



Special Correspondence THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 12, 1892.

UT of a swamp at the command of Peter the Great, St. Petersburg rose to be the capital of the greatest Empire of the world. He made his officials build it and support it, and the fact that it is the Capital is its only reason for existence to-day. If the Emperor had more than one capital, he would have divided the empire into provinces, and the cities would have dwelt in the deserts built on the banks of the Neva.

Washington has nothing of an office-holding population in comparison with St. Petersburg. The drovnyks which are dragged on a gallop by and down the Nevsky Prospect are filled with officers in uniform, and every other man from meet upon the sidewalk is in the employ of the Emperor. There are thousands upon thousands of servants of the Emperor who are here to take charge of the four hundred odd millions of dollars which Russia collects in taxes every year.

The city contains more than a million people, and it costs as much to run it as any city in the world. The Emperor himself with hundreds of millions upon millions spends the greater part of it in St. Petersburg, and here it is that he sends out the orders which may determine the greatest or the smallest matters of the world. He is the personification of tyranny and autocracy. It is so in a certain sense, and it is far from being so in another sense.

I am surprised at the good order I find in St. Petersburg. The people drive here like the wind, but you never see any collisions on the great boulevards and streets. The police are crowded. The police will not permit heavy business wagons to go upon the more frequented streets, and in turning a corner a man is liable to be run over by a policeman. There is a policeman at every crossing, who stands in the center of the street, and the horses going in one direction must take one side of the street, and returning must go on the other.



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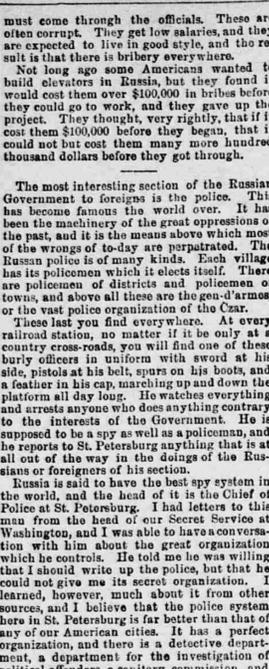
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The machinery of local Government is carried on in much the same way as our State Governments. European Russia has 65 States, and each of these States has its District Council. The Governor, appointed by the Emperor, governs the State, and this Governor has a Council which has a good deal to say as to what he shall do. Each of the Counties or Districts into which the State is divided has another Government working within the larger Government, and these districts are divided into Communes or villages, and each of them in turn has its Government, which has fixed relations as a part in and of the Government of the State. It will be thus seen that the Government of Russia is a vast machinery carefully constructed, and working, more or less, harmoniously according to the officials at the head of it.

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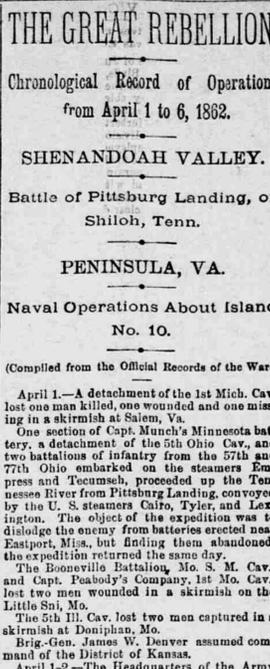
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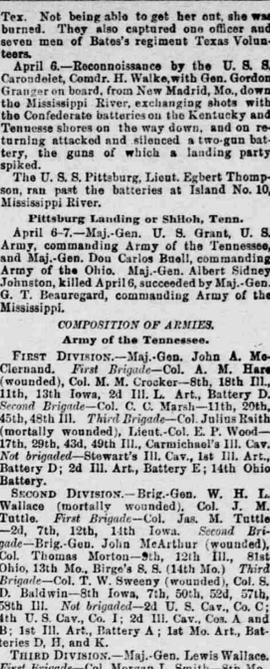
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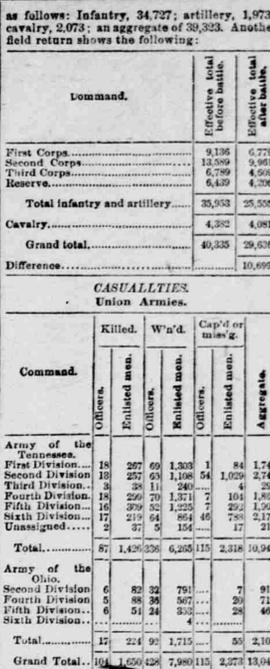
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