

KROPOTKIN TELLS WHY ARMY JOINED PEOPLE

Aged Revolutionary Leader in Exile Predicts Fall of the Hohenzollerns Also.

BRIGHTON, England, March 16.—Prince Peter Kropotkin, the aged Russian exile, who more than forty years ago attained international fame because of the revolutionary stand he took on the side of the people of his country, tonight received a correspondent of The Associated Press in his home here and gave his views on why the army joined in the revolt in Petrograd.

"The revolution which broke out in Petrograd during the last few days was, of course, the result of a long struggle against autocracy," said the Prince. "Matters came to a crisis by the complete disorganization into which all the life of the country and the transport of supplies to the great centres of population had been brought by the continual change of Ministers, owing to the occult influences which prevailed at the Court. It was evident not only to those who stood in close contact with the Administration but also to the mass of the population that if this state of affairs continued longer Russia would unavoidably be running toward a great disaster.

"The agricultural population, feeling that there was no security in the life of the country, refused to bring provisions to the city, and the army began to feel that the support it had received from the very outset of the war from the whole of the Russian nation, especially since the sale of spirits had been prohibited, was going to be disorganized totally.

"The campaign begun by Minister Protopopoff against the two unions of the Zemstvos and municipalities added to the general discontent. The two unions had taken care of the hundreds of thousands of wounded soldiers whom they took from the bases behind the battlefield lines to distribute them in hospitals created by these unions all over Russia. In addition they organized in the rear of the fighting lines medical supplies and necessaries for the army as well as tents, hot baths, trains and feeding stations, and had won the sympathies of the army by their continual care for the needs of the soldiers.

"Protopopoff decided to destroy these unions. He prohibited their general meetings and ordered that at every committee meeting an officer of police (who might report everything to the Germans) should be present.

"This continual intercourse between the nation and army explains why the army so rapidly joined the revolt.

"I am delighted with today's news and regard the fall of the autocracy as final. After victory is gained by the nation the efforts of Russia will have to be directed to getting rid of the Germans and establishing a free and independent Poland. United as it is in the army and has been for the last two and a half years, the Russian nation will win the war and help the Germans, I hope, to free themselves from the Hohenzollern yoke."