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THE POLISH INSURRECTION.

Causes of it—Particulars of the Revolt.

[From the Warsaw Correspondence of the London Daily News, January 20th.]

The telegrams will have already informed you of the enforced conscription, or rather proscription, which was effected in this city, and which is a fresh instance of the relentless system of tyranny pursued by the Czar in this unhappy country.

No recruiting has taken place in either Russia or Poland since 1856; but in the Autumn of last year a decree was promulgated, regulating the manner of the conscription of 1863, so much at variance with the previous modes, that it was officially styled an exceptional measure. And so it proved to be, for instead of the recruits being drafted from all parts of the population, they are exclusively limited to the students, the trades and the manufacturing classes—in fact, to the most intelligent part of the community. All the landed proprietors and the peasants were exempted from conscription on the ground that the new relations introduced between them by the Government were not yet settled, and would be impaired by their absence, thus giving to this new measure a certain liberal character. But, if such really were the cause of this exemption, why was it not extended to other provinces of the Russian empire, where those relations are much more difficult and complicated? And it would have been better at once to have decided on the amount of the contingent to be furnished by the kingdom of Poland, which the authorities were careful to avoid. It therefore became evident that this new measure had for its object to excite jealousy between the different classes of the population, if not to set one against the other—a policy so familiar to the Russian Government—and to throw the whole weight of conscription upon those who had proved themselves the most obnoxious to the authorities during the last few years. The ukase of 1859, signed by the reigning Emperor, which decided that recruiting throughout the whole of the empire should be by lot, and made it peculiarly applicable to Poland, was, in the present instance, entirely disregarded, and an arbitrary designation of persons substituted for it. This conduct naturally excited public indignation, and even caused most disastri-

... and even caused great dissatisfaction among the members of the Council of State appointed by the Government. The district councils, who were enjoined to send delegates to the authorities, and help them in carrying out the conscription, refused their cooperation; the municipal bodies protested against it; many deputations waited on the Grand Duke Constantine to apprise him of the dangers likely to arise from so unjust a measure, and numberless petitions were daily addressed to his Highness imploring his attention to it. All was in vain—"Get rid of these troublesome and unruly men I will," was the answer, and in it he remained inflexible. For a time it was thought that this law would be modified, from the silence purposely observed respecting it. But what was the surprise of the people on learning that a secret circular had been dispatched to the Governor of the provinces containing, among others, the following instructions: "The main object," said the circular, "of this conscription is to rid the country of all the individuals apt to disturb public tranquility." Lists were ordered to be prepared for the names of all persons suspected, without any regard to their bodily health or family circumstances, with a view of ridding, not the country, but the Russian Government, of those who were most conspicuous in the late events; or, in other words, to decimate the young generation, and to deprive the national cause of its most active defenders. Nothing could have been more calculated to provoke a feeling of revenge than such dastardly conduct of the Government, accompanied as it was by acts of the vilest atrocity. It was M. Sigismund Wielopolski, as President of the municipal council (son of the Marquis Wielopolski), that the execution of this measure in Warsaw was confided. Fearing a popular outbreak, the Government increased the garrison of Warsaw to fifty thousand men, and the wives and families of the Russian officers had quietly, the day before the recruiting, been removed to the citadel. All was suspense and expectation; the doomed day was unknown, though the incessant movement of troops indicated its approach. At eleven o'clock p. m. of the 14th instant, all the streets were occupied by regiments of the guard, the cavalry having taken possession of the principal issues, and making the patrols during the night. At midnight the police, accompanied by soldiers, all carrying lanterns, intoxicated with the extra allowance of spirits, suddenly rushed into the houses previously noted, terrifying the inmates, who were soundly asleep, and carrying off with them the victims designated on the fatal list. Wherever the person so designated happened to have been absent or had made his escape, his father or brother was taken as a hostage. The

of another was taken as a hostage. The Jews shared the fate of the Christians, and, as they were mostly married men, their lot is more pitiful. They were all conducted to the town hall, amid the shrieks, weeping and lamentations of their wives, children and parents, from whence, in batches of twenty to twenty-five, they were transferred handcuffed to the citadel, to be sent to Siberia or the Caucasus. There was but little resistance offered, and this was soon put down, the greater part of them having submitted for the sake of their country to this ignominious lot. This was recommended to them by a farewell appeal addressed to those "affected by the proscription." "The country," continued the appeal, "demands from you this sacrifice—the country who loses in you its most cherished children. The greatest proof of the devotion you can give it is not to compromise its future by a premature effort. It is painful, we know, to drag, far from your fatherland, a life of which every day is a terrible sacrifice; but you, who love so much your country, will find it easy. You will serve your country by infusing sentiments of freedom and humanity into the hearts of the Russian soldiers." The number lodged in the citadel is said to be 2,000, and the loss of so many hands to the trades and manufactories here is most inconveniently felt. All business is at a standstill, and the gloom, the execrations of the people, the sight of the old men, females and children crying and despairing, presents at once a touching and a most lugubrious spectacle.

In the midst of this scene the Grand Duke Constantine rolled in his carriage through the streets of the city, bestowing his smiles upon these unfortunate beings, as if to intimate that his "will had been done," no matter at what cost of human suffering.

What shocks us most in this barbarous conduct of the Government is the official announcement in the *Gazette* that the men taken displayed the greatest willingness to fill the Russian ranks, and that some even volunteered into the service without being liable to it. This is a piece of barefaced hypocrisy which nothing can justify.

Yesterday and to-day the proscription was renewed in the broad daylight by the policemen and soldiers, who arrested every young man in the streets, and who are again all-powerful in the city. Several aged men, fathers of families, have been mistaken for the young, and had to pay heavy bribes in order to obtain their liberty.

Particulars of the Revolt.

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[From the Warsaw correspondence of the Berlin National Zeitung, January 25.]

I can only confirm my account of yesterday, that the country is in complete revolt. According to the arrangements of the revolutionary party, the outbreak was not to take place until May, but the Government themselves have hastened the catastrophe by the unhappy recruiting movement. From all parts of the country come bad reports, one following the other. In Kiele and in Siedlic provisional Governments are established. Fighting has taken place at many points with varied results. All the telegraph lines are broken, and on the Warsaw and St. Petersburg and the Warsaw and Vienna railways the rails are torn up and carried off. On the Warsaw and St. Petersburg line the insurgents have burnt a bridge. All the lines have become insecure, and it will cost the Government much trouble to become master of the movement. The insurgents seem to be about to carry on a guerrilla warfare. Already a great part of the Warsaw garrison have left the city. Here all is still and quiet, but who can say for how long? The express post from Siedlic arrived here yesterday, and brought the entrails of General Tscherkassoff, who was killed by the rebels on the road hither from Siedlic. The conductor reported that, some miles from Siedlic, not far from Bjala, a column of about 1,000 men, armed with pikes and revolvers, showed themselves, and called on him to stop. As he obeyed the summons, they demanded his list of passengers. When they saw the name of General Tscherkassof, they cried out, "This is the man we want." They then opened the door and announced to the General, who was within the carriage, that he was sentenced to die by the National Committee, and immediately one of them fired his revolver at the General. The ball crashed through his head. They then dragged the body from the coach, cut out the stomach, tore out the entrails, threw them into the coach, and said to the conductor, "Take these to Prince Constantine, but we will keep the body to show our chiefs that we have faithfully carried out their orders." I can only add that General Tscherkassof was nominated by the Prince to serve on the Court martial on the men accused of the murder at Chelm, and that he signed the sentence of death upon them. Such events occur daily. On the other hand, the General Intendant of the army, General

Sinelniskeff, who had 100,000 roubles with him, was met by the rebels, who fell upon him and sadly ill used him. They disarmed the General, requested him to deliver the money, and gave him a receipt signed by the National Committee. So far the rebels; but more important is it for the extension of the revolt that all the landholders have declared to their peasants that they desire no rent from them, and that all

the ground they hold is given to them for the future. The country people now begin to waver, and at many places they already make common cause with the rebels. Altogether it is estimated that 200,000 rebels are in the country. There has been fighting in the streets at Plock, and over night the Poles had taken possession of the town. In the morning, however, the surprised troops took courage and seized a number of the revoltors. Their leader, an advocate named Zegrada, shot himself. At Czenstochau the rebels met an escort of Cossacks, who had ten prisoners, disarmed them and released the prisoners.

[From the London Times, January 30.]

Everything that reaches us from Poland shows that the importance of the insurrection had not been exaggerated. That it may be put down by overwhelming military force, we do not pretend to deny. But it will be not the less the furious uprising of a people maddened by oppression against a Government which, besides being that of the stranger, has carried into our reflective and humane age the policy by which fifty years ago it was thought legitimate to overawe and exhaust discontented provinces. The facts, as given by telegraph, show that this is no mere local disturbance, the offspring of some imagined grievance, or, as the Emperor would have it, the effect of revolutionary preaching among the more hot headed of the people. Simultaneously, from one end of the country to the other, there has been a rising against Russian authority, and the fighting has been such as to prove that the insurgents, though they may despair of victory, are determined on revenge. The dispatches, which it must be remembered are from Russian sources, show that the imperial troops have met with a fierce resistance wherever they have endeavored to disperse the rebels. Warsaw is, indeed, kept quiet, but this city is the headquarters of the Russian army, and garrisoned by a force probably as large as that which is dispersed through all England and Wales. But away from the Capital it does not appear that tranquility has anywhere been restored. At Plock and Siedlec, towns far distant from each other, there have been collisions between the army and the insurgents, and in other places the Russians are said to have been compelled to retreat.

CRIME IN CANADA—HORRIBLE MURDER OF A HUSBAND BY A WIFE AND HER PARAMOUR.—We take the following from an Eastern paper :

About eighteen months ago Mrs. Margaret Jane Taylor and James Sutliff, of Smithfield, near Brighton, C. W., were both arrested, charged with administering poison to James Taylor, husband of the aforementioned Mrs. Taylor with intent to kill. The total result of