

## GREAT JOY ALL OVER RUSSIA

People Enthusiastically Celebrate the Dawn of a New Era.

## WITTE SHOWERED WITH CONGRATULATIONS

Socialists and Revolutionists Attempt to Stir Up Strife and a Number of Minor Conflicts Are Reported.

(Continued from First Page.)

point of a serious encounter with the troops or with the loyalists.

**Soldiers Fraternize with Populace.** The soldiers of duty today mingled freely with the demonstrators and fraternized with the populace.

A number of them including several officers placed themselves at the head of one procession provoking wild cheers. A feature of the day was the intense animosity displayed by the orators against General Trepoff, the agitators universally demanding his removal, and at a great meeting in the university tonight one orator openly called for a volunteer to kill him. Count Witte, however, does not seem inclined to throw him overboard, at least for the present, and has also refused the proposals for the removal of the troops as sheer folly.

The forthcoming amnesty for political prisoners announced by Count Witte served to defeat a number of attempts made by agitators to stir the crowds up to attack the St. Petersburg institution in which political prisoners are detained, but which is strongly guarded by troops.

## Witte for Universal Suffrage.

During the afternoon Count Witte announced to a friend that he was not without hope that universal suffrage would be introduced before the elections for the state duma took place.

This announcement, which it spreads among the liberals will enroll many of the latter among the friends of the new government against the socialists, who announce that they will be satisfied with nothing less than a democratic republic on the basis of state socialism.

If the agitators force a collision and the army stands firm the resultant bloodshed will be apt to react against and to drive all except the radical element into the government camp, assuring Count Witte a strong majority in the duma when it assembles.

## Congratulations for Witte.

Count Witte has been showered with congratulations upon his personal triumph, but to all felicitations he says: "Wait. Reserve your congratulations until I have succeeded."

After seeing the Associated Press correspondent last night, Count Witte worked until 2 in the morning and was up again at 7. At 9 he began a series of consultations with his friends. Such news as comes from the interior today is distinctly better. The provincial authorities, through machinery which in that respect is perfect, spread the news of the grant of the constitution from house to house and this morning the strike appears everywhere to be going to pieces.

Before noon the celebrations began and the city soon appeared to have gone mad. Such scenes had never before been witnessed in Russia. Unrestrained by word or deed, the crowds did and said what they liked. Despotism seemed suddenly to have been replaced by license. Red flags were everywhere in evidence. In the churches devout men and women, on bended knees before the image of St. Nicholas, the miracle worker, rendered thanks for the blessings of liberty, while at the corners of the thronged streets orators harangued the populace. The people assembled principally on the Nevsky Prospect. From the Kazan cathedral to the town hall opposite the Hotel de l'Europe traffic was blocked.

## Red Flags Are Displayed.

Fully 30,000 workmen were massed there, listening to student orators, who delivered impassioned speeches from the steps of the town hall and cathedral. Red flags showed above the dense black mass of cheering humanity. The police kept in the background, not even trying to keep the street open. Passing patrols on their way to barracks would have been mobbed had it not been for the appeals of the cool-headed ones.

The biggest demonstration was organized by students and workmen. A great procession was formed. Starting from the university, 10,000 strong, it increased in numbers as the demonstrators marched across the river and up the Nevsky Prospect as far as the Kazan cathedral, singing the "Marseillaise." A dozen red banners, inscribed with the word "Svoboda" (liberty), were carried at the head of the parade, which stopped at the places where the troops fired on the people January 22, and the paraders, with bare heads, chanted "general strikes." The crowds in the streets uncovered their heads as the procession passed.

## Fervid Speeches at University.

At the Kazan cathedral the procession counter-marched to the university, where from the balconies students harangued the crowds with fervid speeches urging the people not to cease the struggle until every right of man had been attained. In the

midst of the oratory intense enthusiasm was created by a student who scaled the roof of the university and attached a red flag to the cross over the entrance.

The following is a sample of the inflammatory speeches:

You must go to the prisons and liberate your comrades. To arrive with revolution, dynamite and bombs. Trepoff is still in power. Our watchword must be that all the troops must be withdrawn from St. Petersburg and leave the capital in our possession. That bloody scoundrel Trepoff must be driven out of Russia. The doors of the battle and of the fortresses must be opened and a national guard must be created for the protection of our liberties. It would be fatal to stop now. The emperor has yielded because he is not sure of his army which, brothers, is with us. Their swords are on our side. Hurrah for liberty. Hurrah for socialism.

Counter demonstrations took place on the palace square, where several thousands of people bearing white flags knelt on the cobblestones and sang "God Save the Emperor," and prayed for the emperor.

## People Given Free Reins.

Although admitting that there is some danger in the uncontrollable exuberance of the people, the authorities have decided to give it the freest rein possible and only to interfere if public safety is threatened.

Old Russians who understand the temper of the people say that if the manifesto can arouse such manifestations in cosmopolitan, indifferent St. Petersburg, the people will go mad in the provinces and be a repetition of the scenes at the coronation which occasioned great disaster.

General Trepoff, speaking to the correspondent of the Associated Press about the effect of the manifesto said:

It is necessary to await the developments of the few days during which undoubtedly there will be great demonstrations all over the empire. I am not at all alarmed. I am followed by a period of tranquillity, as I feel certain the revolutionists who would not be content with anything will be unable to continue the agitation effectively.

## Women Take Part.

As the afternoon advanced the crowds became more unruly and there seemed to be a momentary danger of great disorders. Up to 6 o'clock, however, no serious collisions had taken place. The workmen all over left the work and drifted to the center of the city, massing before the Kazan cathedral. Fully 100,000 persons gathered in the great square, completely filling the space between the spreading colonnades of the cathedral whose wings, like St. Peter's at Rome, stretch out like arms on either side. The spectacle was impressive. In the gathering gloom, the red banners massed behind speakers on the cathedral steps seemed like splashes of blood against the grey, cold, imposing edifice. The orators were mostly students and workmen. Their appeals kindled the wildest enthusiasm in the crowds which included hundreds of workmen and girl students. The oratory continued for hours and while it was in progress a procession was formed with students at its head bearing red flags. A cry was set up "to the battle!" and the procession started in that direction.

Preparations had been made against attempts to storm the political prison, termed the bastille, and all the forenoon two companies of the Semenofsky regiment and four squadrons of Hussars were drawn upon on Shpalenska street with ample reserves of the leaders of the procession, however, had already been announced that Count Witte had announced that an amnesty proclamation was being prepared and led the procession to the Nevsky Prospect and the Nicholas station, followed by an immense crowd, all singing and shouting. Complete darkness had settled down before their return.

## People Panic Stricken.

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The strike committee during the afternoon decided to continue the strike, joining with the students in their demand for the deposition of General Trepoff, general amnesty, the removal of the troops to twenty miles out of the city and the creation of a national militia. There were some minor disorders and revolver firing reported during the day. The police were everywhere, but the police did not seem to be in the mood of cheering humanity.

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## Rejoicing in Poland.

WARSAW, Russian Poland, Oct. 31.—The imperial manifesto granting constitution to Russia made a deep impression on the people here. They embraced in the restaurants and there was universal rejoicing, in which army officers joined. The military patrols have been withdrawn.

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to remain on strike until the question of the use of the Polish language is settled and until the government problems amnesty for political prisoners and self-government for Russian Poland.

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## OUR LETTER BOX.

**Cost of Life Insurance.** OMAHA, Oct. 31.—To the Editor of The Bee: I have read with much interest your splendid editorial in The Bee under the caption "Cost of Life Insurance." The figures you quote are correct, nevertheless they are startling. That the expense of management are out of all proportion cannot be denied and reform along lines of economy is demanded by the public, and justly so.

Unfortunately the grouping of all the eighty odd companies in one grand total of income and disbursements does great injustice to the conservative companies more economically managed, while the extravagant and most expensively managed are put in better light than they deserve. There is probably no business in which there is so large a difference in management as in life insurance. Neither is there any business of one-tenth its magnitude of which the general public knows so little, and it is this very ignorance that has enabled companies to become so extravagant and grasping. If you please, would the public study insurance and familiarize themselves with company management like they study other subjects in which they make investments, two-thirds of the companies would be compelled to either reform their methods or quit doing business. New business costs some companies for commissions, salaries to agents, medical examinations, etc., 120 per cent of the first year's premium, while it costs some companies only 50 per cent. Some companies use up for expenses of all kinds only 12 per cent of their income, while others use over 40 per cent. The cost of life insurance can be lessened only by reducing expenses of management. The laws of mortality