

TSAR ABDICATES.

THE DUMA HEADS A REVOLUTION IN PETROGRAD.

TROOPS SIDE WITH THE PEOPLE.

REACTIONARIES ARRESTED: PEOPLE'S REVENGE ON POLICE.

The two days' silence from Petrograd was broken last night. News came through Copenhagen that the Duma had placed itself at the head of a revolutionary movement and that, supported by the troops in Petrograd, it had declared a Provisional Government.

The Tsar has abdicated, and his brother, the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, has been appointed Regent. This was announced in the House of Commons last night.

Petrograd was yesterday stated to be calm and orderly. In the early days of the week there had been firing in the streets, but no very serious loss of life.

The trouble was chiefly caused by the police, not the soldiers, and the soldiers and the people have freed political prisoners and burned police stations and police papers. Reactionary leaders, including members of the Cabinet, have been arrested.

Moscow, Nijni Novgorod, and other towns are adhering to the movement.

The railways and public services, an official telegram states, are working again. All townships are towards an energetic prosecution of the war.

DUMA'S ACTION.

A RODZIANKO PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

(EXCHANGE TELEGRAM.)

COPENHAGEN, THURSDAY.

A telegram received from Petrograd states officially that a revolution has broken out in Petrograd.

The Duma refused to be dissolved, and an Executive Committee was formed, with M. Rodzianko, the President of the Duma, as its head. The Committee, which is made up of twelve members, two days ago proclaimed itself as a Provisional Government, and issued the following proclamation:—

Owing to the difficult circumstances and the disorganisation of the interior of the country, for which the former Government is responsible, the Executive Committee of the Duma considers it necessary to take over the government of the country.

Fully realising the importance of the decision, the Committee feels sure that the population and the army will assist it in the difficult task of forming a new Government which will be in a position to fulfil the wishes of the people and be assured of the public confidence.

The revolutionists, supported by the populace of Petrograd and by the whole army of 30,000 men, thereupon arrested all the members of the Cabinet and declared the Cabinet to be non-existent.

Today, the third day of the revolution, Petrograd is quite calm, and there was no fighting in maintaining order.

A member of the Duma, Colonel Engelhardt, has been appointed commander in Petrograd.

The evening the Committee issued a proclamation requesting the population and the troops and railways to continue their industrial activities.

STORY OF THE RISING.

SOLDIERS AND WORKMEN BEGIN MOVEMENT.

POLICE CAUSE BLOODSHED.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION FOREIGN SPECIAL.)

PETROGRAD, THURSDAY.

The first duty of a British correspondent three days of national upheaval is to assure his countrymen that "Russia is all right" as a fighting ally, and fighter. The fiery trials of the underlying will only steel her heart.

I have been day and night in the streets for the last three days. I have seen long lines of hungry men, women, and children, the bakers' seen wanton firing with rifles and machine-guns, seen civil war in the main thoroughfares; but I have not heard a single word against the war.

The shortage of food, the lack of organisation and the neglect of the most elementary precautions are popularly ascribed to German agents. These influences the Russians are determined to exterminate.

The killing of Rasputin was the match which set fire to a vast heap of patriotic determination. Russia would deserve well of the Allies. She would give herself a chance. The fire quickly spread, and ran from class to class, from estate to estate, from the barracks to the troops. It smouldered in Petrograd on Saturday, flamed up on Sunday, and became a conflagration yesterday. This

morning I heard that its purpose had been achieved. The revolutionaries had secured the hated Kresty Prison after a short resistance on the part of the Guards. All the political prisoners were released, including the members of the workers' group of the Central Military Industrial Committee who were arrested a month ago, and also M. Krustalev Nosar, the leader of the workers' organisation in 1905. The same course was followed at the preliminary detention prison and at the women's prison, a stone's-throw of the Imperial Marie Theatre.

The detective headquarters were demolished and burned, with all the archives and papers relating to political personsages and organisations.

Early in the afternoon Prince Galitzin, the Premier, telephoned to M. Rodzianko that he had resigned. The revolutionaries searched the houses of several of the Ministers.

A Workmen's and Soldiers' Council.
During the day the Council of Workmen's Delegates issued a manifesto inviting the troops siding with the people and the factories to choose representatives to attend a meeting of the Council in the Duma premises this evening—one representative per battalion and per thousand workmen, factories employing less than a thousand hands to send one representative. The Council also issued an appeal calling on the people to assist in the provision of the troops pending the organisation of supplies.

Meanwhile fresh troops were constantly arriving at the Duma as well as armed civilians. Several hundreds of the latter were drawn up outside the House at one time. Many came in motor-cars and lorries, bringing large reserves of cartridges, which were promptly distributed. Many speeches were delivered from the steps of the Duma, the orators dwelling especially on the need for the preservation of order pending the organisation of the Government and on the necessity for the immediate resumption of work at all the factories lest the army at the front should be handicapped when on the verge of victory.

Returning towards the centre of the town I found the Petrograd District Law Courts, not far from the Duma, burning. The crowd were preventing the flames from spreading to the adjoining buildings.

A little further on there had been a brief fight between opposing factions of Guards carrying machine-guns and rifles, but there had been surprisingly few casualties. The Government troops, in fact, have shown little reluctance in accepting the inevitable either here or in other quarters where there have been similar conflicts.

Revenge on the Police.

THURSDAY EVENING.

All the military and naval forces in Petrograd have now declared themselves on the side of the people, and troops from Kronstadt have arrived and joined their comrades, but so far they are not accompanied by many of their officers. The streets are full of armed men, although people with weak nerves are occasionally startled by exuberant firing in the air.

There has been a wholesale demolishing and burning of police stations in revenge for police in soldiers' uniforms having manned machine-guns on the roofs of buildings such as the Imperial Marie Theatre and the Hotel Astoria. Besides police stations and private houses, they also dropped grenades on the people.

Machine-gun fire was opened on the Naval Brigade from the roof of the Hotel Astoria, which since the war has been transformed into a hotel for officers. The naval men retaliated with a sharp fusillade, broke into the hotel, arrested some 200, and took them to the Duma. The foreigners in the hotel were treated with the greatest courtesy, and were transferred to quarters elsewhere.

Small mercy was shown to the police, who are believed to have been responsible for most of the casualties among the civilians. These are as can be seen at present, amount to a few hundred, the great majority being wounded. A military police force is now being organised.

Joyous Thanksgiving.

A walk through the chief streets between eleven and one showed that there was everywhere the greatest animation. There were countless outbreaks of cheering. Sailors and Sisters of Mercy were especially popular. The sisters cheered back and threw kisses. It was a beautiful early spring day, which seemed to reflect the political hour and the mood of the populace. A feeling of the deepest thanksgiving for what has been accomplished with so little bloodshed fills all patriotic hearts.

Without a great change it was doubtful whether Russia could have finished her fight. It is determined to win, a determination which will soon rear its head, and remember and rue for long years to come. With a mighty effort Russia has burst her bonds.

Ex-Ministers' Fate.

These days mean the routing out of German influences, of everything German, and also of Russian influences used to German ends. Among the lower classes especially Baron Freidrich, Minister of the Court, has long been suspect. His house in Potemkin Street was burned out this afternoon. The street had been allowed to leave.

M. Stürmer (the ex-Premier), the Metropolitan of Petrograd, M. Rodzianko, the Provisional Assistant Minister of the Interior, who had charge of the police arrangements at the time of M. Stolypin's murder, and whose activities have recently been renewed, among others have been arrested and taken to the Duma.

It is stated that General Sukhomlinoff, ex-Minister of War, is also in the hands of the people. Any proved treachery will undoubtedly pay the penalty.

Roaring Furnaces.

Not the most thrilling drama ever produced on the stage of the Marie Theatre was there ever such a scene as that witnessed outside its walls this afternoon, when the police were firing with machine-guns down into the square from the roof of the theatre as well as from the Petrograd Prison and the Intendancy, while the troops below answered salvo with salvo. The Petrograd Prison and the detective headquarters on either side of the theatre were soon roaring furnaces. The soldiers had already dealt with the crowd. Here as well as in other prisons many police were found disguised as prisoners.

with numbers of armed citizens, arrived at the Duma. They were loudly cheered, and were addressed by the Socialist and Labour leaders. The Duma guard was then replaced by soldiers in revolt. The Duma post and telegraph office was occupied, and sentries were posted over the telephones. The officer commanding the Duma guard was wounded in the street by a youth, from whom he tried to wrest a weapon. He was carried into the Duma building, where he had been attended to by a doctor, he was removed to hospital.

Reactionaries Arrested.

At half-past five a strong revolutionary escort brought in M. Hehegllovitch, the President of the Council of the Empire, who had been arrested at his house. He was formerly Minister of Justice, and is one of the most prominent reactionaries. He was temporarily lodged in the Ministerial room of the Duma.

At the same time it was intimated that a number of other arrests were imminent. The so-called German gang was to be removed once for all.

About the time, too, news reached the Duma that the revolutionaries had secured the hated Kresty Prison after a short resistance on the part of the Guards. All the political prisoners were released, including the members of the workers' group of the Central Military Industrial Committee who were arrested a month ago, and also M. Krustalev Nosar, the leader of the workers' organisation in 1905. The same course was followed at the preliminary detention prison and at the women's prison, a stone's-throw of the Imperial Marie Theatre.

The detective headquarters were demolished and burned, with all the archives and papers relating to political personsages and organisations.

A Workmen's and Soldiers' Council.

During the day the Council of Workmen's Delegates issued a manifesto inviting the troops siding with the people and the factories to choose representatives to attend a meeting of the Council in the Duma premises this evening—one representative per battalion and per thousand workmen, factories employing less than a thousand hands to send one representative. The Council also issued an appeal calling on the people to assist in the provision of the troops pending the organisation of supplies.

Meanwhile fresh troops were constantly arriving at the Duma as well as armed civilians. Several hundreds of the latter were drawn up outside the House at one time. Many came in motor-cars and lorries, bringing large reserves of cartridges, which were promptly distributed. Many speeches were delivered from the steps of the Duma, the orators dwelling especially on the need for the preservation of order pending the organisation of the Government and on the necessity for the immediate resumption of work at all the factories lest the army at the front should be handicapped when on the verge of victory.

Returning towards the centre of the town I found the Petrograd District Law Courts, not far from the Duma, burning. The crowd were preventing the flames from spreading to the adjoining buildings.

A little further on there had been a brief fight between opposing factions of Guards carrying machine-guns and rifles, but there had been surprisingly few casualties. The Government troops, in fact, have shown little reluctance in accepting the inevitable either here or in other quarters where there have been similar conflicts.

Revenge on the Police.

THURSDAY EVENING.

All the military and naval forces in Petrograd have now declared themselves on the side of the people, and troops from Kronstadt have arrived and joined their comrades, but so far they are not accompanied by many of their officers. The streets are full of armed men, although people with weak nerves are occasionally startled by exuberant firing in the air.

There has been a wholesale demolishing and burning of police stations in revenge for police in soldiers' uniforms having manned machine-guns on the roofs of buildings such as the Imperial Marie Theatre and the Hotel Astoria. Besides police stations and private houses, they also dropped grenades on the people.

Machine-gun fire was opened on the Naval Brigade from the roof of the Hotel Astoria, which since the war has been transformed into a hotel for officers. The naval men retaliated with a sharp fusillade, broke into the hotel, arrested some 200, and took them to the Duma. The foreigners in the hotel were treated with the greatest courtesy, and were transferred to quarters elsewhere.

Small mercy was shown to the police, who are believed to have been responsible for most of the casualties among the civilians. These are as can be seen at present, amount to a few hundred, the great majority being wounded. A military police force is now being organised.

Joyous Thanksgiving.

A walk through the chief streets between eleven and one showed that there was everywhere the greatest animation. There were countless outbreaks of cheering. Sailors and Sisters of Mercy were especially popular. The sisters cheered back and threw kisses. It was a beautiful early spring day, which seemed to reflect the political hour and the mood of the populace. A feeling of the deepest thanksgiving for what has been accomplished with so little bloodshed fills all patriotic hearts.

Without a great change it was doubtful whether Russia could have finished her fight. It is determined to win, a determination which will soon rear its head, and remember and rue for long years to come. With a mighty effort Russia has burst her bonds.

Ex-Ministers' Fate.

These days mean the routing out of German influences, of everything German, and also of Russian influences used to German ends. Among the lower classes especially Baron Freidrich, Minister of the Court, has long been suspect. His house in Potemkin Street was burned out this afternoon. The street had been allowed to leave.

M. Stürmer (the ex-Premier), the Metropolitan of Petrograd, M. Rodzianko, the Provisional Assistant Minister of the Interior, who had charge of the police arrangements at the time of M. Stolypin's murder, and whose activities have recently been renewed, among others have been arrested and taken to the Duma.

It is stated that General Sukhomlinoff, ex-Minister of War, is also in the hands of the people. Any proved treachery will undoubtedly pay the penalty.

Roaring Furnaces.

Not the most thrilling drama ever produced on the stage of the Marie Theatre was there ever such a scene as that witnessed outside its walls this afternoon, when the police were firing with machine-guns down into the square from the roof of the theatre as well as from the Petrograd Prison and the Intendancy, while the troops below answered salvo with salvo. The Petrograd Prison and the detective headquarters on either side of the theatre were soon roaring furnaces. The soldiers had already dealt with the crowd. Here as well as in other prisons many police were found disguised as prisoners.

AN ATTEMPT TO AVERT A REVOLUTION.

LORD MILNER'S MISSION.

THE OBRUDY OF THE TSAR.

(From a Correspondent.)

LONDON, THURSDAY.

Nothing has been said officially about the object of Lord Milner's recent mission to Russia, but it may now be stated that it was at least partly connected with Russia's internal condition. The letter, read by Mr. Dillon in the House of Commons, from Lord Hardinge to our Ambassador in Petrograd, Sir George Buchanan, shows that the British Government have long been aware of the serious state of Russia and the impossibility of the reactionaries. Sir George Buchanan kept them well informed, and, indeed, was a staunch supporter of the Duma and the Liberal elements. The dismissal of Treppoff, the appointment of Galitzin, the autocracy of Protopopoff, the prorogation of the Duma, the denunciations of the Government, the internal chaos—all were signs of revolution. It is believed that the Tsar informed the British Royal Family that he anticipated some such happening, but was confident that he could suppress it.

There is reason to suppose that Lord Milner was sent to Petrograd to bring about an accommodation between the Tsar and the Duma, so as to avert a revolution. It is believed that he proposed that the Tsar should appoint a Ministry responsible to Parliament. It might seem that this was asking more than the Duma itself had asked for, but it was well known that the populace and the army were more advanced than the majority in the Duma. The Tsar, it is said, rejected the suggestion on the plea that it did not harmonise with Russian institutions, and could not be worked by so politically unripe a plea.

Lord Milner then proposed that the Tsar should appoint a Ministry acceptable to the Duma, and suggested that Sazonoff, always a faithful friend of the Allies, would be an appropriate Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary. This proposal, too, was rejected. Lord Milner made other efforts at reconciliation, and met the various leaders of Russian opinion in the hope of being able to work out some scheme which might avert a revolutionary outbreak. Every effort was shattered by the obduracy of the Tsar. It is noteworthy that the outbreak followed promptly on Lord Milner's return from Russia, where his failure was generally understood to mean that nothing could be hoped from the Tsar, and that the people must seek their own redemption.

German Reports.

The "Vossische Zeitung" recently published an important message from its energetic correspondent, Behrmann, in Stockholm. He has much to say on the familiar lines about the terrible domination of Russia by England—this will, of course, be news to most people, but it is intended, no doubt, to stir up resentment among the Russians, and he adds as evidence the recent visit of the English delegates to Petrograd. He says:—

There is no longer any question of whether the Right or the Left will snatch the victory in internal politics, it is not any longer a struggle between the Crown and the National representatives. What we are witnessing to-day in Russia is a harder, and perhaps more decisive, struggle for Russia's political independence.

He asserts that Russia's financial needs had brought her under English control—and then gives an account of the position which had reached Stockholm from Russian sources. French and British influences, he says, were openly working to overthrow the Government and to get Bolsheviki or Treppoff for Prime Minister since they would work in co-operation with the Duma and the nation; while Lord Milner was said to have stated that the Allied delegates demanded that Protopopoff, the hated reactionary Minister who held conversations as to a separate peace with German agents in Stockholm, should not be permitted to hold no political or Court post in which he could exercise the slightest direct or indirect influence on Russian policy. This is a demand which the Duma and the Russian nation would have heartily supported. Nevertheless this attempt to make a "purely English Cabinet," says the "Vossische" correspondent, failed, and the delegates had to content themselves with the admission of Count Kokovoff to the Ministry to make it slightly more "Russian," and even, in the end, he adds, to admit that they had no objection to the hated Protopopoff holding an extra Ministerial post in the event of a Treppoff Cabinet being formed.

From all the discussions and prophecies concerning the situation in Russia which appeared in German newspapers one is bound to conclude that if a revolution did break out it would easily and rapidly realise its aims. Accounts agreed that the army was siding with the Opposition, and that it was the military wish to depose the Tsar and to proclaim in his stead the Grand Duke Nicholas or Michael. The "Frankfurter Zeitung" especially was careful to point out that the event of a revolution would by no means necessarily turn in Germany's favour. It said:—

But it would be a mistake to draw from all that has been said the conclusion that the power of resistance of the Russian army has been paralysed. So long as the Government, while in this matter is openly supported by the parties that are carrying on the war against the Government, has succeeded in keeping the effects of the political crisis side of affairs under control, it is the resolution to hold out. In the case of the middle-class Liberals, whose organs set the tone, there reigns apparently the desire to see the Russian victory which will bring about the desired internal transformation. And even those who no longer believe in this world, nevertheless, do nothing to facilitate the conclusion of a separate peace by the present Government—a course to which they say it is strongly inclined. It seems to us, therefore, that at any rate in the immediate present, a reaction of the internal situation in Russia upon foreign policy is not to be expected. But should it by any means culminate in a catastrophe, such a disastrous complication of affairs would result that any attempt to estimate the consequences would be an idle game.

What Franco-British influence failed to do, the people, the Duma, and the army have now done for themselves, and it is certain that, as a result, Russia will go forward to the end with her allies and will fight with greater efficiency and with a better heart.

MOSCOW DELIGHTED.

OTHER TOWNS ADHERING.

(REUTERS' CORRESPONDENTS.)

PETROGRAD, WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

Moscow adhered to the revolutionary movement in an hour and a half without a drop of blood being shed.

Moscow, THURSDAY.

The ancient capital is filled with popular rejoicing at the overthrow of the Government. The officers have rallied to the new National Government, and a Military Committee has been formed to preserve order and to regulate food supplies. The Committee is backed by a brigade of artillery, five regiments of infantry, and thousands of armed militia.

General Mrososky, commander of the troops in the Moscow district, has been created. Over a thousand police and gendarmes have been arrested and brought to the Town Hall. All the political prisoners in the great Butyky Prison have been released.

The towns of Kharkoff and Nijni Novgorod have declared for the new Government.

ARMY AND NAVY WITH THE PEOPLE.

NO WEAKENING IN THE WAR.

(REUTERS' CORRESPONDENT.)

PETROGRAD, WEDNESDAY.

The President of the Duma has sent to the commanders of the Baltic and Black Sea fleets and to the chiefs of the armies on the northern, south-western, western, and Rumanian fronts, and to the Chief of the General Staff, telegrams asking the army and navy to preserve absolute calm and to be sure that the struggle against the foreign enemy be not weakened even for a single moment. "As hitherto, the army and navy," the telegram continues, "must continue firmly and valiantly to defend the country, and while the Provisional Committee is engaged in the restoration of the capital and with the moral support of the people, restore calm and regular activity, each officer, soldier, and sailor should fulfil his duty."

The officers of the Petrograd garrison at a general meeting unanimously decided to recognise the authority of the Executive Committee of the Duma until the formation of a permanent Government.

9.40 P.M.

The French and British Ambassadors have entered into business relations with the Executive Committee of the Duma.

The Grand Duke Cyril has informed the Committee that he places the Marines under his orders at their disposal. He also visited M. Rodzianko, and placed himself at the disposal of the latter.

The revolutionary troops have occupied the Winter Palace. The 1st and 4th Regiments of Don Cossacks joined the revolutionary troops. The Duma Committee has arrested M. Gorenkyin, the former Premier.

10.18 P.M.

The Imperial Bodyguard regiments rode into Petrograd to-day. It is estimated that there are now 60,000 troops in the capital. The political prisoners in the Schlüsselburg have been released.

11.30 P.M.

The Executive Committee of the Duma has arrested M. Bark, Minister of Finance. Two deputies, acting on the instructions of the Executive Committee, proceeded to Kronstadt, where the troops placed themselves at the Duma's disposal.

BEFORE THE STORM.

THE DUMA'S WARNING AND PURPOSE.

In view of the events in Russia, it is desirable to recall now some of the statements made at the meeting of the Duma on Wednesday night, when the members predicted the coming revolution, warned the Government, and urged that the Duma should come forward to save the nation. The following are extracts from the speeches:—

M. Adzhemoff (Gadet party).

Was it not clear that the country could only save itself through its own efforts? So long as the Duma was still standing between the God of the people and the God of the Government, the country there was still hope of a peaceful solution of the conflict; but should the latter break out, the Duma ought to declare at once that at the decisive moment it would be with the people.

M. Miluykoff (Leader of the Constitutional Democrats).

We are going at present through a terrible moment. Under our own eyes the national fight for freedom was going beyond the boundaries of civil life, and we were in the midst of the most serious crisis of our history. It is to say, methods of violence were reappearing. It cannot be denied that the public pronouncements of various organisations contain threats of violence; they are a warning to the Government.

Let it not be said that the street mob is coming again on the stage. No! This is not a street mob, but the same social elements to which we ourselves belong; and we must not be misled by the promises of the public conferences are made by the most conservative elements. The Russian liberation movement is a movement of the people, and it is just at this moment that a narrow, selfish, and narrow-minded group of men, who are trying to stop this powerful stream that we are, in conjunction with the nation at large, are trying to stop in its channel. I repeat, there is still time to do that, but time does not stand still.

M. Skobeleff (Socialist party).

The process by which the nation had been arriving at a proper understanding of what was going on was being completed, and the Duma had no longer any right to say that it had no one behind it.

M. Konovaloff (Progressive party).

The country had no Government and no leaders in whom it could place its trust. The Government was a symbol of impotence of will and of lack of courage. All Russia had now become conscious that victory under the present Government was an impossibility, and that the first condition of victory over the external enemy must be victory over the internal enemy. The Government had no right to say that it was a Government simply paralysed by the will of the Duma, the nation, and the public organisations, who were all united in the same purpose, and the nation must raise the entire question of the political system. Let the fight be a fight of the people, and let it be a fight, and let there be no compromises on the way.

M. Rychkoff (Independent).

Everybody knew what a fermentation was going on among the people. What would the deputies say when they came home? Would they simply shrug their shoulders and call upon the people? "Woe and weep! Enough of that! It was necessary to speak now and to tell the electors and the entire nation: The Duma was being treated with contempt, and that to use the Russian proverb, 'The wrath of the people was the wrath of God.' The Duma ought to reply to all reports of the Government in the words of the late Stolypin, 'You can't frighten us.'"

M. Savenko (Progressive Nationalists).

The Government was afraid of a revolution, but it was the Government itself which was the chief revolutionising factor in the country.

IN PARLIAMENT.

MR. LAW'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

In the House of Commons last night, in reply to a question, Mr. Bonar Law (Chancellor of the Exchequer) announced that there had been a revolution in Russia. The soldiers had taken the side of the Duma, but there was no serious loss of life. The Tsar had abdicated, and the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch had been appointed Regent.

While the debate on the Vote of Credit was proceeding, Sir H. Daldell (Leicester, Burghs) intervened and asked whether Mr. Bonar Law could give the House any information about affairs in Russia. In his opinion there was nothing at which to be alarmed so far as this country was concerned. (Cheers.)

Mr. BONAR LAW: I quite agree that in a matter of this gravity the duty of the Government is to give the House of Commons all the information in their power, and I am also strongly of opinion that the House of Commons is the proper place in which information of that kind should be given. But I am sure the House will not be surprised that until to-night it has not been possible for me or the Government in any way to give any information as to what was happening in Russia.

A revolution, the right hon. gentleman has said, is a serious thing at any time. It is very serious not only to the country affected, but to her Allies in a time of war.

The first news we had of any serious trouble in Russia came by telegram on Friday night last. It was to the effect simply that there were disturbances in the streets. Since then we have had daily telegrams giving more or less correct news, but I am sure that the House, Embassy, but they themselves had not all the possible means of obtaining accurate information in the circumstances, which existed in Petrograd. But by degrees I became plain that Petrograd was becoming more or less under ordered rule, and that the rule was a rule over which the President of the Duma was exercising control. (Cheers.)

It would be a shame almost from the outset the soldiers and we are informed also the sailors had taken the side of the Duma. (Cheers.) The result has been, so far as information has reached us, that there has not been any serious loss of life. I am not sure that this is the case, but we have had no indication that there has been serious loss of life in Petrograd.

The Abdication of the Tsar.

The reason I am able now to say something about it to the House of Commons is that only to-night a message was received from our Ambassador to the effect that a telegram had been received from the Duma announcing that the Tsar had abdicated, and that the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch had been appointed Regent.

I should be glad to give a reassuring statement in what I have said. There is a measure of comfort to us who are the Allies of Russia in the comparative tranquillity with which this change has been conducted. (Cheers.)

There is no reason to suppose that this is a real comfort, that all our information leads us to believe that the movement is not in any sense directed towards efforts to secure peace, but on the contrary, the discontent—this is the substance of all our information—is not against the Government for carrying on the war, but against it for not carrying on the war with efficiency and with that energy which the people expect. (Cheers.) I have to tell you all this in this matter. They will understand that it is not possible for me to say more, but I can assure them that I have not lost sight of all this at any time I shall at once communicate it to the House of Commons.

Mr. H. Sarsfield (Leicester, Burghs) said: "The House has heard with thankfulness that the great events which have taken place in Russia have passed off, so far as the Government is concerned, without serious loss of life, and the House, I am quite certain, will rejoice at the statement of the leader of the House that these changes are not likely to have any effect on the solidarity of the great alliance between ourselves and the other Powers engaged on this war, and is likely, if it has any result upon the war at all, to secure that it shall be prosecuted with even greater vigour and energy than hitherto."

Mr. J. Devlin (N. Belfast): The House is grateful to my right hon. friend for his promptitude in relieving him of his promise to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I am sure those of us who believe in the triumph of vindictive democracy, principles and democracy, must rejoice at what we believe to be a successful blow for democracy in the revolution in Russia. I am very glad to hear, too, from the right hon. gentleman that the attitude of these who have taken part in this revolution has been an attitude which will tend to a further strengthening of all those in Russia who are associated with the successful prosecution of the war. (Cheers.)

A Reassuring Message.

Mr. BONAR LAW again intervened in the debate a little later to say that he had just had another message to the effect that the Russian Naval Attaché in Paris had received information that the railways and public services in Russia were being carried on in a very satisfactory manner, and that the information he had already given to the House. It was, however, reassuring so far as it went, and he agreed to the House not to discuss the discussion.

The House shortly afterwards adjourned. On Mr. Law's intimation that from the outset the soldiers and sailors had taken sides with the Duma the cheering