

WITTE HAS HAD ENOUGH

COUNT WITTE EXPECTED TO RETIRE AS PREMIER

Premier Councillor Kokovosoff Regarded as His Successor—Elections Regarded as Farce

ST. PETERSBURG.—In high circles the rumor was current that Count Witte had definitely decided to retire from the premiership. The Associated press is unable to confirm the rumor as Count Witte had retired and the chancellery was closed when the correspondent called shortly after midnight. From an absolutely authoritative source however, it can be stated that Count Witte at a session of the council of the empire made an enigmatical statement which is interpreted by many members of the council as a virtual declaration that his career as premier is ended and that he will be succeeded by Privy Councillor Kokovosoff, former minister of finance.

A project for the solution of the agrarian problem by the purchase of lands from the nobles and other large proprietors through the peasant banks and their re-sale to peasants on long time installment payments was under discussion.

As the treasury is in no condition to advance the money to the banks for this purpose Count Witte advocated a scheme under which the banks should purchase the land with fifteen years' credit bonds instead of cash.

A very marked division of the cabinet resulted. Finance Minister Shipoff opposed the premier. Suddenly M. Kokovosoff arose and in a warm speech earnestly supported Count Witte's views. When he had concluded Count Witte closed the debate in a few words rather apologizing for his seeming indifference and thanking M. Kokovosoff for his support, adding:

"I also might have made a better defense had I been as much interested in the future as 'Alexander Nicholovitch' meaning Kokovosoff Russians even on formal occasions referring to persons by their christian names.

On what is apparent reliable authority it is stated that the condition of Count Witte's health is quite unsatisfactory. He is said to have experienced a rather alarming attack of heart trouble a few days ago. His physicians advised him some time ago to give up work. It is known that Count Witte, believing that he had weathered the political storm, formed a determination to relinquish the premiership upon the meeting of the national assembly. Recently, however, the strength of the reactionaries increased, and the premier was obliged to keep up the fight against heavy odds. It may be that his endurance was thus exhausted and that feeling that his health was declining, has reached the decision to retire immediately.

As the elections proceed there is more and more evidence of the virtual exclusion from participation of the radical elements of the population. The preliminary stages of the elections will rob the national assembly of much of its national character. Its authority to speak will be absolutely denied by the proletariat organization which bore the brunt of the fight for liberty. Complaints of interference and duress in the country districts are increasing. Many flagrant instances are cited of the terrorism of local officials in preventing a free expression of the peasants and often practically compelling the selection of priests and village elders. The seeming apathy of the small landowners' assemblies, at which an average of only 10 per cent of the voters were present, is explainable to choose.

Carefully collected information from the outlying industrial districts shows that the elections were a complete farce. Nominally eleven out of the forty-nine working groups entitled to participate, elected twenty out of fifty-seven delegates to the convention which will select eighteen representatives for the city to the convention which in turn elects for St. Petersburg six members of the national assembly. In reality the number of workmen participating was infinitesimal.

Some of the men held meetings and discussed the advisability of participating, but the great mass simply withdrew, declaring that during the present reign of terror the designation of their real choice was equivalent to turning over the men to the police.

MILLER GOES A-GUNNING

SHOOTS WIFE, FATHER-IN-LAW AND MOTHER-IN-LAW.

Young Stanton County Farmer Swears to Recover His Wife or Get Blood—Epidemic of Fever at Edgar.

WINSIDE, Neb.—August Miller a young farmer in Stanton county, went to the home of his father-in-law, Fred Hohneke, near here and shot Hohneke, Mrs. Hohneke and his wife. Miller's wife will die.

Miller shot his father-in-law three times and his mother-in-law twice. They may recover. He shot his wife in the left side. Then he ran a mile, borrowed a horse from a neighbor, whom he told of the shooting, and rode out of the country. The sheriff and a posse pursued.

Miller lived on a corner of Hohneke's farm and had had trouble with the old folks. His wife had gone back to her parents. He declared that he would get his wife or blood. Father Hohneke ran for a shotgun and wounded the fleeing Miller.

Miller's attempt at murder was committed upon Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hohneke in their farm home, between Winside and Stanton, just inside the Stanton county line. He has thus far made good his escape, and was still being pursued by the sheriff and four posses of well armed and highly enraged citizens, who declare that in case Miller offers the slightest resistance to capture they will shoot to kill.

The three victims were still alive in the evening though his wife, with a bullet in her left side may die at any moment. Mr. Hohneke the assassin's father-in-law, may recover, in spite of the three wounds in his arms and legs, while Mrs. Hohneke merely lost two fingers when she grabbed the revolver to protect her husband.

After the wounded father-in-law seized a shotgun and drew blood on the assailant's neck Miller ran a mile to the house of a neighbor, named Miller, borrowed a grey horse, and rode away bareback.

The shooting began in the barn at 7 o'clock in the morning, where Miller found Hohneke. He began firing, following Hohneke into the house.

Get Trace of Gold

COOK, Neb.—A few days ago while Mrs. David Ferguson was dressing a chicken she discovered a small piece of yellow metal about the size of a grain of wheat among the contents of the gizzard. Mr. Ferguson brought the find to town and a local jeweler subjected it to the usual tests and declared it to be a nugget of pure gold.

Mr. Ferguson lives on Mrs. Hubbard's farm, one-half mile north of Cook, where the chicken was hatched. It has never been off the premises. Much speculation is being indulged in regarding this particular chicken's feeding ground.

BEATRICE, Neb.—Gold has been found in the gravel of a sand bank on the place of Ed Dole at Fifth and Hoyt streets. A little of the gravel was tested by K. C. Kloons, who reported the presence of the trace of gold, so far as his chemical tests will show. The gravel in which the precious metal was discovered is made up largely of iron pyrites often found associated with gold.

Murder Trial at O'Neill

NORFOLK, Neb.—The trial of Myron Irwin, charged with the murder of Bob Cearns a year ago near Badger, near the Boyd-Holt county line, began at O'Neill and will continue during ten days. This is the second trial, Irwin before having been found guilty of murder in the second degree. The killing is alleged to have resulted from a quarrel that started at Butte, Neb., March 30, 1905. It is alleged that Irwin stabbed Cearns twice after they had left town and after they had crossed the Niobrara river into Holt county. Cearns died a half hour after he was stabbed. One wound was in the heart and the other in the stomach.

Killed Hogs Maliciously

PIERCE, Neb.—Nick Lackas, one of the prosperous farmers of Allen precinct, says that some one tried to kill all the hogs on his place. On the next morning eight of them were found lying around the yard, some being cut around the neck and others on the legs with the flesh sliced from one or two. Eight were either dead or in a dying condition.

LOOTING OF A BANK

DARING ROBBERY COMMITTED IN HEART OF MOSCOW

Get Nearly Half A Million

GUARDS BOUND AND GAGGED AND WORK MADE EASY

Leader of Thieves Shows Perfect Familiarity With Surroundings—Romancers of Mutiny at Sebastopol

MOSCOW.—The Credit Mutual, one of the largest banks in Moscow, was mysteriously robbed by masked men at dusk, the robbers securing \$423,500. It was an extremely daring job. The facts already developed raise the question whether the robbery was committed by or under the direction of some one at present or previously employed in the institution. The bank is situated in Ilinka street, in the heart of the city. The last of the clerks had just departed, leaving an inside guard of three men, while under the portecochere outside were a police and the house porter. The street was crowded with people hurrying homeward. According to the story of the guards, in the twinkling of an eye they were confronted with revolvers in the hands of twenty masked men, who had entered silently by the main door, which had been locked when the office force left. After a command to the guards to hold up their hands no word was spoken. The guards were bound and gagged and thrown into a dark corner.

The robbers then took up positions at all the entrances and the curtains of the windows were lowered. The chief of the robbers, who directed the operations of his associates by gestures and without speaking, showed familiarity with the location of the vaults. When all was ready he went to the heavy burglar-proof safe and with a few whirrs of the knob threw the combination of the lock, the heavy door swung open and the treasure of the bank was revealed.

The plunder, consisting of gold, silver and notes, was speedily thrust into sacks. When a clean haul of the money had been made, not a kopeck being left, the robbers departed as silently as they came, making their exit through the main entrance and leaving no trace behind them. They had been in the bank less than half an hour. Twenty minutes later one of the guards succeeded in freeing himself and gave the alarm. The dumbfounded policemen and house porter who had been standing in front of the bank throughout claimed they had seen no one enter or leave it.

An immense crowd was attracted to the scene by the news of the robbery.

M. Vitchniakoff, the managing director of the bank after hasty investigation rushed off to Cossu General Doubassoff.

It is the general impression that the key to the mystery is within the bank itself.

ST. PETERSBURG.—Most sensational reports are current that the execution of Former Lieutenant Schmidt, which has made a deep impression throughout Russia, has been followed by an extensive mutiny of sailors at Sebastopol, the massacre of their officers and firing by the fortress upon the city. The truth of the story is doubted, this being the "psycho logical moment" for the appearance of such wild reports. No dispatches confirming the story have been received, but if the story shall prove true, the absence of news might be accounted for by the imposition of a censorship.

The alleged news came in the form of two cypher telegrams of a prominent member of the social revolutionary party, such as the revolutionaries have sometimes been able to transmit through accomplices in the telegraph offices when the public and even the government has been unable to communicate. As translated and displayed at the offices of radical newspapers here, the telegrams say briefly that the sailors, infuriated by the refusal of Emperor Nicholas to pardon Lieutenant Schmidt and their fellow sailors, rose in their barracks and seized and imprisoned the majority of their officers. The dispatches add that the city of Sebastopol is almost entirely in flames.

It is also stated that a student at the technological institute has received a similar telegram.

ARE KILLED IN A MINE

EXPLOSION IN A WEST VIRGINIA CATCHES WORKMEN

Bodies Badly Mutilated and Twenty-five Injured—Cause of Accident Not Yet Definitely Known

FAIRMONT, W. Va.—Fifteen men are known to be dead, twenty-five injured and from twenty-five to seventy-five missing and believed to be dead as the result of an explosion of gas in the shaft of the Century Coal company at Century, a small mining town situated fifty miles south of Fairmont, on the Bellington and Rockhammon branch of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad. The explosion took place at 4:30 in the afternoon, but owing to the telephone wires being put out of commission by the high winds details are lacking, and the victims, six of whom are foreigners, were not secured at a late hour in the evening.

The Century mine, which is owned by Shaw Brothers of Baltimore Md., is one of the largest independent operations in northern West Virginia.

Over 250 men are employed daily in the shaft and had the explosion been an hour earlier the loss of life would have been appalling. As it was there were but a few remaining in the shaft, the main body of the miners having quit work for the day.

The giant fan, which furnishes air for the shaft, was partially wrecked by the force of the explosion and was repaired immediately, and within an hour of the accident Superintendent James Ward had a relief gang in the mine. The first trip brought out ten men, five dead and five badly burned. They were found in the main heading near the bottom of the shaft. The living could give no details of the explosion, saying that they were on their way to the surface when the explosion took place behind them.

A second expedition immediately went down and explored the main heading which was found to be uninjured by the explosion, except that the brattices were blown out.

Four more bodies were found in this heading and twenty injured men were making their way toward the bottom of the shaft were brought to the surface by the rescuers.

Fourteen sub-headings at midnight were yet unexplored and Superintendent Ward who was still in the mine, sent out word that owing to the prevalence of gas he was undecided at that time whether or not to push the work into the sub-headings for an hour or so. The mine, however, was being readily freed of the fumes of the explosion by the fan and the work of rescue will be pushed on throughout the night.

Immediately following the explosion the officials began a house to house canvass to ascertain the number of men to be found on the surface. This resulted in 160 miners being found who had come out previous to the explosion. It is believed that there are many more outside who have not yet been accounted for. If this is not true there are still seventy-five men in the mine with little hope of their being alive. The relief trains bearing physicians were hurried from Philippi and Buchammon and the doctors immediately took care of the wounded. The office building was transformed into a temporary hospital.

The families of the dead, wounded and missing men gathered quickly at the opening, and the pathetic scenes always witnessed at such accidents were enacted. Several foreign women insisted upon going into the mine and were only prevented from boarding the cage by force. Many of the women were still hovering about the opening at midnight, refusing to go into the camp store or other places to escape the biting cold.

An official of the company who looked after the work on the surface said at midnight that the company was doing all in its power to ascertain the names of the dead and wounded and that a list would be made up sometime during the night. He stated that owing to the horribly mutilated condition of the dead it was impossible to recognize them at that hour.

The Century mine employees were about equally divided between Americans and foreigners, and a report was current here that it was the belief of those at the scene of the explosion that most of the dead are foreigners, because they were in the habit of remaining longer in the mine than the American miners.

NEBRASKA NOTES

Oliver Baker, a farmer, who lived six miles south of Nebraska City, was found dead in bed. Baker was 55 years of age.

Farmers in the vicinity of Rockford are talking of organizing a company for the purpose of prospecting for coal and oil.

A young man named Stevens, who resides at Blue Springs has been up before the insanity board and ordered sent to the asylum.

Clement Drew of Beatrice was given a necktie shower by his young gentleman friends and Mrs. Drew a linen shower by her young lady friends.

County Attorney William Ely of Ainsworth went to Long Pine and seized all the slot machines in the saloons of that town. He will begin prosecutions.

Dawsons & McKeever held a sale of thoroughbred Poland China hogs at Beatrice. Forty-four head were sold at good prices, some of the animals bringing as high as \$80. The sale was largely attended.

F. J. Kimball & Co., the livery firm, have purchased the barn at Eighth and Courts streets, Beatrice and moved to the new quarters. Treadwell & Moschell, implement dealers, will occupy the building vacated by Kimball & Co.

Patrick Hogan, a young man of Columbus who was injured while working with a railroad bridge gang in the western part of the state, died at St. Mary's hospital in Columbus. He was injured by falling from a bridge on which he was working.

Fifty farmers comprise a committee which is soliciting funds for the new farmers' elevator at Hong. The building is to cost \$5,000, and about one-half that amount has been raised.

Sheriff Carrig has placed notices on the door of McClintock & Carter, druggists at Columbus and the store is closed on an attachment for \$3,200. It is claimed by the firm that they have been swindled in trade, their ready money gone and they could not raise the money to pay out.

Herman Brandenburg and August Marquardt, two young farmers, of Norfolk, were both injured more or less seriously in a runaway accident. Their carriage was overturned and they were dragged over the very rough roads. Marquardt sustained a gash in the forehead so deep that the skull bones were visible. Brandenburg was merely badly bruised.

As a result of an explosion of some boiling naphtha soap in the basement of the Paddock hotel at Beatrice, J. L. Jackson, one of the proprietors of the Paddock hotel had his hands badly burned and his eyebrows and hair singed while engaged in extinguishing the flames. He is confined to his room at the hotel from his injuries.

Through the efforts of the Tekamah Commercial club the Nebraska Telephone company has made an appropriation to pay the expenses of extending its line through the rural districts tributary to that place. The work will be commenced this spring. The Tekamah exchange has something over 400 subscribers at present and already fourteen have applied for telephones, which will be put on the new line.

Judge Hazlet of Beatrice, who recently made a trip to Washington, D. C., in the interest of the paid-out-settlers on the Otoe and Missouri Indian lands has received word from Washington that the committee of congress having the consideration of the bill for the relief of the settlers had recommended its passage. The bill is one which interests every purchaser of Indian lands in that part of the state who paid out on his purchase, and it is hoped by those interested that it will pass the house and be approved by the senate.

Rev. H. E. Motter, pastor of the Christian church at Craig, has been burned. He attempted to start a fire with gasoline, pouring the explosive fluid out of a five-gallon can. The force of the explosion blew him clear across the room, setting his clothing on fire and practically wrecking the house, which was set on fire, and his little child, sleeping in an adjoining room, was saved by being taken out through the window. Mr. Motter was rescued from the building, but was so badly burned that no hopes are entertained of his recovery.