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**THE CZAR'S DECREE**

The text of the czar's decree which has aroused so much interest is as follows:

On ascending the throne of our ancestors by the providence of God we made a solemn vow before the Almighty and our conscience sacredly to guard the centuries old pillars of Russian power and to dedicate our life to the service of our beloved fatherland in indefatigable solicitude for our subjects. We chose, in order to assure the well-being of our people, the way indicated by the memorable deeds of our predecessors, especially our never-to-be-forgotten father. God pleased to interrupt the deeds of our father by his early death and thus laid on us the sacred duty of completing the consolidation of our national life, with the extinguishing our country. The deep regret have partly been sown by designs hostile to the state and partly engendered by doctrines foreign to Russian life, hinder the general work of ameliorating the well-being of the people. These troubles confuse the public mind, remove the people from productive labor and often ruin families dear to our heart and young energies among high and low necessary to the internal development of the country.

In demanding the fulfillment of this our will, while remaining strongly opposed to any violation of the normal course of national life and having confidence that all will loyally discharge their local duties, we are irrevocably decided to satisfy the needs for which the state has become ripe and have deemed it expedient to strengthen and decree the undeviating observance of the principles of tolerance laid down by the fundamental laws of the Russian empire, and, while recognizing the orthodox church as the ruling one, to grant to all of our subjects of other religions and to all foreign persuasions freedom of creed and worship in accordance with their rites, and we are further resolved to continue the active carrying out of measures for the improvement of the material position of the orthodox rural clergy while enabling them to take a larger share in intellectual and public life.

In accordance with impending measures for the consolidation of the national economy the efforts of the state credit institutions and especially the nobles' and peasants' banks should be directed to strengthening and developing the welfare and fundamental pillars of Russian village life and that of the local nobility and peasantry. These principles marked out by us for the revision of the laws of the rural population are, when formulated, to be referred to the provincial government councils, so that with the assistance of persons enjoying the public's confidence they may be further developed and adapted to the special conditions of individual localities. In this work the fundamental principle of the inviolability of communal property is to be maintained, while at the same time means are to be found to render it easier for the individual to sever connections with the community to which he belongs if he so desires.

Without delay measures must be taken to release the peasants from the present burdensome liability of forced labor.

Thorough reform is to be effected in the provincial government and district administration by the local representatives, while attention will be devoted to securing closer co-operation between the communal authorities and parochial trustees of the orthodox churches wherever possible.

Calling upon all our subjects to co-

**BUYING A CREAM SEPARATOR.**

To make no mistake in this is of the utmost importance. You don't buy one very often and it is not only a question of first cost but of daily profit or loss, daily operation and daily wear and tear.

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**But you may be without separator knowledge or experience.** Therefore take steps to see and try a De Laval machine for yourself. It will cost you nothing to do so. That is part of the local agent's business. If you don't know him write for his name and address.

Try imitating machines too if you will and can get them, but don't put your name to an order of any kind until you know the facts about the De Laval machines and have tried one. That means your buying one.

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operate in strengthening the moral foundations of family, school and public life, under which alone the well-being of the people and the confidence of everyone in the stability of his rights can develop, we command our ministers and chief officials concerned in this matter to submit to us their views regarding the execution of our intentions.

**The Little Teacher.**

The February Bulletin of the New York Public Library contains an article, "What Do Teachers Read?" by Mary Denson Pretlow. It closes with the following anecdote:

And last comes the littlest teacher of them all. By standing up very straight he could look across the top of my desk, and his eyes met mine unwaveringly as I accused him of having kept Baldwin's "Fifty Famous Stories" from August till December. He explained that at the end of every two weeks he left it in for a few days and I considered the matter settled. Five minutes later I looked up to find him still there. "Little boy, what do you want?" "Please, ma'am, that book?"

"This was too much. 'You've had it three months; why don't you take some other?'"

"Because that's the only one she likes. I've tried another; she won't even look at it."

"She, who is she?"

"The one I teach."

I thought he was getting mixed. "The book you learn from, little boy?"

"No, ma'am, the girl I teach."

"How old is she?"

He eyed me critically. "Bout as big as you are."

I began to feel small. Then he told me all about it. She was the daughter of the Italian shoe mender, the one down the steps at the corner of "Tent' avnoo;" her father wasn't very kind

to her; she knew no English and had no friends; he taught her in the evenings.

I asked if he was not sleepy then. "Well, sometimes I go to sleep over the book, but she's learnin', and when she learns she'll like this better'n Italy."


There came to my mind: "Teach these foreign children our language, our laws, our liberty, and we will have good citizens."

But for the sake of good citizenship, would you, O Learned Educator, do what this little child of the slums is doing?—New York Evening Post.

**The People's Prayer.**

God give us men! A time like this demands  
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands;  
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;  
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;  
Men who possess opinions and a will;  
Men who have honor; men who will not lie;  
Men who can stand before a demagogue  
And damn his treacherous flattering without winking;  
Tall men, sun crowned, who live above the fog  
In public duty and in private thinking.  
For while the rabble with their thumb-worn creeds,  
Their large profession and their little deeds,  
Mingle in selfish strife, lo! Freedom weeps,  
Wrong rules the land, and waiting Justice sleeps.

—J. G. Holland.

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