

# Proclamation of Freedom Brings Death and Terror to Warsaw

**WARSAW, February 18.**—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—The times are so exciting here that one hardly has time to write to you people across the sea in your happy country—happy because free. Notwithstanding two proclamations of the imperial decree, one of October 30 and the other of December 16, 1904, by which the so-called constitutional rights were given to the people of the entire empire and more particularly to those of Poland, this country is still in a "state of siege" as I write, and the black terror of absolutism is raging in every part of the land in every possible manner.

In the first place the humorous constitution has promised the people the right to erect and to form a national congress or legislature, called here the "Douma," which is to convene in St. Petersburg. On hearing such glorious news the people of the city, on the evening of November 1, the day after the first proclamation, organized a great procession through the streets, marching with national flags flying and singing patriotic songs. By common consent they all met at the end of the various line of march in "Theater square" before the "magistrate's building," or city hall, as it would be called in America. This building contains the chief police station of the city and the people expected that, in commemoration of the proclamation of the constitution, and according to its terms, the political prisoners would be released. Warsaw is a city of over 800,000 people and it is not surprising that, while many persons did not take part in the procession, the square was, in a short time, literally packed with people.



CITY HALL IN WARSAW, IN FRONT OF WHICH MOUNTED COSSACKS RODE DOWN DEFENSELESS MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN.



STREET SCENE IN WARSAW—PEDESTRIAN SEARCHED BY SOLDIER IN PRESENCE OF POLICEMAN.—From a Photograph Recently Taken.

after all, the exiles may be more fortunate than those imprisoned in Poland.

**Conditions of the Prisoners.**  
I must now describe to you some of the prisons in which political prisoners are kept. In the city of Warsaw and its vicinity there are about 30,000 prisoners held for political offenses only. Many of these persons have been in confinement two and three months and have not been given examination. It is therefore probable that they are innocent and are being "held on suspicion." The authorities were unprepared for so many "offenders" and had made no provisions for caring for them. After the regular prisons were filled they placed the unfortunate prisoners in the quarters most convenient to the officers—in places which under other circumstances would not be used to shelter low-grade animals. Not having sufficient furniture for these temporary prisons, they give each prisoner ten pounds of straw to be used at night for a bed and during the day for a seat.

I here thought to describe the food given them, but after writing it down I fear to transmit it, as it would require an affidavit before a notary in order to impress its truth upon American minds, and under the circumstances I am making no affidavits on the subject when such must be recorded by Russian officials. Suffice it to say that such rations were never issued to civilized men before, except perhaps during some of the starvation times in towns besieged in the "dark ages."

**Scenes on the Streets.**  
It may be better to illustrate rather than to describe the street life in Warsaw at this time, and for this purpose I send a number of photographs, some of them



COSSACKS DISPERSING CROWDS ON STREETS OF WARSAW.—Drawn from Description by Eye Witness.

## Cossacks Sabre the People.

Then followed an event which could not have taken place outside of the Russian empire. The managers of the parade had not taken into their confidence Mrs. Bibicoff, wife of the president or mayor of Warsaw, who resides with his family in the city hall. Mrs. Bibicoff is a sister-in-law of Mr. Scallan, the governor general of Poland. When she saw the great crowd, which was so dense as to be practically impassable, she became alarmed. Other ladies here were alarmed, as the authorities, which had permitted the parade, were not prepared for one of this size; but their fears were nothing compared to those of the woman. She immediately communicated with the governor general by telephone, telling him of the situation and her fears. He, without waiting to investigate the matter, immediately issued a command by telephone to an officer of the troops, telling him to clear the square forthwith. This terrible order was given to Cossacks for execution. These semi-barbarous troops knew nothing of the situation and probably cared less. They were told to clear the square and instead of executing the order in a sensible manner they entered the square mounted through each of the four avenues leading to it, and with drawn swords charged the unarmed and peaceable men, women and children there assembled.

It seemed that they felt called upon to avenge the defeats upon the Yalu and at Mukden, and well they did their "duty," for, without opening an avenue for the people to leave the square, they rode them down, striking indiscriminately with the sword men, women and children in all conditions of life, leaving many wounded upon the streets and others maimed for life.

## Authorities Repress the People.

This "scarlet first of November" will be recorded in the history of this country as the "baptism of blood" of the glorious (?) constitution. From this incident began the practice of the strongest repressive measures on the part of local authorities, who understand that the new constitution will cut the ground from under their feet. As a consequence the freedom of the press, so heralded in the imperial manifesto, has become, in the hands of the administrators of the old system, an excuse for still stronger and closer censorship. Many newspapers have since the proclamation been confiscated, the offices closed and the editors imprisoned. Their private lodgings have been searched and their homes "rattled by the police."

The same rule applies to the guaranty of personal liberty by the manifesto and also to religious liberty. In the latter case the authorities have prohibited the singing of hymns in churches which have patriotic tendencies, special mention being made of the old hymn beginning with the words "Bosc cos Polake," which has been translated into English by the late Paul Soboswaki of Chicago, the hymn beginning: "O, Lord, thou has to Poland lent thy right hand and with a Father's strong protecting hand. His given fame and all its glory bright. And through long ages saved our Fatherland. We chant at thy alters our humble strain, O, Lord, make the land of our love free again."

This hymn closes with the words: "O, Lord, who rules o'er all the wide world's path. At thy command we raised from dust may be. If in the future we deserve thy wrath. Turn us to dust—but let that dust be free." And this hymn, notwithstanding the imperial constitutional manifesto, is absolutely prohibited because there is a prayer in it for freedom, and that freedom would mean the end of the rule of despotic and "conservative" office holders.

Liberty of speech has not met the same destiny. Those who have freely expressed their minds in public meetings have been arrested at night in their homes and many sent to distant parts of the empire; but

# Most Extensive Irrigation Project on the Continent

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**CALGARY, Alberta, March 15.**—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—By all odds the biggest irrigation project on the North American continent is now under way in this province of Alberta. In 1902 all the irrigated lands of the United States did not amount to 1,500,000 acres. By this scheme Canada will receive 1,500,000 acres of semi-desert, and that by private parties without government aid. The work has been undertaken by the Canadian Pacific railroad, which has exchanged a part of its land grant for 3,000,000 acres lying between here and Medicine Hat. Of this 1,500,000 acres will be put under water and the balance will be sold to the irrigated land owners for pasture and mixed farming. This tract of irrigated land is almost as great as all the irrigated land of Colorado or California. It is more than twice that of Utah, Idaho or Wyoming and many times that of any other western state.

This work is now going on. One hundred and ten thousand acres are now ready for the turning on of the water and double that amount will be added this year. The project will be handled in blocks of 1,000,000 acres each and it will be continued until the whole tract is redeemed and settled. Altogether, it means supplying homes to something like 30,000 families, and with the towns and other industries which will be built up along the line it ultimately means addition of about 300,000 people to Canada's population.

**In the Great American Desert.**  
The lands to be redeemed are a part of what was once known as the Great American Desert. This runs northward through the western part of the United States and on into Canada. There is more water here than in our tributary country, but there are dry seasons, which make the lands unfit for ordinary farming, although winter wheat is now being raised on much

of it. For the past fifteen years the Canadian government has had engineers at work taking the levels, measuring the streams and locating reservoirs. From such surveys it has been found that there are 70,000,000 acres of semi-arid land which need irrigation occasionally if they are to be used for farming. The government engineers estimate that 5,000,000 acres can easily be reclaimed and that they will have an unending supply of water from the Saskatchewan and its tributaries if the proper works are made.

The land of the Canadian Pacific scheme lies in a solid block on both sides of the railroad between Calgary and Medicine Hat. It is flat or slightly rolling prairie and is now used for grazing. The strip is 120 miles long, running back for some miles on each side of the track. The water is to come from the Bow river, a beautiful mountain stream. It will be fed by other rivers, which flow northward from the United States through the Belly and Bow into the Saskatchewan and thence on to Hudson's bay.

**Big Irrigation Ditch.**  
The Bow river flows by Calgary. I drove out today to look at the ditch already excavated and to examine the irrigation project as far as it is completed. Taking carriages, we drove for miles over the prairie, riding at times along embankments of the main canal, which is sixty feet wide at the bottom, ten feet deep and takes from the Bow something like 20,000 gallons of water every second. At many places the men were working and the scenes were much like those I saw on the Panama canal. There were hundreds of horses, scooping up the prairie, there were great steam shovels gouging out the earth and loading it upon cars and there were long train loads of excavated material moving on the temporary tracks from one place to another. The soil is harder to

work than that of the Culebra cut. Culebra is made of a shaly rock and a single blast may loosen many tons. Here the earth is conglomerate of sticky clay and great boulders which have a consistency something like soft taffy or half worked putty. The stuff is of such a nature that the steam shovels cannot work in it without it is loosened, so that the cost of excavation is great.

I have talked with J. S. Dennis, the manager of this irrigation project, and also with the civil engineer in charge of it. He tells me that they have taken out about 4,000,000 cubic yards, which, as I figure it, would be just about enough to fill a line of two-horse wagons, at a ton to the wagon, reaching clear around the world. Altogether, 20,000,000 cubic yards will have to be excavated before the whole area is under water, and the engineers say that the cost of this will be just about \$3,000,000. It is an enormous undertaking, but it will pay in the increased value of the lands and in the traffic which will come to the railroad through the settling of the country.

**After One Farmer.**  
I understand that the Canadians expect to populate this country with Americans. The railroad has given over the first 110,000 acres, now ready for settlement, to an American syndicate, which has already made big money in selling tracts of spring wheat lands to immigrants from Minnesota, Dakota, Iowa, Illinois and other states. These American agents have colonization offices at Calgary, and they are formulating schemes by which they expect to canvass the irrigated sections of the United States to induce our good farmers to come here and buy these lands as fast as they are opened up. Said one of the syndicate men to me the other day:

"We will work those parts of the union just as a book publishing house works its territory. Our selling agents will go from farm to farm like the canvasser does selling books, and will induce such as have money to buy this land on instalments. If they are interested we will flood them with literature and will probably bring them to Canada at reduced rates of transportation to show them what we have to sell."

In the meantime the lands are offered at several times the price asked for the spring wheat lands further north and east; but the Canadians claim that they are cheap on account of the water, which insures steady crops year after year regardless of seasons.

**Introduced by the Mormons.**  
The practical possibility of an irrigated Canada was suggested by the Mormons. There are about 10,000 of them now living on irrigated lands near Lethbridge, between here and the United States boundary. They have established towns, have built up a beet sugar factory with a capital of \$3,000,000, have one flour mill, which is now turning out a carload of flour daily, and they are, altogether, one of the most thriving peoples of the new Canada.

These Mormons produced more than 1,000,000 bushels of wheat last year, and they are now shipping flour direct to Japan and China. They come from the irrigated states of Utah and Idaho. They farm on tracts of about eighty acres each, and I am told that they raise two or three times as much on such farms as can be raised in the non-irrigated sections.

During my stay in Canada I have visited

this Mormon country. It is reached by the line of the Alberta Railway and Irrigation company, which is used largely to carry coal from Lethbridge down to Montana. The lands are almost dead flat and are cut up by canals fed by the St. Mary's river.

Seventy-five thousand acres are already under cultivation and the railway and irrigation company above referred to has altogether almost 1,000,000 acres yet to redeem. The company received a concession for a part of these lands for opening up the coal mines and building the railroad, and looked upon them as fitted only for grazing until the Mormons came in and proposed to irrigate them. As it is the irrigation works are only five years old and they have the town of Raymond, which has a population of 2,000, situated in the heart of them and smaller settlements along the line of the railroad.

## Mormons in Canada.

I talked with Peter L. Naismith, the manager of the company, and C. A. Magrath, the land commissioner, about its character and possibilities. They tell me the lands are excellent and that they are being rapidly settled. Mr. Magrath, while not a Mormon himself, has represented these people in the territorial legislature and has known them from the time they came to Canada. He says they make excellent citizens and are conforming to the Canadian laws in every respect. I asked him how they acted in regard to plural marriages. He replied:

"The Canadian Mormons are monogamists. We have some citizens who were polygamists in Utah, but they brought but one family each to this country. Shortly after their arrival they sent delegates to Ottawa to ask if they might bring their plural wives provided no further plural marriages were made. Sir John Macdonald, who was then premier, replied in the negative, saying that, while he was glad

to have the Mormons come to Canada, they could not live there unless they obeyed the laws. As a result the extra wives remained where they were."

"I do not believe there is any polygamy in Canada," continued Mr. Magrath. "The mounted police keep a close tab on the Mormons, and if there were plural marriages we should surely know. Now and then some person in eastern Canada denounces the existence of Mormonism in Utah and alleges that polygamy exists. It may be so here in the United States, but it is not so here. As for me, I can get a certificate from my church that I am a staunch Episcopalian, but I find the Mormons good enough for me to live among. They are interested in politics, although they have no union of church and state. They are thrifty, and altogether they are excellent citizens."

## Mormon Sugar Mill.

I visited the Mormon sugar mill. It is situated just outside Richmond in the midst of beet fields, covering hundreds of acres. It is now making 100,000 pounds of sugar daily, and is paying dividends of 8 per cent. The company has altogether about 20,000 acres, upon some of which beets are raised. Other parts are devoted to cattle raising, and 15,000 head of stock are now feeding upon them. The factory has the best of modern machinery. The beets are carried by water from the shed where they are unloaded, being washed on the way. They are next lifted to the top of the factory in buckets running on an endless chain, and fall from there into cutters filled with knives, which slice them up so that they look like little pieces of celery.

The sliced beets are now dropped into round tanks, where they are so treated by fusion that all the juice then containing the sugar comes out. This is carried into great boilers, consisting of miles of

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ST. MARY'S LAKE, MONTANA.



VIEW OF SECTION OF BIG ALBERTA IRRIGATING DITCH.