

CZAR OPENS PARLIAMENT

Grand Ceremonies Mark Beginning of Russian Legislation.

RADICALS WERE DISAPPOINTED

The Democrats Had Hoped to Hear Something in It About Liberating Prisoners.

Without a single hitch, and with only a minor accident to mar the memorable occasion, the Russian parliament was inaugurated May 10. Emperor Nicholas, surrounded by courtiers and all the pomp and panoply of power, delivered the speech from the throne at the Winter palace to the members of the two houses. Such a spectacle perhaps never before has been witnessed on the earth's stage.

The message in reality was less a throne speech than a greeting, and required only three minutes for its delivery. Emperor Nicholas read slowly.

The admirable and even cordial tone of the sovereign, in renewing his pledges, and asking the co-operation of parliament for the regeneration of the country, was only negatively satisfactory.

Almost precipitated matters. Courtiers and spectators, other than members of the national parliament, led the cheering. The members were ominously silent, expressing neither approval nor disapproval. What rankled most was the failure of the emperor to mention amnesty, and later, when the members assembled in the Tauride palace away from the spell of the throne room, many of them were with difficulty restrained from precipitating matters by offering resolutions on the subject.

The Constitutional Democratic leaders, however, who dominated everything, were anxious not to weaken the reply which the lower house will prepare to the speech from the throne, in which issues which the crown will be joined, and succeeded in staying off premature action.

Real Flashes of Fire.

The only genuine flashes of fire, which showed the real temper of the members of the house, were when Prof. Mourontseff, who had been elected president of the lower house, invited government officials and clerks to leave the hall, and when Ivan Petrunkevitch, in a few eloquent words from the rostrum, told the auditors that the first thought of the parliament should be for those who had suffered in the cause of liberty, who now filled the prisons, and whose arms were stretched out in hope and confidence to the people's representatives. More enthusiastic cheering than that which greeted this appeal never was heard in a political convention in the United States.

Constitution and amnesty were the key-notes of President Mourontseff's speech.

In his address the emperor said: "The supreme providence which gave me the care of my fatherland, moved me to call to my assistance in legislative work elected representatives of the people. In the expectation of a brilliant future for Russia, I greet in your persons the best men from the empire, whom I ordered my beloved subjects to choose from among themselves.

"A difficult work lies before you, I trust that love for your fatherland and your earnest desire to serve it will inspire and unite you.

"I shall keep inviolate the institutions which I have granted, with the firm assurance that you will devote all your strength to the service of your country and especially to the needs of the peasantry, which are so close to my heart, and to the education of the people and their economic welfare, remembering that to the dignity and prosperity of the state not only freedom, but order founded upon justice is necessary.

"I desire from my heart to see my people happy and hand down to my son an empire, secure, well organized and enlightened.

"May God bless the work that lies before men in the unity with the council of the empire and the imperial duma. May this day be the day of moral revival of Russia, and the day for the day of renewal of its highest forces.

"Approach with solemnity the labors for which I call you, and be worthy of the responsibilities put upon you by the emperor and the people.

"May God assist us."

Dispatches from all parts of Russia indicate that the opening of the parliament was celebrated everywhere.

Dowie and Voliva Reach Agreement.

John Alexander Dowie and Wilbur G. Voliva reached an agreement in court upon the proposition for separate representation in the management of the financial affairs at Zion City. The Dowie forces appointed John Lewis White, Voliva named Alexander Granger. The third member of the committee is still to be chosen.

Rockefeller Lets Big Contract.

Contracts were awarded to the Patton & Gibson Company of Pittsburgh for the construction of 100 miles of track for the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad, owned by John D. Rockefeller, between Denison, Tex., and South McAllister, Indian Territory. The contract involves the handling of about 5,000,000 cubic yards of earth. All grades are to be reduced to a four-tenths of 1 per cent. basis. The contract is to be completed by December 31, 1907.

DEATH OF CARL SCHURZ

Was Patriot of Two Countries and Ex-Cabinet Minister of the United States.

Carl Schurz, patriot of two countries and statesman of one, died May 14 in New York City.

Carl Schurz was a native of Prussia. When a young man he entered the University of Bonn and became allied with the revolutionists who tried to make of Prussia a republic. While engaged in the publication of a revolutionary journal he was forced to flee from Bonn. Later he entered the revolutionary army in the south of Germany, and took part in the defense of Rastadt. Later he was forced to flee to Paris, and came to the United States, settling in Wisconsin in 1835. He entered politics, fought through the Civil War, and was chosen United States Senator from Missouri in 1869. In 1876 he entered Hayes' cabinet as Secretary of the Interior. Later he became editor of the New York Evening Post, which position he held for years.

Mr. Schurz, who was 76 years old, suffered from a complication of disorders.

CALLS FOR ACCOUNTING

Attorney General of Pennsylvania Brings Suit.

Attorney General Carson filed a bill in equity in the Dauphin County, (Pa.), Court for the recovery of about 200,000 in actuary's fees paid by Robert H. Forster, actuary of the insurance department of Pennsylvania, to former Commissioners George B. Luper, James H. Lambert and Israel W. Durham and J. Clayton Erb, actuary under Durham. The Attorney General claims that these fees belong to the State and that no accounting has ever been made to the State of this money.

He also asks that Durham be directed to account for the money paid to Edward J. David, R. M. J. Reed, Charles Gray and Israel G. Stone, whose names, it was revealed during a Legislative investigation of the department last winter, had been carried on the State pay roll by Durham without any service being rendered in return.

TAKE OVER INTERESTS

Mutual's British Policyholders Are Transferred to Home Company.

An important development has taken place in connection with the interests of policyholders of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York living in Great Britain. Last week the North British & Mercantile Insurance Company proposed to take over the New York Mutual Life's holders' interests on the payment of the same premium they now are paying, without further medical examination and with liberal privileges and an immediate participation in the profits of the company. This was found to be practicable with regard to policies representing \$45,000,000 and subject to immediate full surrender value.

\$400,000 FIRE LOSS

Naval Stores Company's Plant Burned at Gulfport, Miss.

The enormous plant of the New Orleans Naval Stores Company and S. Shutter & Co. at Gulfport, Miss., were totally destroyed by fire, six acres occupied by the rosin yards, warehouses, commissary and storage rooms being entirely swept by the flames.

The fire is supposed to have originated in loose hay in the commissary. The loss was about \$400,000, with \$200,000 insurance.

Four Men Killed.

A freight train crashed into the rear of another with two pushers a short distance east of Lynchburg, Va. on the Norfolk & Western railroad, derailling two engines, killing four trainmen and injuring four others. The dead are J. A. Walden, Roanoke, fireman; J. P. Carroll, Lynchburg, fireman; Harry Bondurant, apprentice fireman, Clays, Va.; William Langhorne, a brakeman, (negro) of Roanoke.

The steamer Manchuria arrived at San Francisco, from Oriental ports, bringing \$612,815 worth of opium.

WHEAT CROP DECLINING

Reports to Department of Agriculture Shows Area of Winter Wheat Less Than Last Year.

The crop reporting board of the bureau of statistics of the department of agriculture, from the reports of the correspondents and agents of the bureau, finds the area under winter wheat remaining in cultivation on May 1, to have been about 29,623,000 acres. This is 6 per cent., or about 1,718,000 acres less than the area reported as sown last fall, and 1 per cent., or about 241,000 acres less than the area of winter wheat reported as harvested last year.

The average condition of the growing winter wheat crop on May 1 was 91, as compared with 89 on April 1, 1906, 92 on May 1, 1905.

The average condition of winter rye on May 1 was 93, as compared with 91 on April 1, 1906.

The average condition of meadow mowing lands on May 1 was 92, against 93 on May 1, 1905.

The average condition of spring pasture on May 1 was 91, against 92 on May 1, 1905.

Dr. Crapsey Found Guilty.

By a unanimous verdict the ecclesiastical court which tried the Rev. Dr. Algernon Crapsey of Rochester, N. Y., on charges of heresy, has found him guilty, and a majority of the five members of the court have voted to unrook him.

The Rev. Richard Wharton, pastor of the Fairview Methodist Episcopal church, and one of the best known of Central Pennsylvania conference ministers, dropped dead in the lobby of the Altoona hospital.

TWO LIVES LOST IN FLAMES

Little Ones Perish in Spite of All Efforts to Save Them.

ART TREASURES ARE GONE

Fire Starts During Absence of All the Adults—Efforts of Neighbors Were Fruitless.

Margaret and Marcus, aged respectively 21 and 8 months, the pretty children of Mr. and Mrs. Marcus A. Woodward, perished in a fire which destroyed their pretty country home at Clifton, four miles from Bridgeville, Allegheny County, Pa.

After the flames had practically consumed the building and destroyed books, furniture, works of art and other household goods which had been handed down from Mr. Woodward's ancestors the charred remains of his children were taken from the debris. The children were asleep in their room on the second floor when the fire broke out and it is supposed that the blaze started in one of the rooms on the second floor.

The horror overtook Mr. and Mrs. Woodward with frightful suddenness, the flames having gained such headway before they were discovered that no heroism, no sacrifice, could avail to save the lives of the two children. After the flames had died out the charred bodies of the two children were found in the debris directly under the place where formerly had been the room in which they usually slept.

In a last desperate attempt to save his children Mr. Woodward placed a 16-foot ladder against the building. He climbed the ladder and broke the window, but the flames drove him away, and he was forced to slide down the ladder to save his own life.

Neighbors rushed to the place and joined the frantic parent in his efforts to save the children. All were driven back. With almost incredible swiftness the entire building was reduced to ashes, the work of a hastily formed bucket brigade having no effect. A few pieces of furniture were removed from the lower rooms by neighbors. Everything else was lost.

SAN FRANCISCO LOSSES

Insurance Companies Face Heavy Obligations in Wrecked City.

The state insurance department made public the figures showing the losses in the recent California conflagration of the fire and the fire-marine insurance companies doing business in the state of New York. They show estimated net losses to a total of \$13,654,000. The companies in most cases any impairment of capital will be made good by the directors or stockholders.

The Pennsylvania companies suffering losses and the amounts follow: Alliance, \$500,000; American Fire, \$500,000; Delaware, \$402,000; Fire Association of Philadelphia, \$1,200,000; Franklin Fire, \$800,000; Insurance Company of North America, \$2,000,000; Insurance Company State of Pennsylvania, \$3,250; Pennsylvania Fire, \$2,250,000; Spring Garden, \$150,000; Union, \$150,000; United \$200,000.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

The Wabash's earnings for March amounted to \$2,100,503, an increase of \$228,041.

D. H. Houston, inventor of the original of the modern kodaks, died at Fargo, N. D.

The correspondent at Constantinople of the London Daily Telegraph reports that in fighting between Turks and Armenians, at Caesarea, 75 Armenians were killed.

By an explosion in a rolling mill of the Dupont Powder works at Wilmington, Del., William McCrea was killed and James Camac so badly hurt that his death is expected.

An incoming train on the Chattanooga Southern railroad struck a car on the Chattanooga electric line. Two men were killed and a third received probably fatal injuries.

The Baltimore & Ohio has announced that it will rebuild the shops destroyed by fire at Keyser, W. Va., and that plans have been prepared for a plant to cost about \$15,000.

Several hundred funeral drivers in the Manhattan and the Bronx went on strike in support of a demand that their wages be increased from \$12 to \$14 a week, that non-union men be employed and that their hours be shortened.

The Agricultural Department is to be investigated. The House empowered the Committee on Expenditures, in the Agricultural Department, of which Representative Littlefield, of Maine is Chairman, to conduct such an examination.

The city government of Lawrence, Mass., has voted to accept the plans of Morris Knoles of Pittsburg, an expert in water works construction, for a covered filter bed for its water supply, at a cost of \$70,000, and will open bids May 25.

The House Committee on foreign affairs authorized a favorable report on the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill. The measure, as amended, carries a total of \$2,744,000, which is an increase over the current appropriation of about \$250,000.

SIX ARE KILLED

Rear of Cigaret Factory Collapses in Havana.

The pillars supporting the second floor and roof of the rear part of a large, new cigarette factory belonging to Jose Gener, at Havana, Cuba, collapsed and of the 40 men and women working in that part of the factory, half were caught in the falling stone, brick and timber. Six persons were taken out dead and a dozen more were injured.

WILL CHANGE BUSINESS CENTER

City Will Be Laid Out in Fire Proof Compartments, Like Those of a Ship.

CONVENTION AT SCRANTON RATIFIES DECISION OF SCALE COMMITTEE.

Resolutions Advising Local Unions to Use the Ballot in Interest of Laboring Men.

Work will be resumed by the mine workers throughout the anthracite field. The repairmen and many others necessary to repair the collieries for general operations will report for work at once.

Those things were decided upon at the closing session of the convention at Scranton, Pa., May 8. At the morning session the agreement, entered into Monday, between the operators and the sub-scale committee, was formally ratified.

At the morning session a few of the radicals once more took the floor, upon the motion to ratify the Monday agreement was made, and once more urged that the suspension be turned into a strike, but they were hopelessly in the minority, and the remarks were listened to in silence.

The general scale committee went into session immediately after the morning session had adjourned, and drew up a formal resolution fixing Thursday as the time for the resumption of work.

The first matters brought up were two resolutions condemning the State constabulary. One of them referred to the constabulary as cossacks and also compared them to the "evicting Irish constabulary." The other characterized them as a "roving band of armed men." Both resolutions pledged the miners to work for the repeal of the constabulary law.

The resolutions were adopted unanimously.

A resolution providing for the holding of tri-district conventions annually was offered, but was promptly tabled. The following resolution urging the taking of political action by the organization was offered and adopted:

"Whereas, the representatives of all political parties to the State Legislature have done nothing for the mine workers of this State; be it

Resolved, That the mine workers in convention assembled at Scranton, go on record as advising all local unions to take action in getting representatives placed in the field to represent all crafts of labor in the State of Pennsylvania."

LAKE STRIKE SETTLED

Men Will Work for Last Year's Wages Pending Another Conference.

Following conferences between President Keefe, of the Longshoremen's Union, and allied labor interests, and representatives of the dock managers, it was announced that the strike of longshoremen on the lakes has been settled.

The men will go back to work on the basis of last season's wages pending another conference.

The strike was inaugurated at midnight May 1, by the longshoremen for recognition of the mates' union. Tug firemen, oilers and water tenders, also quit with the longshoremen and as a result lake carrying traffic has been tied up since.

STORM SINKS SCHOONER

Captain and Two of Crew Go Down Outside of Cleveland Harbor.

The schooner Algeria sank about two miles off Cleveland harbor and three are known to have perished. Following are the names of those who are known to have gone down: Capt. Matthew Elen, aged 65, married, residence Detroit; George Wellon, engineer, aged 40, resident of New York city; Thomas Sullivan, cook, aged 42, residence Cleveland.

The storm is said by vesselmen to be the most violent experienced during the month of May on the lakes in many years.

ROBBERS HOLD UP TRAIN

Mail Car on Canadian Pacific Rifled of Registered Letters.

The imperial limited was held up on the main line of the Canadian Pacific railroad, near Kamloops, 250 miles from Vancouver, B. C. The robbers compelled the engineer to uncouple the mail car from the rest of the train and haul it a mile away where they rifled it of the registered letters.

The holdup occurred near a small station called Furrer, between Kamloops and Ducks. Special officers have been sent from Vancouver to pursue the robbers. The bandits made no attempt to interfere with the passengers.

GREAT LOSS OF LIFE

Flood Causes Destruction in Province of Hunan, China.

The State Department at Washington received the following cablegram from American consul at Hankau, China: "Immense flood in Hunan province Great loss of life and property. All foreigners safe."

PHOTOGRAPH FROM BALLOON

War Department Securing Pictures of San Francisco.

The signal corps of the United States army is photographing San Francisco's ruins from balloons. A series of pictures is being taken to be kept on file by the war department in Washington.

Several hundred negatives have been already taken of the different buildings and an order sent for three balloons, that a complete panoramic picture of the city can be had.

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