, they lack lucidity of expression; and the reasons for supposing that our Consul-general in Japan has anything more than a superficial apprehension of the subject are not convincing. In the Consul-general's view, Japan as a nation has arranged to go into competition with the commercial interests of the Occidental world for the trade of the Orient. To do this she appears to have organized some of her industries somewhat upon a socialistic basis. This appears to have been done