impressing its principles upon the minds of public men.

While the southern organization was extending its influence among the farmers of the south, another body of similar character, based upon almost exactly the same principles and for similar purposes, had been organized in the state of Illinois. It began in the year 1877, and was known as the National Farmers alliance. In a little while it had extended into the states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and the then territory of Dakota. The object of this body was declared to be "to interest the farmers of the United States for their protection against class legislation, the encroachments of concentrated capital, the tyranny of monopoly; to provide against being imposed upon by scandalous and scandalizing advertisements in the public prints; to oppose in our respective political parties the election of any candidate to office, state or national, who is not in sympathy with the farmers' interests; to demand that the existing political parties shall nominate farmers or those who are in sympathy with them for all offices within the gift of the people; and to do anything in a legitimate manner that may serve to benefit the producer."

Aims of the Northern Workers.

This National farmers alliance was an open body, transacting its business in public, the same as has always been done by regular political associations, and in this respect was found its only practical difference from the southern alliance, which had a secret work. In their social features they were much alike, and their aims and objects were practically the same.

At a meeting of the southern alliance in 1887, the following declarations were made and published concerning its objects:

"The objects of the National alliance are to unite the farmers for the promotion of their interests, socially, politically and financially; to secure a just representation of the agricultural interests of the country in the national congress and state legislatures; to demand the prohibition of alien cattle and land syndicates; to oppose all forms of monopoly as being detrimental to the best interests of the public; to demand of our representatives in congress their votes and active influence in favor of the prompt passage of such laws as will protect livestock interests from contagious diseases; to demand that agricultural interests shall be represented by a cabinet officer."

Another Anti-Monopoly Order.

At about this time, in the fall of 1887, another association of farmers was effected in the southern part of the state of Illinois, which was known as the "Farmers Mutual Benefit association." Its object was to oppose the encroachments of monopolies. This body did not extend as rapidly as the others; possibly, because its officers did not exert themselves as the others had done to spread into new territory; probably because of its later origin. Its principles were almost identical with those of the older organizations. This body had a secret work, after the fashion of the alliance and grange, but unlike them it did not admit women to membership.

These were not the only organizations of the soil-tillers, as there was the "Farmers League," the "Farmers Union," the "Farmers Protective association," the "Anti-Monopoly league," and so on ad infinitum. These, however, were mostly in Ohio and states to the eastward.

The difference between the alliance and the other bodies of farmers named was about this: The alliance was more aggressive along political lines than any of the others, and the alliance took more advanced ground in favor of independent political action. In fact, it was due to the work of the alliance leaders that the people's party was finally born.

Uniting the Various Orders.

A meeting of the Farmers and Laborers Union of America was called at the city of St. Louis early in December, 1889, for the purpose of bringing together in one great organization all of the different bodies of organized farmers in the country. Invitations had been sent out in advance to the officers of all these different bodies and to the officials of the Knights of Labor, and they were all represented at this meeting.

Conference committees were appointed and a co-operative arrangement for political purposes was effected. The various bodies were not in reality all merged into one, but virtually that was what was done. The object of this partial consolidation was to influence legislation in the interests of farmers and laborers generally. The new body was styled the "Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union."

Again Professed Nonpartisanship.

The alliance here again declared itself nonpartisan, but it was intensely political. Although primarily social, its political feature was its most powerful force, and while there was no open disposition to go into politics independently, it was understood upon all sides that every possible effort which could legitimately serve the interest of agriculture and labor should be put forth. The St. Louis convention adopted a political platform, which was afterwards known as "The St. Louis Demands," and on this platform were based the calls for subsequent meetings, which led to the ultimate formation of the third party.

At that convention, at which were represented the states of Arkansas, Kentucky, Kansas, Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, Louisiana, Maryland, Alabama, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina, Indiana, Texas and Oklahoma territory, the following officers were elected: President, L. L. Polk of North Carolina; vice president, D. H. Clover of Kansas; secretary, J. H. Turner of Georgia; treasurer, William Hickman of Missouri; national lecturer, Ben Terrell of Texas. Definite assurances of a coalition of all the farmers' organizations were secured, and arrangements for mutually satisfactory action on the part of the alliance and Knights of Labor were made, although terms for a complete consolidation of the two bodies could not then be agreed upon. The convention adjourned to try it again a year later.

Birth of the Third Party.

In time it became a very serious question with members of the alliance whether they should operate through the machinery of their old parties, or whether they should join with other workers in a new and distinct movement for a redress of the grievances of which they found cause to complain. This was more particularly the case in Kansas. Officers of the Kansas state alliance were called together in April, 1890, for the purpose of considering this matter. The question was, "Shall we remain with the parties to which we have belonged in the past and ask relief through them, or shall we invite the co-operation of other workers and with them form an independent political body?"

After lengthy debate and mature consideration the latter course was adopted, and in June following a meeting was held in the city of Topeka, at which delegates from the farmers alliance, from the Farmers Mutual Benefit association, from the Knights of Labor and several other bodies were present, and it was agreed that members of those different bodies would join with other voters of like belief in a political movement to be known as the people's party.

Having determined to operate upon an independent line, the Topeka meeting called a state convention to be held at the same place in August, at which time a regular state ticket was placed in the field and a platform adopted based on the four fundamental ideas—land, labor, transportation and money.

The new party elected one state officer, five members of congress, ninety-five of the lower house of the legislature, and in the following January secured the election of a United States senator.

Southern Farmers in Line.

In December, 1890, the supreme council of the alliance met at Ocala, Fla., and thirty-five states were represented. Delegates from every body of organized farmers in the country were present to participate or to confer. The convention of the national alliance of colored farmers was held at the same time and place, and friendly greetings were exchanged between the two bodies. There was much talk of general independent political action, but no definite steps were taken beyond the adoption of a resolution declaring in favor of holding a convention at Cincinnati the following spring, at which every state and all labor organizations, as well as the alliance, should be represented, in order that the sense of every section of the country and of all branches of organized labor might be first secured before deciding this important matter. The officers of the preceding year were re-elected at Ocala, with the exception of National Lecturer Terrell, who was succeeded by J. S. Willetts of Kansas.

Northern Third Party Men.

The annual convention of the northern alliance was held in Omaha a month later, beginning January 27, 1891, and there were representatives present from Nebraska, Iowa, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Washington, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Texas and Pennsylvania. Here, too, the sentiment was avowedly in favor of independent political action, although that was a subject of minor importance.

The result in Kansas encouraged farmers in other states, and soon a movement was set on foot looking to the organization of an independent political movement covering the whole country. The first decisive step in that direction was that taken at the Ocala meeting, in arranging for the National union conference that was held at Cincinnati May 19, 1891, and at which nearly 1,500 delegates, representing thirty-two states and two territories, were present. They came from Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming, Oklahoma, District of Columbia.

The Cincinnati Platform.

The conference adopted the following declaratory and doctrinal principles:

First—That in view of the great social, industrial and economical revolutions now dawning upon the civilized world and the new and living issues confronting the American people we believe that the time has arrived for a crystalization of the political reform forces of our country and the formation of what should be known as the people's party of the United States of America.

Second—That we most heartily endorse the demands of the platforms as adopted at St. Louis, Mo., in 1889; Ocala, Fla., in 1890, and Omaha, Neb., in 1891, by industrial organizations there represented, summarized as follows: (a) The right to make and issue money is a sovereign power to be maintained by the people for the common benefit. Hence, we demand the abolition of National banks as banks of issue, and as a substitute for national bank notes we demand that legal tender treasury notes be issued in sufficient volume to transact the business of the country on a cash basis without damage or especial advantage to any class or calling, such notes to be legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private, and such notes when demanded by the people shall be loaned to them at not more than 2 per cent per annum upon nonperishable products, as indicated in the subtreasury plan, and also upon real estate, with proper limitation upon the quantity of land and amount of money. (b) We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver. (c) We demand the passage of laws prohibiting alien ownership of land and that congress take prompt action to devise some plan to obtain all lands now owned by alien and foreign syndicates, and that all land held by railroads and other corporations in excess of such as is actually used and needed by them be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only. (d) Believing the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none we demand that taxation—national, state or municipal—shall not be used to build up one interest or class at the expense of another. (e) We demand that all revenue—national, state or county—shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered. (f) We demand a just and equitable system of graduated tax on income. (g) We demand the most rigid, honest and just national control and supervision of the means of public communication and transportation, and if this control and supervision does not remove the abuses now existing we demand the government ownership of such means of communication and transportation. (h) We demand the election of president, vice-president and United States senators by a direct vote of the people.

Third—That we urge united action of all progressive organizations in attending the conference called for February 22, 1892, by six of the leading reform organizations.

Fourth—That a national central committee be appointed by this conference, to be composed of a chairman, to be elected by this body, and of three members from each state represented, to be named by each state delegation.

Fifth—That this central committee shall represent this body, attend the national conference on February 22, 1892, and if possible unite with that and all other reform organizations there assembled.

Sixth—If no satisfactory agreement can be effected, this committee shall call a national convention not later than June 1, 1892, for the purpose of nominating candidates for president and vice president.

Seventh—That the members of the central committee for each state where there is no independent political organization conduct an active system of political agitation in their respective states.

Prohibition Plank Snowed Under.

Such was the platform over which the convention went wild. The report was adopted with a whoop, and the new party was practically ushered into existence on the spot. An effort was made to have prohibition and universal suffrage planks inserted, but they were overwhelmingly repudiated.

The St. Louis Meeting.

Arrangements were there made for a general union of all the industrial forces of the country in a convention at St. Louis, February 22, 1892, for the purpose of completing organization and arranging for putting a national ticket in the field. A national committee, composed of the following earnest third party advocates, was appointed to exercise a general supervision over the new movement:

Arkansas—L. P. Featherstone, Isaac E. McCracken, J. G. A. Bush.

California—Marion Cannon, H. C. Dillon, A. G. Hinckly.

Connecticut—Robert Pique.

Florida—W. D. Condon, J. D. Goss, L. Baskins.

Georgia—C. C. Post.

Iowa—J. B. Weaver, M. L. Wheat, A. J. Westerfield.

Indiana—C. A. Powers, Leroy Templeton, J. D. Comstock.

Illinois—S. N. Norton, A. J. Streater, H. E. Taubeneck.

Kansas—P. P. Elder, Levi Dumbauld, R. S. Osborn.

Kentucky—L. Graves, S. V. Smith, T. G. Fallin.

Louisiana—J. J. Mills, Dr. R. B. Paine, John Pickett.

Massachusetts—G. F. Washburn, E. G. Brown, E. M. Boynton.

Michigan—Ben Colvin, Mrs. S. E. V. Emery, John O. Seabell.

Minnesota—Ignatius Donnelly, C. N. Perkins, Andrew Stevenson.

Missouri—Paul J. Dickson, J. W. Rodgers, W. O. Alkerson.

Maine—H. S. Hobbs, F. A. Howard, S. M. Smith.

Nebraska—J. H. Edmeston, William Dysart, W. H. West.

New York—Jacob H. Studer, Joel J. Hoyt.

Ohio—Hugo Preyor, J. C. H. Cobb, H. F. Barnes.

Oklahoma—Samuel Crocker, A. E. Light, John Hozan.

Pennsylvania—P. A. Thompson, F. R. Agnew, Lewis Edwards.

South Dakota—J. W. Hardin, H. N. Loucks, Fred Zepp.

Texas—W. R. Lamb, Thomas Grines, J. H. Davis.

Tennessee—H. P. Osborne, G. W. J. Kay, John A. James.

Wisconsin—Robert Schilling, Alfred Mannheimer, A. J. Phillips.

West Virginia—Luther C. Shinn, George W. Hammont, Thomas C. Keevey.

Wyoming—H. Bretenstein, James A. Smith, H. D. Merritt.

District of Columbia—Lee Crandall, S. A. Biand, H. J. Schulters.

Final Coalition Effected.

On Washington's birthday of the present year, the St. Louis convention assembled, and it was then and there that the final coalition between all the organizations was effected, although the new party movement had been practically agreed upon nearly a year before. There was really but little to do beyond the perfecting of details, but this little gave rise to several stormy sessions. Prohibition and universal suffrage advocates were bound to be heard, and worked hard to get their favorite planks inserted in the new party platform. Their prospects for success were brilliant until just at the final moment, when the convention deliberately turned its back on them, so to speak, and they were unceremoniously snuffed out in a twinkling.

The selection of a place for holding the nominating convention on July 4 was left to a committee of ten, and that committee decided in favor of Omaha.

It was decided to allow four delegates for each member in the two houses of congress, or eight delegates from each state and four from each congressional district. This gave the historical number of 1,776 delegates, although no one had anticipated it in advance.

The St. Louis Platform.

The platform adopted at St. Louis stated that the nation is on the verge of moral, political and material ruin; that corruption dominates the ballot box, legislatures, congress and touches even the ermine of the bench; newspapers are subsidized or muzzled; public opinion is silenced; business prostrated; homes covered with mortgages; labor impoverished, and land and money concentrating in the hands of capitalists. Workmen, it declared, are denied the right of organization for self-protection; imported, pauperized labor beats down wages; a hireling standing army, unrecognized by our laws, is established to shoot them down and they are rapidly degenerating to the European condition. The national power to create money is appropriated to enrich the bondholders; silver has been demonetized to add to the purchasing power of gold, and the supply of currency is purposely abridged to fatten usurers, bankrupt enterprise and enslave industry. The platform declared that the old political parties allowed this to exist without an effort at restraint, and, therefore, a new political organization, representing the political principles herein stated, was necessary. A declaration of principles was then made, and a national currency demanded that is safe, sound and flexible, to be issued by the general government only, and which shall be a full legal tender for all debts, public and private, and that without the use of banking corporations; a just and equitable means of circulation; and a tax not to exceed 2 per cent, as set forth in the subtreasury plan of the farmers alliance, or some better system. It demanded the free and unlimited coinage of silver, so that the amount of circulating medium may be speedily increased to not less than $50 per capita; a graduated income tax; that all national and state revenues be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, and that postal savings banks be established by the government. The platform declared that land should not be monopolized for speculative purposes and alien ownership of lands should be prohibited; all lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all kinds now owned by aliens should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only. It declared that the government should own and operate railroads, telegraph and telephones, and demanded that the government issue legal tender notes and pay union soldiers the difference between the price of depreciated money in which they were paid and gold.

It is on this platform that the 1,776 delegates of the first national convention of the people's party of the United States of America are now assembling in Omaha.

Marion Cannon.

Marion Cannon, president of the California Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union, was born in West Virginia fifty-seven years ago. His ancestors for three generations were West Virginians. He was educated in a log school house in that state, and in the early 50's, when still a boy, he crossed the plains overland to California, driving an ox team all the way. He has resided in California since that time—first in Nevada county and afterwards in Ventura county, his present home. He owns, occupies and cultivates one of the finest and most productive ranches in California. A natural leader of men, he has always been prominent in public affairs, but has always refused office, except two years in Nevada county, when he was induced by his neighbors to accept the position of county recorder. He was elected president of the Ventura county farmers alliance in July, 1890, and was unanimously chosen state president at San Jose, and was unanimously re-elected at Los Angeles in 1891. He possesses the confidence of the people of Colorado to a remarkable degree. He was the first state president of the farmers alliance to come out boldly for independent political action, taking the position that it is the only logical result of the "Campaign of Education," that has been carried out by the alliance from the beginning of the organization.

The general interest in California is in the construction of the canal, and President Cannon and the members of the alliance are in favor of it; but they oppose the granting of special privileges which would make a few individuals millionaires, at the expense of the rest of the people.

Mr. Cannon came into national notice as temporary chairman of the historic convention of February 22, at St. Louis. His powerful, resonant voice, his prompt action, and his familiarity with parliamentary usage held that great body firmly to business.

Hon. L. F. Livingston.

If, as Dr. Holmes says, "Live people are dead people warmed over," then Hon. L. F. Livingston is an animate second edition of Richelieu. A member from Georgia of the lower house of the present congress, he is one of its most conspicuous figures.

It is a foregone conclusion, at a convention, that Colonel Livingston will carry a point or pass a measure which he champions. After the several orators have effervesced and had their way, just at the critical, clinching time, "Colonel Livingston of Georgia" will have the floor, and the outcome will generally be as he desires.

But he met a Waterloo at St. Louis. He was opposed to independent political action, and made a determined though unavailing fight, but although defeated this modern Richelieu was great to the last.

Colonel Livingston is of Scotch-Irish parentage. He was born 1832, in Newton county, Georgia, and received his education in the common schools of his native county. He has always been a farmer. For many years he was president of the Georgia Agricultural society, and subsequently president of the Georgia State alliance, which position he still holds. After his election to the presidency of the state farmers alliance, he canvassed the state of Georgia for two years, addressing the people on the economic questions affecting industrial classes. His discussions were mainly devoted to the consideration of finance and taxation. This canvass resulted in his present seat in the national congress.

Colonel Livingston has served several terms, both in the house and senate of the Georgia legislature, and was chairman of the committee on agriculture in the house, and a member of that committee in the senate

Emperor Nicholas of Russia.

A writer in Longman's Magazine gives a graphic description of the Emperor Nicholas of Russia as he appeared some years before the Crimean war, and of his curious fancy for masked balls, at which he alone wore no mask. In the ballroom of the palace at St. Petersburg he was wont to stand motionless, "towering above all," as if waiting to be attacked. This is quite correct, but only to a certain extent. At the masquerades at the winter palace, the czar, among all the guests, wore no mask; but he was accustomed to disguise himself very closely indeed when he attended, as he was very fond of doing, the bals masques at the opera house, where he would mingle in conversation with the other maskers, especially with the ladies, and hear very often rather curious remarks about himself.

Tips for the Heated Term.

New York Herald: Heat your ice water before drinking it.

Don't over eat. Shut up your house and board.

Change your collars every fifteen minutes.

Send your wife and her mother to the country.

Don't get tight—clothes.

If the night is close and hot climb up to the roof, but don't yield to the temptation to hang yourself by the clothes-line

If obliged to ride in a street car ride outside.

Avoid all excitement. If a man tries to talk politics to you knock him down.

Avoid over exertion, particularly when the boss isn't looking.

Don't wear needless clothing simply as a matter of looks. You look like a boiled lobster anyhow.

Don't worry over what the poor will do next winter. Subscribe to the free ice fund.

Chicago Herald: There are some exceedingly interesting and exciting prospects before the country if it should happen that the people's party should put up popular and acceptable candidates for the presidency and vice presidency.

BURLINGTON, IA., April 4, 1891.

Dr. J. B. Moore—Dear Sir: Have been troubled with catarrh in my head and face for three years—at times was unable to hear, had a constant ringing in my ears and for two years was almost deaf. Have tried several so-called remedies and been treated by regular physicians and noted specialists, but failed to get any relief. I tried one bottle of Moore's Tree of Life Catarrh Cure. It gave immediate relief and effected a permanent cure. I heartily recommend it to all sufferers of this disease and will cheerfully give any further information on being addressed at my home, No. 223 Sweeney ave., Burlington, Ia. For sale by all druggists.

Respectfully,
R. L. REID.

GREAT FAMINES OF HISTORY

Historic Devastations by Flood and Drought in Europe and Asia

COMPARED WITH RUSSIA'S AFFLICTION

Frank Carpenter, Prefatory to His Famine Articles for The Bee from the Land of the Czar, Tells of the World's Great Starvations of Other Days.

By the time this letter is published I will be in the heart of the famine districts of Russia. I mail it as I start for the steamer which is to take me to Hamburg. From thence I go direct to St. Petersburg, and by rail, stage and droitzschka will make my way through the country where it is said from 30,000,000 to 40,000,000 of people are starving. The famine will be at its highest from now on until the harvest in August, and the crops must be very large in order to prevent its extension on into the winter. Within the past week I have spent some time in looking up the great famines of the world, and I find that this Russian famine is one of the most terrible mankind has ever known.

There have been since the world began 350 mighty famines, each of which has killed thousands and most of which have carried off people by the millions. The scriptures speak of famines in the time of Abraham, and the story of the "seven years' famine" which prevailed when Joseph was secretary of Pharaoh's treasury is a matter of biblical history. Rome had its famines hundreds of years before Christ, and about 300 years after Christ wheat was worth 400 pieces of silver a bushel in Antioch, and about 100 years later parents were eating their children in Italy to keep themselves from starving. Great Britain has had famines back to the earliest of her records, and about the time that the Normans came over it is said that there was such a famine over the northern country that many of the inhabitants sold themselves for slaves, and that the flesh of horses, dogs, cats and rats had fixed prices in the markets and some, it is alleged, even ate human flesh. Twenty thousand people starved in London during the twelfth century, and in the times of Queen Elizabeth wheat was worth $5 a bushel in London. Ireland has had many famines, and every time the potato crop fails there are numbers of deaths from starvation. Less than fifty years ago the great potato famine of 1846 took place, in which more than a quarter of a million Irishmen came over to America. This famine lasted more than six years and it reduced the population of Ireland 2,500,000.

Some Great Indian and Chinese Famines.

India has always been a land of famines. The people live from hand to mouth, and they do not get fat even when the crops are good. There are more than 250,000,000 people in India and nearly every year there is some part of Hindoostan which is more or less affected by want of food. One of the biggest famines of India was just six years before our declaration of independence. At that time more than 3,000,000 people died for want of food, and the air was so infected by the smell of the dead bodies that it brought disease as well as death. Whole villages were depopulated, and when the new crop came on it had in many cases no owner. This famine was caused by drouth. Ten years later India had another great famine and when George Washington first took his seat in the presidential chair people were killing and eating their children in some parts of India, and thousands were dying of famine. This terrible famine was caused by an army of black ants which swarmed over the country and destroyed the vegetation, and a few years later an army of locusts came along, and these were followed by a plague of rats which ate up the crops and almost attacked the people themselves. In 1868 a million and a-half of people perished from famine in Bengal and about ten years later a famine in Madras cost the English government something like $50,000,000.

It is much the same in China. The people are so many that at the time of a great flood or a great drouth they die by millions. It is estimated that between 10,000,000 and 20,000,000 people were wiped out by the overflowing of the Yellow river some years ago, and in 1877 70,000,000 were suffering from famine and an appeal was made to England and America for assistance. At this time women and children were offered by their parents for sale on the streets, and the price for a married woman was $6 and you could buy a little girl for $2. Many parents killed their children rather than witness their prolonged suffering, and the scenes of destitution and starvation were terrible. It is the same as the story of Russian famines, which seem to have occurred at intervals back to the beginning of history, and which promise, it is said, to continue in the future.

Great Floods and Drouths of the World.

One of the great causes of famine in the past has been floods. Whether the deluge covered the whole world or only a part of it, it certainly killed millions and it remained upon the earth 150 days. England and Ireland have had many floods which have killed thousands, and the inundations of Holland have several times nearly destroyed the entire population. In 1874 the floods of the Mississippi covered 250,000 acres of cotton, 100,000 acres of corn and 500,000 acres of sugar, and the rising of one river in France about this same time caused a loss of $75,000,000. Some of the floods of India have carried off men by the tens of thousands, and in one inundation in Holland seventy-two towns were destroyed, and 100,000 people perished.

Hundreds of famines have been caused by heat, and drouth has carried away millions. All of the eastern countries have been affected by drouth, and nearly every year sees a famine in some part of India. India has had thirty-four big famines in a century, but none of these famines has covered the whole country, and had the means of transportation been better there would have been no need for loss of life. Such of the soil as is under irrigation always produces a crop, and the English government is now doing what it can to increase the irrigated area, and it has covered the country with a network of railroads. One of the great troubles about the famine in Russia is the defective transport. The railroads, while they run between the large cities, are nevertheless comparatively few, and it is not possible to get the food quickly to the people.

Australia is another country which has been troubled with drouth, and nearly $20,000,000 worth of sheep were lost through lack of water in 1877, in New South Wales. Just about the same year 10,000,000 sheep were lost in the Australian colonies and in South Africa, and about this same time there was a period of distressing drouth in the United States.

The Russian famine of today was caused by drouth. For five months these Russian provinces had not a drop of rain, and this great heat had been preceded by terrible frosty winds in the spring. All sorts of grasses were burned up and withered by the heat, and prairie rats by the tens of thousands swept over the country and ate what was left. In addition to this there were clouds of insects which came by the millions, consuming everything with which they came in contact. The devastation cannot be conceived, and it will be some years before Russia can recover from it.

Talks With Russian Ministers.

I doubt whether the people of the United States have any adequate idea of the Russia of today. I have known a number of the ministers which we have sent to that country and I find that their ideas of Russia and the czar are far different from those of other people. I met the other day at Detroit ex-Minister Lothrop, who represented this country at St. Petersburg some years ago. Mr. Lothrop is one of the most famous lawyers of the northwest, and he was very popular in Russia. He is a man of extraordinary ability and great culture, and during his stay at St. Petersburg his daughter married one of the most noted of the Russian barons. We have the idea that the Russian people are oppressed by the czar and that they look upon him as a despot and a tyrant. Said ex-Minister Lothrop to me:

"The Russian people are as loyal to their ruler as are any people of the world. They reverence the czar and look up to him, and the masses consider him of a higher order of creation than themselves. The czar has been much misrepresented. He is a conscientious, God-fearing man and is doing all he can for his people. The Russian government, however, has to control more than 100,000,000 of souls. It is made up of many diverse elements, and it has to have a vast machinery and numerous officials to control these. The emperor has to intrust his work largely to subordinates, and though these are on the average efficient and honest there are in Russia, as in the United States, some who may not be. Russia is to a large extent governed by the people, and it will be surprising to many to know that the Russians have civil rights to a larger extent than most of the countries of the world. According to the village system of Russia, the villagers govern themselves. They elect their own officers with the exception of a few who are appointed by the czar. They make their own laws and they are allowed to do as they please, where they do not come into contact with the czar. They have their own courts and they pass their own sentences, now and then even to sending prisoners to Siberia. The Russians are doing a great deal in relieving the distress of the famine, and Russia is spending millions upon millions of dollars for this purpose. I don't believe there is a more courteous, kinder and better people in the world than the Russians, and I consider them one of the greatest nations in the world."

Minister Smith on the Russian Famine.

Hon. Charles Emory Smith, who has just returned from Russia, says that the famine there will last up until late in August and without the crops are good it will probably extend on into the coming year. "The destitution of the people is," says he, "inconceivable and a great part of their loss comes from their stock. The famine was so terrible that the cattle were carried off by it and the people have nothing with which to work their fields. In some provinces more than half the horses were killed, and those that lived are haggard and lean. A great number of the cattle were either killed or starved to death, and inasmuch as these are largely used for draught animals in Russia the loss is incalculable." Minister Smith says that the Russians have given between $75,000,000 and $100,000,000 to relieve the famine and that they are continuously sending food into the famine districts. Many of the richest and noblest ladies of Russia are working among the starving, and they have established soup kitchens and food supply points throughout the most severely afflicted districts. Mr. Smith says that the Russians feel very kindly toward the Americans for the aid they have sent them, and he thinks the action has brought the two countries closer together. A few days ago I called at the Russian legation in Washington on Hon. Charles de Struve, who has for years represented Russia in the United States, and he told me that Americans could not appreciate how kindly Russia felt toward them for their sympathy and aid in their time of trouble, and it is said this feeling is current throughout the Russian empire and hat its moral influence will be very great.

A Talk with Clara Barton.

It is well known that all the gifts of the United States have been through the Red Cross society, with Miss Clara Barton at its head. How much these gifts amount to will be surprising to the people. Already four shiploads have been sent, and these will average about $100,000 each in value. The Iowa corn which left on the Tynehead loaded that great ship down to the water and it will be of great use in the keeping alive of the cattle. This included 200 carloads of corn, and it came from Iowa alone. The millers of the northwest furnished a shipload of flour and the citizens of Philadelphia bought 5,000 barrels of Minneapolis flour and sent it off. A great deal of money has been contributed and much of this has come from little children. Miss Barton tells me that she received the other day $63, every cent of which was contributed by children who had worked for the pennies or who had denied themselves some luxury in order to get them for the Russians. Many children throughout the country have been allowed by their parents a cent a meal for doing without butter or sugar, and some little ones have been paid by their parents a cent a day for doing certain chores, and it is from such pennies that hundreds upon hundreds of dollars have been gathered together and have been sent to the little children of Russia. The other day a little girl was brought into the Red Cross society rooms here by her father. She had tightly clasped in her hands 30 cents which she said she wished to give to the hungry little ones in Russia. She had saved this and the giving of it was her own idea. Her father told her while she was in the room that she need not give the money unless she wished to. He said to her that the Russian children would never know that the money came from her and explained that it would go into a general fund and no one would know that she had anything to do with it. "But," said the little girl, "the people will have that much more to eat, won't they?" And when she was told yes, she gave the money. Many instances have occurred here and all over the country and the gifts in some cases amount to thousands of dollars. A few days ago a lady handed Miss Barton a slip of paper saying she wanted to give this to the Red Cross society but she did not want her name connected with it. It was a check for $1,000.

How the Red Cross Works.

There is no more modest woman in the United States than Miss Clara Barton. She works very quietly, and to talk with her you would never imagine that she had managed some of the largest charitable efforts in the history of this generation. She is of about medium height and weighs, I judge, not over 125 pounds. She dresses in black and her only jewelry is her round pin of white enamel with a red cross in the center at the neck, and below this a great pansy made of an amethyst and presented to Miss Barton by the grand duchess of Baden. She does not court newspaper notoriety and her manners in conversation are as quiet and simple as those of any mother in the country. She makes you think more of a good mother than of any one else and her eyes fill with sympathetic tears as she discusses the woes of the famine or the sorrows of suffering humanity. She is a woman who loves her fellowman and who is endowed with a large amount of the practical ability of knowing how to help them. She was the first woman nurse during the late war and she did great good in the Franco-Prussian war among the wounded. She believes in doing good on a large scale and she tells me that the Red Cross society devotes itself to a study of the condition of the world, and wherever it finds that there is want, destitution and suffering it considers it its duty to point out to the rest of the people the fact. It does not stand before the world as a beggar but as a great information bureau which announces to the people who have means where they may have the privilege of giving to help their fellowmen. It also undertakes to forward such gifts to those who are in want, and it devotes itself to national calamites rather than to individual ones.

"It is now more than a year," said Miss Barton, "since we saw the coming danger in Russia. We knew that the famine was imminent, but before we went to work we called upon the Russian legation and asked as to the situation and whether Russia would accept our help. We were told there that the reports had not been exaggerated, and we found that 20,000,000 Russian peasants were affected by the failure of crops and that the people were living on roots and other refuse and that millions were on the verge of starvation. We organized our work at once and the result is well known. We will be sending over money and food from time to time, though we may not send it in shiploads. We are receiving contributions daily and we are glad to forward all that is sent."

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