

# PRINCE KROPOTKIN ON RUSSIA'S CONDITION

## Says an Effective Blow Has Been Dealt to Autocracy.

### First Time in Country's History that the Czar Has Been Overruled—

#### Cause of the Student Uprisings.

Prince Peter A. Kropotkin, the famous Russian Anarchist, was in this city, at the Gerard Hotel, last night, and he is to lecture to-day before the League for Political Education at the Berkeley Theatre. For the past month he has been in Boston delivering a course of lectures on Russian literature before the Lowell Institute. While in New York Prince Kropotkin will lecture on "Anarchism," for the benefit of anarchistic literature in the English language. This lecture will be at the Grand Central Palace to-morrow afternoon.

"The first effective blow has been dealt to autocracy in Russia," said Prince Kropotkin last night in discussing the affairs of his country. "It has been struck within the past fortnight. The Ministers of State have notified the Czar that a law he promulgated could not be enforced. This is the first time it has ever been done. It marks the first step in the progress which will eventually make of Russia a federal government such as is that of the United States.

"This law of the Emperor's was the cause of the recent student uprisings in St. Petersburg. The trouble all arose out of an incident at the University of Kieff. A student had become unpleasantly involved in some scandal there, and the other students held meetings to decide what should be done to protect their fellow student from notoriety. The Dean of the university arrested a number of students, and the matter was reported to the Minister of Public Instruction, who told it all to the Czar.

"The Czar is an irresponsible, not very clever, young man, and he promptly issued an order according to which all students who participate in meetings of any kind will be at once sent to the army for service of two or three years, as the case may be. At the present time the 12,000 university students of the empire are exempted from army duty.

"Under this new law, 183 students from the University of Kieff have been sent to the army. The new law is unconstitutional, for while the Czar may cause a law to be made in one of two ways, the old law must first be repealed before a new law is made. The old law exempted students from army service. It has not been repealed, and the Ministers of State were not consulted in the formation of the present obnoxious decree.

"I have a letter from a woman of high rank in Russia, in which she says that the Public Prosecutor at Kieff, the General of the Gendarmes, and a military general who belongs to the commission appointed to draft the students have joined in a memorial to the Czar, in which they say that it is impossible to condemn young men in this ruthless fashion.

"The Ministers of State have also taken up the subject. They have informed the Czar that his law cannot be enforced. His decree will not be repealed, but the execution of it will not be attempted, and the Kieff students will be quietly released. It is the first time in the history of Russia that the Czar has ever been overridden."

Prince Kropotkin said he does not think the Czar should be killed.

"I believe the greatest foe to autocracy in Russia to-day is Nicholas II.," he said. "He is so stupid that he will make many mistakes. Every one of those mistakes will weaken his power and the power of the throne. If I thought he should be killed I would do my best to kill him. I do not believe in asking some one else to do what you would not do yourself."

Prince Kropotkin said he did not believe the Czar was responsible for the calling of The Hague Peace Conference. He said he thought the Pope was at the back of the whole movement.

"The Pope had a great friend at the Russian Court," said the Prince. "In the person of Tobiednostsew, one of the Czar's Ministers. The Pope did not think Emperor William a suitable person to call the conference, so through his friend he prevailed upon the Czar to call it."

Prince Kropotkin says letters that have come to him from Russia are to the effect that the general sentiment there is against the acquisition of Manchuria. He says Russian public sentiment is boiling. The Czar will be asked from time to time to make certain concessions in the direction of liberty. He will not have the good sense to make all the concessions that are demanded, and trouble will result."

## THE HIRSCH MONUMENT IDEA.

James Talcott, a member of the committee that is arranging for the erection of the monument to Baron and Baroness de Hirsch in Central Park, has received from George E. Bissell, the sculptor, a letter explaining the inception of the monument idea. Mr. Bissell says in his letter:

Apropos of the great meeting of Tuesday evening last, permit me to make a few statements concerning my relation to the ideas underlying the movement which made such a meeting possible. In 1883 I modeled the group "Education," (of which I send you a photograph,) now on the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument at Waterbury, Conn. The central figure, a mature woman, represents the United States. She rests one arm upon a closed book and is listening attentively to a white schoolboy, who is pleading for the education of a negro boy, sitting at her feet. The negro, desirous of knowledge, is trying to open the book, and intently peers into the place where he has forced his hand.

The fact at the foundation of this illustration is that children have no racial prejudice, and black and white play together as if members of the same family, and the prejudice which appears in the adult white is the result of education.

I was an Abolitionist in ante-rebellion days, and to-day, as at that time, I regard the negro and all races as members of the brotherhood of man.

"I recall my feelings as a soldier on my way to Southern battlefields to fight only for the preservation of the Union, as all Northern soldiers were doing before the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. To me the cause seemed inadequate for the great sacrifice we were called upon to make. How great, therefore, was the joy which animated most thinking Northern soldiers when we read at our campfires the decree which would enable us to fight for the liberation of millions of slaves and make them free men like ourselves and give them all our privileges.

Later, when the persecutions of Capt. Dreyfus on account of his race aroused the whole world to indignation, my thoughts and sentiments were enlisted in starting a movement for breaking down the walls of prejudice, which still divides mankind into hostile camps, and I expressed my protest against this persecution in a statue of "Philanthropy," (to surmount a memorial to the Baron and Baroness de Hirsch,) as representing the most potent sentiment that can be used to disarm and overcome racial prejudice, and in this way my efforts may have aided the movement so enthusiastically indorsed at the meeting. GEO. E. BISSELL.

## PRESIDENT BRADY RESIGNS.

The announcement was made at the Democratic Club last evening that President Thomas J. Brady of the Department of Buildings had resigned. He will devote all his time to building and contract work.

As the Commissioner of Buildings of the Boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx, Mr. Brady became President of the Department of Buildings. The politicians last evening affirmed that there is no politics back of the resignation. They say that President Brady's actions as the head of his department have never been criticised during the administration of Mayor Van Wyck, and that no pressure was brought to bear to induce him to resign.

President Brady called at the City Hall yesterday in company with Commissioner of Buildings Guilfoyle of Brooklyn. They were ushered into Mayor Van Wyck's office, and the resignation was handed in to take effect on the last day of this month.

President Brady was Commissioner of Buildings during the administration of Mayor Strong. He was removed after an investigation of the department. Mr. Brady at that time claimed that his removal was for political reasons and that he would at some time seek vindication. On the election of Mayor Van Wyck Mr. Brady sought and obtained the appointment as President of the Department of Buildings. He acted as Chairman of the committee appointed to adopt a new building code.

Superintendent of Buildings John A. Dooner will be in charge of the Department of Buildings pending the appointment of a successor to Mr. Brady. The politicians declared last evening that Superintendent Dooner would be named permanently for the place.