

## THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 24th day of January, 1905.  
(Seal) M. J. HUNGEY, Notary Public.

For the first time in its history Omaha is suffering from congestion of grain.

A social side to the Commercial club is all right in its way, but the business side of the club is the one that counts.

If we are to have any benefit from the municipal paving repair plan this year its acquisition and installation should be expedited.

That Missouri deadlock ought to be getting to the point now where a burglar's kit will be called into requisition to open it.

With Lane Young on his way home from Panama a new departure may be expected in the Iowa "standpat" program at any time.

Norway wants to be free from Sweden, but seems to be in doubt as to the proper course to pursue since there is no international divorce court.

If Dr. Dwight H. Hill will read some of the reports from Kansas he may change his opinion regarding loss of imagination by Americans.

West Virginia is up against an extra session of the legislature. Most of our states are willing to be satisfied with a single regular session and a short one at that.

It is now said that Addicks of Delaware has lost his fortune. This is all the more depressing because another installment of the Delaware legislation is almost due.

When the six mammoth elevators projected for Omaha during the present year are completed and in full blast Omaha's rank as a grain distribution center will be an accomplished fact.

San Domingo reports all quiet on that island. The report can only be understood when it is remembered that Uncle Sam is holding the purse strings and there is not enough left to repay a revolution.

A German minister of state is making comparisons between railroad accidents in this country and in Prussia. Emperor William now has an opportunity to show his good feelings toward America by ringing down the curtain on this investigation.

Perhaps the man on the Russian ship who reported an attack by torpedo boats in order to explain damage to his machinery was only trying to protect the contractor who built the ship, but he was acting without taking into consideration the czar's Hague convention.

Russian soldiers who have demonstrated their ability to throw hand grenades may have taken their lessons in the school where the objective is to strike a grand duke, for there is little difference between a bomb and a grenade and their use by the Russian army may be a concession to the revolutionary societies.

Senator Morgan's promise to talk the staidhood bill to death makes sure that Arizona is to stay on the outside for a little while yet and that the appointment to a place on the territorial bench captured by Judge Tucker will not prove to be an elusive will-o'-the-wisp.

Perhaps that is what Senator Morgan is talking for—to have the berths of the federal officials holding jobs in the territories.

And now Mike Harrington declares that he is willing to stake his reputation as a lawyer on the proposition that the commodity rate bill will be declared unconstitutional if enacted. The railroad attorneys, however, are not so cocksure about it or they would pull open the switch and let the bill shoot through on the legislative main line instead of trying to keep it on the side track by the display of danger signals.

## TESTING THE SHERMAN ACT.

Unquestionably the greatest and most important test of the Sherman anti-trust law will be made in connection with the action that is now being taken by the federal authorities to bring the members of the Beef trust to punishment for having violated the injunction of the federal court. So far as known the evidence seems to be conclusive that the men or the corporations who were enjoined by the judicial authority have paid no attention to the mandate of the court, but have gone on pursuing the course prohibited by that decree. This means not only that they have continued to violate the anti-trust law, but have also been in contempt of the court, which is in itself a very serious matter.

The proceedings, or rather the findings, of the grand jury at Chicago will be regarded by the country with the greatest interest. Upon its judgment will depend not only a great deal affecting the Beef trust, but all other combinations of a like nature having relation to the public interests. If the packers are decided to be subject to the criminal provision of the anti-trust law, which it seems highly probable they may be, there will be no difficulty in applying this same provision to others whom the courts may find to be operating in hostility to the law. Thus will be established a precedent by which all of the trusts can be held to an accountability for their violations of the law.

How valuable this would be as a restraining influence is obvious. Once it has been established by the federal courts that a corporation which has violated the laws can be punished as provided in the statutes, there is every reason to believe that no corporation will take the risk of undergoing such punishment. Thus far there has been no attempt to apply the criminal clause of the anti-trust law. That portion of the act, the importance of which is fully recognized, has been ignored by the courts, perhaps for sound and sufficient reasons. The time seems to be at hand when this feature of the law must be recognized and enforced and the result of the action of the grand jury at Chicago will determine whether that is to be the starting point for such an appreciation of the penal clause of the anti-trust law as will compel all combinations that are contravening that law to realize their responsibility and danger. It is in view of this that the result of the grand jury investigation in Chicago has an extraordinary interest for the whole country.

## THE NORTH SEA DECISION.

The fact that the first report regarding the decision of the commission in the North Sea case was incorrect, and that the court found against Russia, will be very generally regarded with a sense of gratification. In our reference to the matter a few days ago, based upon the report that the commission had justified the Russian naval commander in firing upon the fishing fleet in the North sea, we stated what seemed to be the obvious objections to such a decision. The view then expressed is sustained by the official position of the commission, which finds that there was no justification for the action of the Russian commander.

There was a disposition shown, which however natural cannot be unqualifiedly commended, to find some palliating circumstances for the course of the commander of the Russian squadron. Perhaps there will be no objection to this, and yet it must be said that if any adequate excuse can be found for an outrage of this nature it would be exceedingly difficult to draw the line as to where the commander of a fleet, in time of war, should take precautions not to fire into innocent vessels, if he should happen to fancy that among them were hostile ships. In this particular case it does not appear that the Russian admiral made any effort to ascertain the character of the vessels he fired into. Having been told by some of his subordinates that there were Japanese torpedo boats among the fishing fleet—as to the character of which he seems to have made no effort to acquaint himself—he permitted the attack. No such thing, it is safe to say, would have been possible on the part of an American or British officer. Either would have investigated the situation, which was by no means difficult, and would have taken no action without positive knowledge of danger.

The decision of the commission is fair and just. There is no excuse whatever for the firing on the fishing fleet. It was a flagrant outrage and the British government will be fully justified in demanding for it a heavy indemnity. Moreover, the decision of the commission is of very great importance to all the maritime nations, since a different conclusion would require them, in time of war, to provide a naval convoy for their merchant vessels on the oceans. This would make for every such power a simply intolerable situation and consequently all of them will welcome the verdict of the North Sea commission.

**THE NATURAL OUTLET TO TIDE WATER.**  
The irrepressible conflict between gulf ports and Atlantic ports in competition for grain exports is not likely to subside by reason of a railroad traffic managers' settlement of the grain rate war. The natural outlet for the bulk of the farm products of the Mississippi and Missouri valleys—the granary of the world—is the gulf. New Orleans, Galveston and Port Arthur are hundreds of miles nearer to the grain producing region than are New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, or any other port on the Atlantic.

Railway grades to the gulf ports are easy, while the mountain chain that has to be crossed in getting to the Atlantic ports, except by way of the roundabout course of the New York Central, requires a greater motive power and consequently becomes a more costly haul.

As a natural sequence the greater part of the exports of the Mississippi and Missouri valleys will ultimately go through the gulf outlets. A locomotive can draw approximately twice as heavy

a load to the gulf ports than to the Atlantic ports, and moreover make better time. While distance counts comparatively little in steamship transportation, it cuts a great figure in transportation by rail, especially where the difference ranges from 300 to 500 miles, or from twelve to twenty-four hours in time of delivery.

The only advantage possessed by the Atlantic seaports over the gulf outlet is in the return cargo. More than 90 per cent of all the imports to the United States from all parts of the world come to the mercantile distributing centers of the Atlantic. New York, Boston, Baltimore and Philadelphia are also the destination of more than 90 per cent of all the immigrants that land in America, and immigrants are the most profitable cargo carried by ocean steamers. This is precisely where the Atlantic ports have their linings over the gulf ports.

The broadstuffs exported by way of New Orleans and Galveston must pay in part for the ballast carried by the freight line steamers returning from foreign ports to America, and this differential the north and south railroads must make up for the steamship lines that carry grain and food products from the gulf to foreign ports. This differential will, however, be compensated for at no distant day. The completion of the Panama canal will inaugurate a complete revolution of international commerce and furnish for the gulf ports all the advantages of a return cargo.

Members of the park board are endeavoring to have salaries attached to their positions, representing that the management of the parks calls for business ability that ought to be worth money to the city. The example of a board of water commissioners drawing salaries without even a water plant to manage is evidently having its effect and the next thing in order will be for the members of the library board, the school board and other bodies that devote their time and talents to public business to refuse longer to work for glory and to put in claims for compensation.

The resignation of City Attorney Wright explains why that officer has been displaying such manifest indifference to the salary scale manipulations of the charter framers so far as they relate to the stipend attached to that office. The interest of a retiring officer in the size of the salary under an amended charter that cannot go into effect for some time yet cannot be very intense.

The proprietor of the Henshaw has pleaded guilty to having had a dozen dressed quail at his hotel and a fine of \$30 and costs has been imposed on him for the offense by Justice of the Peace Foster. Had the proprietor of the Henshaw pleaded guilty of harboring six undressed quail he might possibly have escaped the punishment.

There is no more reason why an office in the city hall should be rented to a lawyer than to a doctor or an insurance agent. If the city has office space to let, an invitation for proposals would probably show that some foxy paying contractor would be ready to bid the highest price.

Those filibusters at Mobile who desire to set Guatemala free should remember that the United States is still watching the Cuban experiment and should desist until President Palma "makes good" beyond question.

**Silence Smacks of Wisdom.**  
Brooklyn Eagle.

There is more merit in repression than expression. No one can get us to say what we think of the fusion of plants and purposes better than President Roosevelt and Mr. William J. Bryan.

**Armed for the Fray.**  
Washington Post.

On the heels of the announcement that Mr. Garfield is going after the Standard Oil trust the statement is made that Mr. Rockefeller weighs 200 pounds, has splendid digestion and no hair that can be pulled. Sounds like a challenge.

**Ferment of Unrest.**  
Philadelphia American.

The whole world seems to be in a ferment of unrest. Great changes are brewing in political and industrial circles, and there will probably be some sharp explosions before matters are settled down quietly into the new conditions which plainly are to control matters in the future.

**A Startling Idea.**  
Baltimore American.

This new idea that men in public office must work to earn their salaries is so radical and startling that no wonder every interested neck is craned to see what practical politics is going to do about it. No man can serve two masters, and how is a man to keep his head with any contentment when his salary at one and the same time?

**A Tactical Blunder.**  
Philadelphia Press.

A Standard Oil company official is quoted as saying that the reason the company stopped buying oil in Kansas was that it had more oil on storage in that state than the state would consume in months. But that is a "pretty thin" excuse. The Standard Oil company does not expect that all the oil produced in a state will be consumed by its residents. The company made a blunder when it undertook to coerce Kansas.

**Will the People Forget It?**  
Chicago Tribune.

What the representatives of the railroads are trusting to is the fickleness of public opinion. They think the people have been overcome by a gust of passion. They propose to put this bill "on ice" and see if the people will not forget it. Popular anger is short-lived. But the people do not always forget. They never do forget when they are suffering from wrong or oppression, and they never will forget the public servants who attempt to fasten such oppression or wrong upon them, contrary to law, justice and the repeated exhortation of their will.

**Medical Care of Armies.**  
Baltimore American.

An American surgeon who has just returned from an inspection of the Japanese army in the field made the astonishing statement that the congressional committee on military affairs that Japanese methods of army sanitation are a million times better than those of the American army during the Spanish war. He instances that only 1 per cent of sickness among the Japanese soldiers is fatal, while 70 per cent of the cases of sickness in the American army were fatal. If, however,

the Japanese had been campaigning in a tropical and miasmatic climate, their percentage of fatalities might have been different.

## Women's Progress as Inventors.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.  
Women are making a rapid advance as inventors in the United States. During the first twenty-five years of the government fifteen patents were granted to women. Today they are represented on nearly every page of the patent office books, including locomotives, agricultural machinery, intricate locks and dam and reservoir construction.

**Soothing Effect of Time.**  
Springfield Republican.

The passage by the house of representatives of a resolution ordering the return of civil war battle flags to the states that originally owned them was accompanied by cheers, it appears. As the resolution provides for the return of confederate as well as federal flags, the episode reminds one of the high school prize fight which was criticized not so many years ago. Now the act of the house attracts almost no attention.

## Control of Trusts Imperative.

Philadelphia Press.  
Trusts, as they are known, now reach into many lines of business before thought impossible. A trade journal asserts that numerous banks in various parts of the country are working together to strengthen the Interstate Commerce trust, and to refuse accommodations to those manufacturers of implements who refuse to sell to the trust at its price. In New Jersey a bill before the legislature provides for the control of the water supply of the state for diphtheria and some other diseases, on the ground that the product is now controlled by a trust which demands exorbitant prices. The work of the Standard Oil trust in Kansas and in other states has forced legislation to meet the evil. The enormous wealth which a few men have already acquired by such methods emphasizes the need of legislation to control such organizations in the interest of the people.

**FARM IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.**  
Value of Food Products Sent Abroad and What We Received.

Boston Transcript.  
The official reports of our comparative agricultural imports and exports for the year recently closed lend an interesting testimony to analysis, and as agriculture is the foundation of our prosperity we can find indications in them of where our strength or weakness lies. In certain important respects we discern a falling off from the figures of the preceding year.

For instance, we sent abroad last year meat products to the value of only a little more than \$100,000,000, while in 1903 it was \$125,556,400 and in 1902 \$177,747,608, the most marked falling off being in canned goods. The value of our exports of agricultural products to the foreign market within the past two years. Although somewhat ahead of 1903, with an export of \$235,055, we are yet behind 1902 by considerably more than \$2,000,000, the cessation of the war in South Africa accounting for the difference, while the drop in the mule trade is proportionately much more marked.

Our imports of coffee for 1904 footed up \$87,427,009, but it will surprise some of our citizens to learn that we also exported coffee to the value of \$200,000. Our cotton consignments abroad were \$70,444,946, a gain over the previous year, while our imports of the staple reached nearly \$50,000,000. Corn and cornmeal exports returned over \$38,000,000, while we imported those articles to the amount of \$12,000,000 from our northern neighbor. We sent abroad wheat and wheat flour to the value of more than \$60,000,000 and imported something more than \$1,000,000. Our ratio of imports to exports in all domestic animals was \$2,329,026 to \$47,547,823.

The exhibit for which it is the most difficult to account of in the whole list is that of vegetables. We imported to the value of \$5,571,134, while our exports came to only \$2,555,572. The largest items of the imports were fresh vegetables, and preserved and pickled vegetables. We can account for the latter, but not for the potatoes. This is a vegetable country of great productiveness and potatoes are always a staple. They are no more unusual than the other crops and for the amount of land required they lead any of the grain in profit. They require careful watching through the beetle season, but they repay the attention. The situation seems to carry a suggestion for the farmers to put more tubers into their land and take care of them. To bring potatoes to the United States should be a greater economic achievement than carrying coals to Newcastle.

**WHAT IS A RECESS?**  
Committee of Senators Tackle a Political Puzzle.

Baltimore American.  
The senate judiciary committee has been instructed to solve a riddle. It is what it is called constitutes a recess between two sessions of the senate. The question is whether the president can appoint and remove officers during the recess. The committee is likely to be reached by the committee be likely to lead to one. It is of interest only as one of those political puzzles which baffle the most skillful. Both the senate and house are divided on the question so far as it is practical, because both have taken action in the most extreme case that can be presented.

There never can be a more striking instance of a constructive recess than that which occurred in the beginning of the third session of the present congress. The senate closed its session at the moment when, by law, the third session of that congress began, and immediately organized for the third session. At the same time the house adjourned and the two bodies were subsequently confirmed. This precedent of itself makes the question purely academic. The senate by its own action has recognized the validity of recess appointments. The only question is whether the president has the right of appointment in such a case. It does not seem, therefore, a matter practically what the senate committee may find, but it will be interesting as a political or constitutional puzzle.

The only thing that can be plausibly likened as a mathematical puzzle, which is where two lines intersect each other, but a point has neither length, breadth or thickness. There is undoubtedly a recess or recess between two sessions of the senate. Owing to human infirmity they may merge, but they are nevertheless distinct in point of law and cannot be confounded with each other. However small may be the recess, there is one, and if there be one the president has the right to make appointments. The only way of absolutely determining the question would be by an action before the supreme court, something that is unlikely to happen. That court would, we think, decide that there was a recess which furnished the opportunity for the exercise of the president's prerogative.

## STATE PRESS COMMENT.

York Democrat: If Kansas can wrestle with the Standard Oil company why can't Nebraska give its lots for a contest with the Burlington.

Fremont Tribune: The state senate having decided on red cans for gasoline, ought to go a step further and stipulate asbestos garments for hired girls.

Hurwell Tribune: The Omaha Bee is eminently correct on the railway rate question. Give us lower freight rates and a chance to have a railroad commission.

Kearney Hub: The Omaha Bee makes three good suggestions to the Nebraska legislature, to-wit: (1) Pass the commodity rate bill; (2) pass a bill making it the duty of the State Board of Lands and Buildings to perform the functions formerly devolving on the State Board of Transportation; (3) submit the constitutional amendment for an effective railroad commission.

Neligh Leader: By testimony introduced in the United States court at Omaha it is proved that the furnishing of liquor to the Indians by the saloon keepers of Homer has been thoroughly systematized and accounted for in large proportions, with a recognized percentage to bootleggers and bonuses to the Indians who brought their associates into the bull pen back of the saloon where the liquor was distributed.

Beatrice Sun: A bill now before the legislature, and which is recommended to pass, would make the monetary policy of the state a bill to pay T. P. Kennard \$20,000 for acting as collecting agent for the state in the early days. Tom Kennard, Pat O'Hanney, Major Pearson and other equally eminent statesmen of past and present memory, have worked these grants with varying regularity and with marked success.

Aradica Champion: For this week we are obliged to let our readers off very easy on editorials. Editorials are, or at least should be, a discussion of the events of the day, giving the views of the editor in regard to them. Now the legislature, or any transaction of the world, is not a completely hidden behind huge snow banks, and ready and willing as we always are to express an opinion on everything that comes up, still we find that to laboriously discuss something that is so obvious to all the place, is just a little too big a job for us to tackle.

Kearney Hub: There is some danger that the Nebraska legislature will become tangled up in the multiplicity of railroad measures and thus fail to accomplish anything worth while.

The bill introduced in the legislature has been introduced in the horizontal position, but the committee, prepared by the special committee, the Caldwell bill seeks to go farther and enact a maximum rate law, but its feasibility is doubtful. The senate bill providing for the submission of an amendment to the constitution, the purpose of which is to create an elected state railway commission, has merit, but only to the extent that it supplements the rate reduction measure. Legislators should keep their eyes open and not lose sight of this fact. To merely submit an amendment at this time is equivalent to doing nothing.

Fremont Tribune: State Treasurer Mortensen has recommended that the law governing investment of state school funds be amended so as to make it legal to invest in real estate mortgages. His argument is that the law would tend to reduce the rate of interest, which he fears will go up. Of course it cannot be told how long the satisfactory condition with reference to money will prevail, but it is a fact that never before in the history of the country has it been possible to borrow money at such low rates. In the old financial centers money on call is at 3 per cent, and it may be had in unlimited quantities at this low rate. The best the legislature could do would be to submit an amendment to the constitution authorizing investment of school money in farm mortgages, and would mean that the indifference of the people at the polls to such an amendment would send it to the graveyard, along with a large number of good measures that have been buried.

**FRENZIED LUXURY.**  
Exhibition of Barbaric Splendors by Lawson and Company.

Chicago Chronicle.  
That Thomas W. Lawson of frenzied finance fame is a selfish and hypocritical humbug is demonstrable in many ways, but none so conspicuously as when he comes in his relation to a luxurious orgy last Monday night in New York.

This was the dinner given in honor of his birthday anniversary by the publishers of the magazine which has been well referred to as the medium through which Thomas W. Lawson of Boston exposed himself and others. He was too busy in writing "exposures," it may be presumed to be present at this entertainment in person, but was present in spirit and audibly by means of the long-drawn telephone.

The scene was the gorgeous St. Regis hotel, noted for its barbaric splendor and its fairyland beauty, the retreat of sycophants, gormandisers and blottinators. The tablecloth was of silver and the tableware the "special" gold service of the hotel. The menu included the finest productions of the most noted chefs, the wines were the choicest and the costliest and the menu card itself was a copyrighted wonder of art, bound in crushed brown leather and gold.

Lawson never said the like.

At every plate stood a telephone and when the feast was over Lawson paused long enough in his frenzied composition to connect himself by telephone with the brilliant scene and the joyous-hearted guests and to pour into their ears for twenty minutes things which, it seems, it was not lawful for them to utter. It is only known that he complimented his host on the fact that he was battling with the armies of greed and leading a simple life in a whirlpool of glided wealth and soul-detracting luxury.

This is exactly what any thought of a man who, under cover of exposing the worthlessness of other people's stocks, offers for sale his own stocks, and who, while deriding luxurious and artificial living, practices it himself to the full extent of his ability. Truly, the American people love to be humbugged.

**REGULATION BY STATES.**  
Local Efforts to Check the Greed of Transportation Companies.

Philadelphia Press.  
If a railroad rate bill is not passed by congress it is clear that the railroads will have trouble in conforming to the requirements of legislation in various states. Wisconsin, Kansas, Indiana, West Virginia, Washington, Missouri, Nebraska and other states are struggling with the subject.

The Wisconsin measure, advocated by Governor La Follette, provides for a commission of three members, one from each of the three branches of the legislature, with absolute power to fix passenger and freight rates within the state, even in advance of complaints. The Indiana senate has passed a bill creating a commission with a power to review rates and adjust those found to be inequitable. The Missouri legislature is considering a maximum freight rate bill, which also enlarges the power of the state commission. Other states have similar measures under consideration. There is a growing demand for such legislation, and the wise course would be to strengthen the national commission, when there would be less work for state commissions.

Disclosures in Kansas and elsewhere demonstrate that favoritism is still practiced by railroad men. One such disclosure arouses feeling over all the country and increases the demand for restrictive legislation. The folly of such work on the part of any railroad is only too evident. There should be punishment meted out to the guilty. But that seems rarely to be undertaken.

## RUSSIA'S WRETCHED CONDITION.

Historical Sketch of the Oppressions of Successive Rulers.

Civilization, progress and liberty are contagious factors, and a nation deprived of these elements is never immune from contracting them when coming in contact with nations who are blessed with the above qualifications. Follow history and you will see the assertion verified and corroborated.

The torch ignited by the French revolution spread like wildfire throughout Europe and the wave of revolution swept all the nations of the continent, resulting in establishing constitutional governments for all of them except Russia. Russia seems to have withstood the brunt of the terrible gale, resulting only in unrest or in a few skirmishes here and there. The density of ignorance of the people and the thickness of the wall built by the autocracy was too much to allow the light of civilization, the rays of progress or the wave of liberty to penetrate them; hence Russia never had a revolution on a grand scale, but retained its absolutism. But that is no proof that Russia is content with its form of government. The educated classes are quivering under it and are protesting against it continually and whenever the opportunity presents itself they kill a czar, a minister or start up a small revolution in the form of a riot.

The first uprising of any consequence Russia ever had was under the reign of Nicholas I. After the assassination of Paul by the military coup d'etat in December, 1825, the revolt was led by the intellectual soldiery of Russia known as the Decembrists. It is self-evident that the revolt was crushed by its incompetency in showing down the leaders in the street, and whoever was not killed there and then were hung later on after the mockery of a court-martial trial.

In 1848 the sounds of the guns of the fighters for liberty and human rights on the continent found its way into Russia by a few stray protests of the liberals of that unfortunate empire, but a more systematic and organized opposition to the government dates from the time of the ascension on the throne of Alexander II.

Russia had just gone through a disastrous war with France, England and other allied powers of Europe, the Crimean war. Russia's attention was drawn from her domestic troubles and the revolutionary party had time to organize. The revolutionary party was a peaceful one. Their main aim and object was to educate the masses and open their eyes to the existing conditions of the country and spread their propaganda among the peasants, workmen and militia. The government suppressed the peaceful propaganda, which was going on year after year, by putting missionaries of peace and freedom to death on the gallows, by stringing them up like miserable criminals. It was after such reprisals that the peaceful advocates of political freedom had adopted the same methods.

The government was pursuing its methods of terrorism. Tooth for tooth, eye for eye, and after a series of killing of ministers, generals, etc., they struck at the head of the government, the emperor himself. They assassinated Alexander II. In 1881, blowing him up to fragments by a bomb.

With the ascension of Alexander III a reign of terrible reaction was inaugurated. All the sham reforms instigated by the killed ruler in his mood of liberality at the close of the Crimean war were, one by one, swept aside, and the liberal advisers were dismissed.

Pobedonostsev, the tutor of Alexander III, was called to power as the new czar's adviser. A worse reactionary religious bigot and hypocrite never existed. It was by his advice that Finland was robbed of its independence and liberties, the Armenians slaughtered, the Poles crushed, and millions massacred. He was the power behind the throne, and Russia has never lived through such years of tyranny, oppression and religious persecution as in the years of 1881 to 1894.

Pobedonostsev found in the superstitious, ignorant and religious satrap a fertile soil for all his devilry, cunningness and chicanery. He found in the reigning monarch a tool, a soft clay to mould all his plans of murder, treachery and annihilation of everything that had the slightest sign of liberalism, free thought, etc., under the cover of religion, church and the love of Jesus. But fate has spared the poor creature and has taken away the stubborn reactionary monarch in 1894, only to give it a Sissy, a Ninny, a winking, a coward, a weak-minded individual in Nicholas II as a new ruler for poor Russia.

Devoid of courage, divested of knowledge of man in general, and the needs of his country in particular, he shifted all the responsibility as the head of the government to the grand dukes and other lackeys who cared little about the people and the country; whose only aim is to enrich themselves and enjoy a life of luxury and debauchery. The poor people were left to themselves. A deaf ear was turned to the crying needs of the poor sufferers. The people were taxed to the limit and are being crushed under the heavy burdens of new taxation in order to keep up the house of Romanoff in luxury and riches.

But something had to be done to divert the attention of the country from the state of ruin and revolution. The best way out of the dilemma was to plunge the country into war. And they plunged it. A war with Japan was declared, a war so far terribly disastrous to the economic conditions of the country and to human life. But the autocrats care if the masses are being slaughtered by the ten thousands?

What do they care if the country is literally starving as long as excitement is kept up and the minds of the people are diverted from the true conditions at home? The boom of the cannon in the orient is trying in vain to drown the cries of the needy people. But there is an end to everything. The worm is turning; the people have awakened from their long slumber and hypnotic state. They arose in bodies all over the country and marched to the palace of the satraps, with their wives and babes, outstretching their hands, crying for bread and for help. What did they get in answer? Bullets. They have asked for liberty and received chains. They have asked for bread and received bullets. They have asked for life and received death.

What will be the outcome of the present terrible conditions in that unfortunate country? Nothing for the present. You cannot fight a revolution with "fists" and "shouts" not as long as you are confronted with an army armed with modern weapons. The late uprising has conclusively proven this. As long as the people of Russia are not permitted to arm themselves any attempt to protest against the ruling power of the autocrats will be crushed with iron, steel and powder. As long as the army is blind and deaf to the cries of the suffering brethren they will shoot them down like dogs, even if fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters are in the throngs that are crying for succor and relief. As long as the people will be kept in ignorance and darkness the army, which is drawn from the same people, will shoot down the very people they have emerged from to protect the throne, the aristocracy, the bureaucracy and other enemies of the country under the pretext of patriotism and loyalty to the reigning power. It will take years before the reign of civilization and freedom will break through the cordons of the army. But when it does all the bloody revolutions of Europe will be a mere child's play in comparison with the one of Russia, when it comes. Blood will run in streams and the fortresses of Russia will not suffice to hold the decapitated heads of the dukes, princes and others who have been delighting themselves in all these years to crush, to murder and to annihilate the poor people, the true citizens of that great and vast empire.

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