

sorts of different races, religions and ideas, and this no man can do and least of all in a time like this. The simple fact is that the evils of the old system have now become absolutely intolerable. And when you add to the fact the sending off of immense numbers of the best young men in the country to an utterly useless and wicked war and the pressure of taxation which grinds the people to the dust, you have a situation which none but the very strongest rulers in all human history can cope with. The czar has no strength of character, no proper education and is hopelessly unfit to grapple with the situation. No doubt the worst of the features of the situation have been kept from him." Mr. White said it was not unlikely the advisers of the emperor would try to follow out the policy of the emperor Nicholas I, who had the ringleaders of the insurrection of eighty years ago shot, hanged or sent to Siberia. He did not believe, however, that important changes in Russia could long be delayed.

A SKETCH of Russia's reigning house is given by a writer in the New York World in this way: "The reigning family of Russia dates back to 1613, when Michael Fedorovitch, the first of the house of the Romanoffs, ascended the throne. For a span of seven centuries the Russians had been under the rule of the Ruric dynasty. Feodor I, the last of the Rurics, was assassinated, and that gave the Romanoffs the chance they had long sought. Michael Fedorovitch reigned until his death in 1682 and was succeeded by Ivan and Peter I, who came to be known in history as Peter the Great. Seven years later Peter became the sole sovereign. At the time of his death in 1762 the Russian court was divided into two powerful parties. The one demanded that the crown should go to Peter, the son of Alexis, brother of Peter the Great, who had been put to death by his own brother's decree. The other faction called for the crowning of Catherine, the widow of Peter the Great. The latter finally triumphed, but her reign was a brief one, for she died within two years. Before her death she nominated Peter, the son of Alexis, to be her successor. In 1730 he was deposed and the crown given to Anne of Courland, daughter of Peter the Great and Catherine. Peter II was in fact the last of the Romanoffs, for the male line became extinct with his death, but the name was preserved through the accession of Anne of Courland, who was the mother of the unfortunate Peter III.

PETER III was dethroned and assassinated in 1762 and was succeeded by his widow Catherine II. She reigned until 1796. On her death in that year she was succeeded by Paul, who became a maniac and was assassinated in 1801. Alexander I was crowned and his reign continued until his death in 1825. The next in the line of accession was Nicholas I. For three years he ruled over the Russians and saw one of the stormiest of all periods of the country's history. He was succeeded by Alexander II in 1855. The reign of Alexander II was full of vicissitudes. The Nihilists had become emboldened by centuries of misrule and tyranny, and throughout his reign they were plotting his death. In 1880 a dynamite bomb was exploded under the royal dining-room, and the only reason the czar and all the royal family were not killed was because they happened to be a few minutes later than usual for dinner. A year later Alexander II was assassinated. A Nihilist threw a bomb under his carriage, tearing him to pieces. His successor, Alexander III, was marked by the Nihilists several times for assassination, but all of their plots failed. Many of them were sent to the mines of Siberia for life and others put to death. The present czar came to the throne in 1894. Nicholas II is the eldest son of Alexander III. He was born in 1868. Just twenty-six days after he was crowned czar of all the Russians he wedded Princess Alix of Hesse. Only a few months ago a son and heir was born to the reigning family amid great popular rejoicing.

RUSSIA has already been the scene of two great revolutions. A writer in the New York World says: "The first popular uprising occurred in 1730 when Peter II was dethroned and Catherine was placed on the throne. Again in 1762 there was a revolution that grew out of the tyranny of the reigning house of Romanoffs that threatened to terminate their rule. In this second uprising Peter III was forced to abdicate the throne and the revolutionists crowned Catherine II in his place. Her reign was hardly less stormy than that of the ruler who had been dragged from the throne and murdered. The country was in a

constant state of semi-revolution, and in 1774 the Cossacks entered into an open rebellion which lasted a year before the ruler succeeded in bringing them into subjection. History tells of many revolutions among the nations of the world. The first about which there is anything like definite record was the fall of the Roman empire and the establishment of the republic on its ruins by Julius Caesar in 47 B. C. The next great revolution was in 331 B. C., when the Macedonian Empire supplanted the Persian on the defeat of Darius Codomanus by Alexander the Great. For more than two hundred years the world lived in comparative peace, but in 536 B. C. there came the third historic revolution in which the great Assyrian Empire was destroyed and in its wake came the nation of the Medes and Persians, which was the work of Cyrus the Great. In 800 A. D. the spirit of revolution swept over Europe and the Empire of the Western Franks began under Charlemagne. In the centuries that have followed not a nation on the globe has escaped a revolution. Portugal was shaken by one in 1640 and England experienced her first serious one in 1775 when the American colonies revolted and in 1776 came the Declaration of Independence. England had experienced another revolution in 1688 that was fraught with consequences nearly as great as those resulting from the revolt of her American colonies. In that great popular uprising there was such a demand for reforming that the crown could not resist it with the backing of armies."

GOVERNOR R. M. LaFollette was on Jan. 25 elected to represent Wisconsin in the United States senate. At the republican caucus held on the evening of Jan. 24, Governor LaFollette was chosen, receiving 65 votes. Senator Quarles received 26 votes, while 16 votes were scattered among other candidates. It is interesting to recall the fact that the republican national convention for 1904 refused to take the LaFollette delegation and formally declared the LaFollette republicans to be irregular. They also sought to make it appear that Governor LaFollette was not in fact the republican nominee for governor. The courts upheld LaFollette's claim. The governor was re-elected and now he has been elevated to the senate.

THE selection of Governor LaFollette is regarded as significant, when compared with the selection of other senators. A writer in the Omaha World-Herald says: "Republican leaders have very generally professed to be in sympathy with Mr. Roosevelt's fight against railroad rebates; and yet republican legislatures have gone right along electing to the senate men who are, confessedly, under obligation to the railroads. Montana has elected Tom Carter; Indiana has re-elected Senator Beveridge and has chosen Congressman Hemmenway to succeed Senator Fairbanks; Michigan has re-elected Senator Clapp; Massachusetts has re-elected Senator Lodge and has chosen W. Murray Crane to succeed the late Senator Hoar; New York has re-elected Depew; Pennsylvania has elected former Attorney General Knox; Utah has elected George Sutherland; North Dakota has re-elected Senator McCumber; Connecticut has chosen former Governor Bulkeley; Maine has re-elected Senator Hale. Not one of these gentlemen is in the least obnoxious to the corporation element. It is safe to say that Roosevelt could not depend upon one of them were he to engage in a serious contest with the representatives of special interests, but the president may depend upon LaFollette of Wisconsin; and however much LaFollette's views on some other questions may differ from the views of democrats, his election to the United States senate will be hailed with joy by every democrat, by every populist, by every republican, by every independent citizen whose sole desire is that the public official shall be a man upon whom the people may confidently depend."

AN effort is being made to line up the republican members in the house in favor of the Hepburn interstate commerce bill. The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record Herald, under date of Jan. 23, says: "Dissatisfaction with the Hepburn bill is rapidly spreading in the house, as inspection leads to the fear that it is not so favorable to the shipping interests as its friends claim. It will be taken up by the interstate commerce committee Wednesday, and probably will be reported before the end of the week, when the supporters of the Cooper-Quarles bill predict their measure will be substituted for it. A caucus of 135 democratic representatives tonight agreed unan-

imously to support the railroad rate bill introduced by Congressman Davey of Louisiana, which has been agreed on by the minority members of the interstate commerce committee. It gives the commission power to fix a reasonable rate, which shall go into effect after twenty days' notice and continue until set aside by a competent court."

THE first life insurance policy of which the details are on record, according to a writer in "World's Work" resulted in a law suit. Wm. Gybbons insured himself on June 15, 1583, for \$333 against dying in 12 months; he did die on May 18 of the next year and the disgusted underwriters (the company of those days) contested payment on the plea that he had lived 12 months of 28 days each!

NEWSPAPER dispatches reported that the chaplain of the lower house of congress, in a prayer, used this language: "There is so much bad in the best of us and so much good in the worst of us, it hardly behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us."

GOVERNOR HOCH of Kansas, in an interview with a newspaper reporter, says that he would like to know whether "a stolen prayer reaches the throne." Referring to the sentence quoted from the chaplain's prayer, Governor Hoch said: "I printed that in my paper at Marion several years ago. I am glad the house chaplain knows a good thing when he sees it."

AN Associated Press dispatch under date of London, Jan. 25, says that an official "in a position to speak from the highest authority," ventures the following opinion: "Every word about the czar's being kept ignorant of the revolution is true. The present movement is not an industrial uprising, and not even a political insurrection. Its real character is an attempt by the dukes to get the throne for Vladimir and depose the czar. Vladimir permitted the strike to grow. Vladimir kept the petitioners from the emperor. Vladimir ordered Sunday's massacre, the object being to foment discord among the people. At the proper moment he will say to the army, which he commands, 'See what a weakling occupies the Russian throne. Depose him. You and I will save Russia.' The czar knows less than American newspaper readers. Vladimir is combated by the czarina, who knows the inside facts. She is doing all she can to save the throne for her baby. All depends on the army. The law cannot change its mandate."

ACCORDING to a Belgrade correspondent, the publication of the story of Queen Nathalie's intrigue to avenge herself on Serbia, followed by the sudden withdrawal by the postal authorities of all the new coronation stamps, is the sole topic of conversation throughout the Balkan states. The London News says: "In order to celebrate King Peter's coronation, the Servian government decided to issue a series of large postal labels bearing the new monarch's portrait, beside that of his ancestor, Karageorge. The engraving was unfortunately entrusted to a Frenchman named Mouchon, a person, it is alleged, very friendly toward Queen Nathalie, and he very skillfully introduced into the design for the new postage stamps the ghastly features of the Queen's murdered son, King Alexander. A vast number of the coronation stamps were issued to the public before it became known to the authorities that the new issue was regarded by many of King Peter's superstitious subjects as a "heavenly sign" that the new monarch's reign was to be "brief and bloody."

IT IS explained by the London News that if one of the new stamps be held upside down the unmistakable death mask of King Alexander may be seen, formed by a portion of King Peter's head with that of his ancestor, Karageorge. The nostrils of the two heads together from the eyes of the murdered monarch, the moustaches make the eyebrows and the eyebrow and eye of Karageorge form King Alexander's nose and mouth. The "death mask stamps"—as the new issue has become known—have undoubtedly made a great impression in the army and among the uneducated classes. "I learn on the best authority," concludes the correspondent, "that the government is making desperate efforts to buy up as many of the dangerous labels as possible and is even sending agents abroad to France, Germany and England to secure them, at any cost, from speculators and foreign stamp dealers."