

JOKES FROM THE PENS OF VARIOUS HUMORISTS.

Pleasant Incidents Occurring the World Over—Sayings that are Cheerful to Old or Young—Funny Selections that You Will Enjoy.

"After Christmas I always put my presents away tagged with the name of the sender."
 "So you will always know in after years just who sent them?"
 "No; in sending them away next year I might forget and give one to the person who presented it to me."—*Illinois State Journal.*

Misdirected Effort.

"I have here," said the amateur inventor, as he extracted a small model from his grip, "a device that will warn the engineer of a train when any one is crossing the track."
 "No good," rejoined the railway manager. "It's the party crossing the track that requires the warning."

It Worked.



"Why don't you try horseback riding?" asked the slim man. "They say that will reduce flesh."
 "I did," tersely answered the fat man.
 "Did it have any effect?"
 "Made the horse skinner."

She Bid Too High.

Edyth—I offered young Sapleigh a penny for his thoughts last evening.
 Mayme—I'm ashamed of you, Edyth.
 Edyth—Ashamed of me!
 Mayme—Yes, or rather of your ability as a shopper.—*Chicago News.*

Spolling It.

Tess—He's a reporter, you know, and he wants my photograph for his paper.
 Jess—Indeed? What's the idea?
 Tess—Why, he's going to write a piece about me; he's going to say I'm a beautiful young debutante and all that.
 Jess—If he's going to say that, dear, you'd better not let him use the picture.—*Philadelphia Press.*

Real Thing.

"You acted like a fool when you proposed to me," said the wife in after years.
 "You are mistaken, my dear," answered the meek and lowly husband. "The mere fact that I proposed to you is sufficient proof of my innocence as an actor."

Insinuating.

Ernestine—I don't see why your chaperon should have been offended because Jack played the piano. It was certainly better than lovemaking.
 Moyrtilia—Yes, but he insisted upon playing "Always in the Way."

True Politeness.



Daughter of the Boss (disheveled and torn after one turn round the room with clumsy partner)—Do you mind very much, Mr. Quickstep, if we sit out the rest of it?
 Mr. Quickstep—Just as you like, miss. I'm only a-dancin' for your pleasure.

Paradoxical.

Biggs—What makes you think De Jones has come down in the world?
 Diggs—Because he's now living on the top floor of a tenement.

Unsympathetic.

"Mister," said the husky hobo as he approached the man at the front gate, "can't youse help a pore feller who ain't got no home?"
 "No home?" echoed Henry Peck.
 "See, you've got no kick coming, you're no fack."

EMPEROR OF RUSSIA SEES NEED OF HASTY ACTION.

COUNTRY IN AN UPROAR

CAUCASUS REGION PICTURED AS IN STATE OF REVOLT.

Czar Likewise Said to Have Committed Himself Toward Effort to End the War—Possible Terms of Peace

BERLIN.—The Vorwaererts prints a special dispatch without indicating the place from which it was sent saying: "The whole Caucasus region is in revolt. Armenians, Prussians and Circassians have formed a coalition against the emperor of Russia and seized arms and even cannon from Russian soldiery. They hold the governor of the district as a prisoner. The revolution is organizing camps outside the cities."

ST. PETERSBURG.—Even in the midst of his grief over the death of Grand Duke Sergius, evidence exists that Emperor Nicholas is giving his attention to political developments but reports as to his intentions are conflicting. Indications point toward a decision to revise the zemsky zabor and some rumors even give the date when the proclamation covering that body will be issued. These rumors however, probably are premature, but there is little doubt in the best informed quarters that the emperor's decision will be favorable, although it is understood that the court party is still fighting desperately for time, maintaining that it would be an irreparable blunder to yield in the face of terrorism even if it should be advisable later on.

Contrary to previous reports, it is now said that the last word from Grand Duke Sergius to the emperor, contained in a letter brought by Prince Schirinsky Schakmaloff, was to stand firm. According to earlier reports Sergius, seeing that opposition was useless, outlined in this letter a plan for a zemsky zabor, restricted as much as possible in its powers.

Some persistent reports declare that Emperor Nicholas not only has decided to convoke a representative body, but that he is also bent on making peace. He is represented to have taken this decision chiefly on the advice of Emperor William. The conditions of peace which Russia can accept are freely discussed here. The only obstacle to peace is said to be the question of indemnity, which Russia will refuse to pay.

While peace reports are circulating in official and other quarters in St. Petersburg the information reaches the Associated press that General Kuropatkin is industriously preparing to try final conclusions with Field Marshal Oyama and that a decisive battle may be expected within a fortnight.

Capt. William B. Judson, U. S. A., and other foreign military attaches have been asked to leave Vladivostok. While no reason has been assigned, it is probable that this action is in anticipation that operations will begin here as soon as spring opens.

According to latest reports Emperor Nicholas is greatly dissatisfied with the conduct of General Grippenberg while he was in Manchuria, and that he was not only sustained General Kuropatkin but has ordered General Grippenberg to return to his post. It is gossip in court circles that General Grippenberg's face was far from cheerful when he left the emperor's presence.

The railroad strike situation is reported to be growing worse in the southwest and private advices are said to show the existence of a reign of terror in Tiflis and the Caucasus generally. Many murders by Tartars and Armenians are reported. Communication has been almost cut off, even the telegraphers striking, the few who are still at their keys being kept there with pistols at their head. The railroad employes at Dorpat struck yesterday.

LONDON.—A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company from St. Petersburg confirming the Associated press advices of February 17 and 18, from St. Petersburg to the effect that peace was under consideration adds:

"The question of peace has not only been formally discussed but the conditions on which Russia is prepared to make peace have practically been agreed upon.

CALL FOR A LAND CONGRESS HAS NOT BEEN ISSUED.

Students After Noisy Meeting Decide to Strike; and Educational System of the Empire Stagnant.

ST. PETERSBURG.—Martial law has been declared at Tsarskoe Selo owing to numerous threatening letters being received at the palace. The chief of the secret police has ordered special precautions to prevent any outrage on the imperial family.

ST. PETERSBURG.—The peasants of the two communes in the province of Voronezh, in Southwest Russia, have been taken the unprecedented step of telegraphing direct to Emperor Nicholas asking that their wishes be consulted in the settlement of the grievances in the matter of rents in which they labor. The address, which is couched in the most loyal terms, prays God to grant health and long life to the beloved monarch and his family and at the same time points out that in the many years since lands were divided the population has almost doubled and the allotments which are burdened with heavy dues and taxes are utterly inadequate to satisfy the needs of the peasants and that it is impossible to rent more land on account of the advance in prices almost four fold in the last fifteen years.

With the decision of the student body of the great university of St. Petersburg to suspend students for the remainder of the university year, almost the whole educational system of Russia has entered upon a period of stagnation, the protest of the youth of Russia against the bureaucratic system and other governmental grievances. Other universities of Russia gymnasium and even grammar schools were already on strike, and the military in various portions of the empire have been obliged to resort to force to restrain school boys of tender years who are joining the general movement.

The meeting of St. Petersburg students at which over 3,000 participated besides voting with practical unanimity to suspend studies until September 1, adopted a set of political resolutions, demanding the formation of a constituent assembly and characterizing the proposed summoning of the zemsky zabor as inadequate for the emergency. The resolutions, after speaking of "the progressive demoralization of Russia, under the influence of the absolute regime," declare for freedom of speech, the press, conscience, the right of association and assembly and to strike, which are described as necessary conditions for the further progress of Russia.

The meeting unanimously decided to express disapproval of the action of the government in dealing with the workmen who attempted to present their petition to the emperor on January 22 and its sympathy with the victims of the soldiery. A large fraction voted in favor of stopping the war. A strong revolutionary feeling was manifested at the meeting, the red flag was waved and the "Marseillaise" and other revolutionary songs were chanted. A large portrait of the emperor in the great auditorium of the university where the meeting was held was torn in strips. The police did not interfere.

Strong forces of Cossacks had been posted outside the buildings to prevent an expected demonstration, but none occurred.

Many professors and instructors in the university were present at the meeting most of whom were in full sympathy with the objects of the assembly. Two tutors and a small number of students who wished to obtain their diplomas this year made an ineffectual attempt to stem the general tide.

A joint committee of employers and workmen insulted by the emperor to investigate the cause of labor disturbances is now taking effect. The workmen of a number of large factories have already elected representatives to the assemblage which will choose the members of the commission. The Putiloff company's men have taken a bold step in selecting among their representatives men who were put into jail after the affair of January 22.

KUROPATKIN SAID TO HAVE SUSTAINED A REVERSE

Conditions in the Caucasus Going From Bad to Worse—Strike on Warsaw Reaches Its Ugliest Stage

ST. PETERSBURG.—Rumors are current in this city that General Kuropatkin has been outflanked by a strong force of Japanese in the vicinity of Simlita and compelled to retire from the Shakhe river, but official dispatches, so far as made public and the Associated press Mukden advices give no intimation that such contingency is even remotely possible. Military circles scout the report entirely, and say no body of Japanese of sufficient strength has been reported operating on the Russian right flank to force general Kuropatkin to abandon his exceedingly strong position on the Shikhe without a hard fight lasting several days.

The labor situation in St. Petersburg has assumed a phase most irritating to employers, the men working one day and quitting the next and showing no permanent disposition to either work or strike. At present there is no factories are working, but most of the telling when or to what extent the strike may next break out.

According to mail reports received from Batoum, racial disorders in the Caucasus have developed into actual revolution in the cities of Batoum, Pati and Kutais, at the eastern end of the Black sea, under the lead of Armenians, who have set up a form of provisional government. Telegraphic communication has been cut off for several days and it is impossible to source direct confirmation to these reports, but according to one letter the Armenian faction a few days ago succeeded in making prisoners of most of the officials, and shutting up the officers and some of the troops in the barracks and aided to some extent by reservists in taking the reins of government into their own hands. It is known that the semi-weekly steamer service between Batoum and Odessa has been interrupted and until telegraphic communication is restored information is only obtainable by way of Constantinople.

The authorities here and others familiar with conditions in the Caucasus do not attach great importance of these reports.

Several of the grand dukes left for Moscow to attend the funeral of the late Grand Duke Sergius. Grand Duke Vladimir will not attend the funeral, owing to indisposition caused by a chill. Emperor Nicholas has issued orders specifying who may attend the funeral. All those who are entitled to attend the members of the court, naval and military officers, heads of the judicial and administrative institutions, presidents of the nobility, the zemstvos of the province, the mayor and foreign representatives. Ladies must wear black cloth dresses and black bonnets. Civilians must wear mourning. All must arrive at the monastery by 10:30 a. m.

It is explained at the foreign office that the departure from San Francisco of the three officers of the Russian cruiser Lena was owing to a misunderstanding. They had signed a parole not to leave San Francisco without permission of the president of the United States until an arrangement had been made between two governments. Subsequently, when the final agreement between Russia and the United States regarding the Lena was reached, the officers supposed they were free to come home. If the United States insists the officers doubtless will return to San Francisco.

Three Japanese physicians who were held prisoners at Medvid, province of Novgorod, Russia, have been released, representations have been made by Japanese through Ambassador McCormick that their detention was a violation of the Geneva convention.

In response to the inquiries of the United States as to whether the appointment of George V. L. Meyer, American ambassador to Italy, as ambassador of St. Petersburg in succession to Robert S. McCormick would be acceptable to Russia the United States has been notified that Mr. Meyer is personal grata the emperor having expressed his personal assent.

Neal Wynn of Peru has been chosen as principal of the school at Cheston. Farmers west of Peru have captured several large wolves in the last week.

The State bank at Straits will begin the erection in the spring of a new bank building in the same location as they now occupy.

Bishop Williams of Omaha visited Stella Sunday preached and confirmed a class in the Episcopal church in the morning.

Grip and pneumonia as well as a number of cases of scarlet fever, are raging at Mason City and many homes are afflicted.

Mrs. Henry wife of Andrew Henry both pioneers of Nebraska died at the home of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Henry was born at Hoosao Falls. She and Mr. Henry came to the state in 1873.

August and James B. Smith of Beatrice, Nebr., have commenced suit against the Union Pacific railroad for \$1,199 each as damages for injuries which they claim they suffered while at Lincoln.

"Kathleen Mavourneen, the Irish comedy-drama, was presented at Cozad Nebr., by local talent. The play was given under the auspices of the Knights of Pythias lodge and under the direction of Duke Fuller.

There is a disease among cattle in Madison vicinity. The Virginia ranch, four miles east, lost five head the last week. The cattle act as though they had been poisoned.

The second quarterly conference for the Methodist Episcopal church is in session at Peru. Presiding Elder Wright of Nebraska City is in charge of the meeting.

County Clerk Jake Tanner is slowly recovering from a severe attack of blood poisoning at Humboldt which affected both arms and incapacitated him for his official duties for several weeks.

Ralph Smith whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Smith are pioneers of Leigh, died at Albuquerque N. M. Mr. and Mrs. Smith had taken their son west for the sake of his health. Henry H. Sanders a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, died at his home in Seward, Neb. last week. He was a pioneer of Seward county.

The senior class of the high school at Beatrice elected these officers Saturday: Lawrence Weaver, president; Miss Ieta Bivens, vice president; Samuel M. Binkner, secretary; Miss Grace Carre, treasurer.

Otis Simmus, who struck Chris Stucks with a billiard cue during a quarrel at Nims City a short time ago, has been sentenced to three months in the county jail at Humboldt.

Frantz Lemm, an aged farmer of Cumby county, died at the Green Tree hotel in West Point as the result of an accident by which he lost his hand in a cornsheller a few days ago.

Madison had no trains Thursday. The snow plow came up from Columbus at midnight. The drifts are enormous on the country roads. Two out of four carriers could not make their trips yesterday and today.

The school house in Platte Center was badly destroyed by fire at an early hour Monday. The blaze is supposed to have started from the furnace. The town has no fire department and the bucket brigade was in no way able to cope with the situation. The loss is \$8,000. Five teachers are out of employment.

A debate took place between the Albion and Madison high schools at the opera house in Madison on the question of the government ownership of railroads. Albion had the affirmative and Madison the negative of the question. About 200 people were present. The decision was rendered in favor of the affirmative.

The students of the Dawson High school took advantage of the fine sleighing and visited the Stella High school. Farmers report that the snow is nearly two feet deep on the level in cornstalk fields, and should it go off with a warm rain in the spring will undoubtedly do much damage to bridges.

A log house located on the Miles ranch near Humboldt occupied by Sam Conover and family was destroyed by fire. It originated in an overheated stove in a room adjoining the one in which members of the family were working.