

NEWS OF THE WEEK

A Weekly Resume of the Really Vital News by the Editor

The condition of affairs in Russia seems to grow more serious every day. The assassination of Grand Duke Sergius at Moscow was a terrible affair. It had been known for a long time that he had been marked for death and he is the fourth in the series of assassinations in the last two years. Sergius has been regarded by all persons as the most reactionary man in all Russia. He always looked upon the common people as deserving of no more consideration than the beasts of the field and considered the nobles and royalties as a distinctive race. He has kept himself in hiding for many months, but last week while riding in a carriage within the walls of the Kremlin at Moscow his carriage was blown to atoms by a bomb thrown under it by a person supposed to be a student. A correspondent who saw the act describes the situation immediately after the bomb burst as follows:

A few persons then appeared in the square, stood and looked and then went running toward the masses of black and red which I had not before noticed in the snow. I hastened my pace and saw the fore part of the carriage with a wheel and axle drawn by a convulsive and bleeding horse. The impression was uncanny as in a bad dream. The horse stood, staggered, and fell. The masses of black and red were fragments of the carriage and portions of a human worm. The trunk, head, legs and hands were all in different places and blood was everywhere. Some more persons now appeared on the border of the square, and seeing a group of people at one corner, came running up toward us.

The person who threw the bomb seems not to have made any effort to escape, and has ever since declared that he was simply doing his duty in ridding the country of the most evil adviser that the czar had.

Disturbances are reported from every part of Russia. In the Caucasus the government seems to be overthrown. The students in all the universities first held mass meetings in which they denounced autocracy and then resolved to stop all further attendance upon classes, saying that it was impossible to pursue their studies while the country was in such a state of upheaval. There are all sorts of reports about Russia making proposals for peace with Japan, but there is nothing authoritative about any of them.

Both armies in Manchuria seem to be making ready for the spring campaign, although only skirmishes are going on. Some of the news indicates that the Japanese are planning a piece of grand strategy which involves the throwing of a larger force into such a position that it will threaten both Vladivostok and Kurapatkin's base of supplies. Admiral Togo left Japan some time ago to take command of the Japanese fleet which has gone to meet the Russian fleet. No one knows where either the Russian or Japanese fleets are at present.

The legislative committee appointed to investigate the four California state senators, has reported that each of the four senators received a cash bribe of \$350 to vote against the investigation of certain building and loan associations.

The officers of the Midvale Steel company were in Washington the beginning of the week making vigorous protests against awarding the contract to the steel trust to make armor plate when they had bid much lower than the steel trust. They called upon the president and the naval committee of

the house. Roosevelt said he would investigate the matter.

A terrible mine disaster was the result of an explosion in the Virginia mines near Birmingham, Ala. There were 160 men in the mine and every one of them lost their lives. About 300 children and 100 families have been left destitute and without means of support. These mine disasters occur in this country every year, while in England they scarcely ever occur. For 100 years the British government has inspected mines and seen to it that they are safe. There is no more sacred duty of government than to protect the lives of its citizens, and see to it that they are not sacrificed on the altar of greed. In most states in this union, mine inspection is a farce. When it comes to the man and the dollar, the dollar always comes first. No explosion will ever occur in a mine properly inspected.

All the evidence is in, and the Colorado legislative committee will take until March 2, to devise some way to get Adams out and Peabody in. On that day it is predicted that there will be lively times around the Colorado state house. The labor unions proposed to hold an immense mass meeting there that day, but Governor Adams requested them to hold it somewhere else. From the evidence that has been printed in the dailies, it does not appear that Peabody has any just claim to the office. There was a lot of ballot box stuffing by both sides, but when every illegal vote was thrown out Adams would have a large majority.

Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Texas, California, Wisconsin, Kansas, Ohio and Missouri, after starting after the Standard Oil trust, are inquiring: What is Nebraska going to do? All that we can reply is that Nebraska is going to build a temple of fame in honor of Rockefeller on the university campus.

Sterling Heilig gives in his syndicated correspondence a very interesting article about French postoffices. There are four windows provided at each place for transacting the different kinds of business. There can be found people subscribing for government and municipal bonds, sending telegrams, depositing money in the postal savings banks, drawing money out, persons handing over packages for transmission in the parcels post, and others receiving money by mail or sending it. In France a child can open a savings account with the government with a postage stamp and the government pays 2 3/4 per cent interest on it. While from all Europe this winter there has come tales of starvation and suffering among the poor, France has been an exception. The government legislates for the common people there.

The action of the house to appropriate money to build two warships was spoken of by the Chicago Record-Herald as "an administration victory," but the Tribune says, "It was a slap at the president," all of which goes to show what expert advisers of the people the great dailies are. "You pay your money and you take your choice."

Dennis Donahue, who has been assaulting Lawson in Public Opinion, has been arrested for criminal libel. The action was brought by Herbert Gray of Massachusetts, who was brought into the story that Donahue has been telling. When that case gets into court we may get some more news concerning Wall street piracies.

Two or three instances have occurred of late where men who have recently got work fainted after two or three hours from starvation before they could earn enough to buy food. A case in Cleveland, Ohio, was reported last week. The man was taken to a hospital. Before he fainted and fell no one would have thought of aiding him though his very features told that he was starving. After he fainted society steps in, gives him medicine, food and shelter until he is able to walk. Things are arranged mighty queer in this world.

Count Boroutzoff says that Japan will never become a civilized and moral country. Can he give any assurance that Russia will?

Senator Mitchell made three addi-

tions to his famous letter preceding in each with the letters "P. S." Now they say that those letters stand for "Plain Steal."

A member of Tammany writes a private letter to the editor of The Independent in which he complains that this paper "has given no credit to Tammany for the genuine populist work that it has been doing." He says that under the lead of the Tammany mayor, "an electric light plant has been ordered." He furthermore declares that "Tammany has begun a fight against Standard Oil as far reaching as Kansas and no credit is given." It is true that the mayor of New York has been forced to adopt populist principles, although only last fall Tammany issued an order that none of its candidates for congress should accept a populist endorsement. It therefore appears that it has been forced to adopt populist principles against its will, being driven to it by Rockefeller's extortionate charges for gas and electricity in that city. There was no way to fight Rockefeller but by adopting populist principles and so the Tammany mayor did it.

The report is current that Secretary Morton will leave the cabinet some time during the summer. It would hardly seem possible for him to remain in it if Roosevelt is in earnest in his fight against rebates and extortionate rates. Mr. Morton broke the law, yet he is an honored member of the cabinet. Mr. Neidringhaus broke the law and his election to the senate is being demanded by a large majority of his political associates. It is futile to contend that the man who breaks one law will not in emergency break another. But if law-breaking per se is not sufficient to disqualify a man from holding public office, it would be interesting to learn definitely what statutes may be, and what statutes may not be broken with impunity by office seekers. The public should not be left in its present state of uncertainty about so important a matter.

The distress among the people of Japan must be very great. There are tens of thousands of widows and orphans, made such by the war and tens of thousands more of wounded. The Japanese have made such brave efforts to care for the sick and wounded of both armies that they have commended themselves to the good will of mankind. The strain put upon the people—most of whom were poor when the war began—by its awful cost both in money and lives, is causing very great suffering. A committee has been formed in New York composed largely of prominent ministers of all denominations to receive and solicit help for the sick and wounded of both armies. The Franklin Trust company of 140 Broadway, N. Y., has been appointed treasurer of this fund. Among the Russian prisoners in Japan there are many thousand sick and wounded. The Japanese are straining every nerve to provide for them, and they do provide for them the same as their own sick and wounded, but the task is very great, and they should have help.

Prosecuting Attorney Jerome gave the senate an "awful dig," in his speech at the Little Hungary dinner. He said: "President Roosevelt stands today alone, more isolated than any great president has ever stood in the history of this people. He may meet a setback from that rich men's club, many of whom are under indictment now, and many more of whom would be under indictment if they got their deserts."

A special session of the senate is always held at the incoming of a new president to confirm appointments of the cabinet and other officers for the administration of the government under its new head, but it is now said that there will be a special session of the house also on the fifth of March, for the election of a speaker and the appointment of committees, so that

Mr. Buderus Likes "Coming Equality"

He writes as follows:

Sturgis, S. D., Jan. 31, 1904.

C. P. Strain, Esq., Pendleton, Ore.

Dear Sir: For enclosed 20 cents in silver please send me two more copies of your "Coming Equality." I like your plan very well as part of that of the populists to bring about more equal distribution of wealth, and hope you may be successful in selling thousands of copies of your book.

Yours truly,

W. C. BUDERUS.

The railway capital of America is \$12,599,990,258. The "Coming Equality" tells you how the nation can acquire the railroads without confiscation, bonds or burdensome taxes. Price 10c by mail. I want every reformer to have a copy. Enclose stamp to pay postage. I will mail you the book without money. If it proves worth its price send me a dime. Address C. P. STRAIN, Pendleton, Oregon.

Kansas Farm for Sale

Six miles north of Junction City, twelve miles south of Riley Center, of 300 acres, 125 acres under cultivation, 25 acres of alfalfa, 150 acres in pasture and hayland, large orchard of apples, peaches, pears and cherries. Small fruits of all kinds. Three wells, two windmills and good house with seven rooms, cistern, nice yard of blue grass sod, with shade and ornamental trees. Barn room for 15 head of horses and cows. Granary, crib, wagon and tool sheds. Cattle shed, 20x64 feet. The soil is a good black soil with clay subsoil. All fenced and cross fenced. This is a good farm, well improved, on a main traveled road crossing the state, north and south. One-fourth mile to school. R. F. D. and telephone line. Price, per acre, \$36. If not as represented I will refund traveling expenses.

CHARLES CUTLER,
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Senator Mitchell made three addi-