

GAVE \$50,000 TO WIRE TAPPERS

TALE OF A BIG BET BY A SIMPLE SOUL SEEKING RICHES.

He Was Taken to a Western Union Branch Office, Heard of Big Bet, Saw Such Bets Made in a Brokers' Hotel Room and His Roll Went—Can't Prosecute.

If the story that John F. Felix, the latest simple person to lift his voice in a wall against the wire tapping swindlers, told Commissioner McAdoo yesterday is true in all its details, then the existing classification of good things will have to be changed to make room for a new class at the top.

Mr. McAdoo believes the story. But it is to be said in behalf of the Commissioner that he is not deeply versed in the customs of the laying down of \$50,000 to 1 to 6 for a bet in such a place may not appeal to him with its full force.

Mr. Felix, according to the tale he told at Police Headquarters, came to this country last October. He had been here before and had married an American wife.

Mr. McAdoo says that Felix showed himself to be a man of culture and refinement, and the Commissioner believes that Mr. Felix is connected commercially and by family ties with several large banking concerns in this country and Germany.

At West Twenty-first street, some time last fall, Mr. Felix opened a wholesale place for the sale of zithers and auto-harps. At about the same time he began to gamble at Lou Ludlum's. This is the rest of his story.

There came to him last week a smooth individual who said:

"Is this Mr. Felix? I've spent a lot of time looking for you. My name is Mason. You remember, or perhaps you do not, that I met you in Ludlum's. A Mr. Meyer introduced us. You and I were the heavy losers; we both got stuck good and hard. I've been looking for you ever since. I didn't remember your first name, and I went to the telephone directory and found four men there of the name. I looked up all three of the others before I found you. I know you're a sportsman, I thought you ought to be let in on my scheme to get even. It's a dream. First of all you want to get \$50,000 in cash. You can't lose it, but you will have to have it to show."

Mr. Felix didn't remember Mr. Mason. But was glad to see him again. Mr. Felix seems to have heard that banking institutions sometimes lately have lent money in large quantities to people "to show."

Mr. Felix went to a bank and borrowed \$50,000 on his word that it would be returned within a week and without other security. Whether he told Mr. McAdoo that he went to the bank which has recently been conspicuous in such transactions could not be learned, and the connection of professional gamblers with him under the circumstances may be a mere coincidence.

Mason took Felix to a branch office of the Western Union at West Twenty-second street near Broadway. It was a lovely plant. Felix says that there were ten or fifteen operators working at typewriters and sounders and telephones. A big man was running up and down in his shirt sleeves. This man threw up his hands and waved them away.

"Now, Mason," he yelled, "don't come in on me to-day. It's no day for a friendly visit. I'm busy up to my eyes. Come in some day when I'm not so busy."

"Mike, here's an order from John W. Gates for \$50,000; \$35,000 on Dapple Gold; rush that! It's getting late."

"Come in some day when I'm not so busy and I'll talk to you and maybe we can do business. But this is the first day and we've rushed off our feet. You see, the Western Union only opened up this pool-room service again to-day."

"George, don't you hear that order from Mr. Harriman to Mahoney to put \$25,000 on Saddleuce. Get busy!"

"No, Mason! friendship is friendship, but this isn't the time for a call of this sort. For heaven's sake, man, give me a chance to get going!"

"Mike! Mr. Gates recalls that \$35,000 bet and wants \$50,000 up on Topie instead! Jump!"

"They called me down to Dry street to-day and told me they wanted me to make a record for myself. And I've got to do it! I can't stop to fool."

"What's this?—bending over a receiver. Joe, can Mr. Vanderbilt get \$40,000 down on Dapple Gold? All right! Let her go!"

But after a while the shirt sleeve man quieted down and went out with them and had a drink and promised to hold up the third and fourth races for them with advance news as to the winners. Mason then took Felix to the Hoffman House, put him into a telephone booth and had him listen while the voice of the shirt sleeve man came over the wire announcing that Matador had won the fourth race at New Orleans. Astarita was second and Inquisitive Girl was third. Mason then took Felix across the hall of the hotel into the reading room, which is occupied by Wasserman & Co. as brokerage offices after market hours and which is open to everybody at other times.

There were a lot of men there, all talking horse. A racing sheet, Mr. Felix says, was hung on the quotation blackboard. Mr. Felix was introduced to a half-breed man, Mr. Lawson Greene, cashier of the room. Mr. Felix said he didn't want to bet just yet. He would wait. In a moment a man at the ticker sang out:

"Third race! Matador wins! Astarita second! Inquisitive Girl third!"

There was a great hubbub of bettors. Some had lost seventy-five thousand dollars. One man owned up to Mr. Felix that he had won \$200,000. Mr. Felix was much impressed.

"Now you see how easy it is!" said Mr. Mason.

They went back to the telephone. Again the voice of the shirt sleeve man came over the wire telling them that Old Stone was the winner of the fourth race. They dashed back. Mr. Felix told Mr. McAdoo that he took out the envelope which contained his borrowed \$50,000, wrote across the flap of it "Old Stone to win, \$50,000 to \$100,000" and handed it to Mr. Lawson Greene.

Sure enough, the man at the ticker sang out: "Old Stone wins! Kicksheva second! To-boggan third!"

Mr. Felix was overwhelmed with congratulations from three or four men nearest him. But in the midst of them the voice of the announcer rose again.

"Mistake," he yelled. "Kicksheva wins that race. Old Stone, second!"

There was a fuss and a good deal of confusion and many protests. The man who had been around Mr. Felix slipped away in the stir. Mr. Mason, greatly dejected, stood by him.

"Let's go to the telephone and call up that Western Union man and see what he means by this!" growled Mr. Mason.

They did. The shirt sleeve man's voice was dissolved in tears, almost. He explained that the first news he had sent was based on a mistake in the colors of the dreadfully sorry horse. He would make it all up next day, sure!

Things began to dawn on Mr. Felix. He made a guess. Mr. Lawson Greene and Mr. Mason expostulated with him and at last broke into tears. They went out to get witnesses to their integrity—and he has not seen them since.

Mr. McAdoo said yesterday that Mr. Felix had explained to the swindlers before the money was put down that it was borrowed and that if by any chance he lost it, there was nothing left but suicide.

Mr. McAdoo explained that, inasmuch as the whole transaction was an attempt to defraud, he understood that Mr. Mason and Mr. Lawson Greene could not be prosecuted by Mr. Felix because Mr. Felix was a partner in the crime.

Mr. McAdoo said that Mr. Felix was arrested and taken to the jail on Monday. Mr. McAdoo personally undertook the task of trying to get an incriminating statement out of him, but only elicited more tears.

Another prisoner was taken to Headquarters, but the police refused to tell what part he had in the transaction.

At the Wasserman offices it was said that inasmuch as the transaction occurred in a public room after market hours they felt no responsibility for it. Mr. McAdoo exonerated that firm from all suspicion in the swindle.

Detective Sergeant Fogarty took to Police Headquarters last night two patrol wagons loaded with stuff which he said had been removed from a room in the building at 27 East Twenty-second street. There were a roll top desk, several tables, 14 chairs, 12 rugs, 18 dry batteries, 9 telegraph sounders, 6 relay boxes, 1 telegraph instrument and a lot of radium sheets and paraphernalia such as go with a well equipped poolroom. There were no prisoners.

GUNBOAT NEWPORT DISABLED.

Merchant Vessel Saw Her Trying to Make Norfolk Under Sail.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The State Department has been informed by the United States commercial agent at Port Antonio, Jamaica, that the merchant steamer Admiral Schley sighted the gunboat Newport seventy miles south of Hatteras on Feb. 3 with her propeller disabled and making an attempt to get to Norfolk by the use of sails.

The Newport left Boston a week ago, bound for Santo Domingo, to join Rear Admiral Sigsbee's Caribbean squadron. The Navy Department has telegraphed the commandant of the Norfolk Navy Yard to send a tug in search of the Newport.

The Newport is in command of Commander Albert Mertz. She is a composite gunboat of 1,000 tons displacement and has only one screw. She is regarded in the Navy Department as a good seagoing vessel. Further than the mere facts as reported at Port Antonio nothing is known at either the State or Navy Department of the Newport's plight.

SANTO DOMINGO QUIET.

Commander Dillingham, Notified of Changes in the Protocol to Start for Home.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, Feb. 7.—A torpedo boat went to Monte Cristi, taking dispatches to Commander Dillingham, special representative of the United States, informing him of the changes in the protocol recently signed by Santo Domingo and the United States, that are demanded by the latter Government. It is presumed here that Clause 5 of the protocol is the one in which change is desired.

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SCARF PIN FOR LITTLE TIM.

Presented by the Republican Aldermen Because They Like Him.

Little Tim Sullivan, who is the actual though not the titular leader of the Tammany majority in the Board of Aldermen, is as well liked by the members of the opposite side of the house as by those on his own. After yesterday's meeting the Republican Aldermen gave him a gold scarf-pin. The pin was modelled out of a gold nugget into the shape of a tiger's head and with two small diamonds for the eyes. The presentation was made by Alderman Ardolph L. Kline, who is also Colonel of the Fourteenth Regiment of Brooklyn.

Latest Marine Intelligence.

Arrived: St. Comal, Brownsville, Feb. 4.

Left: 850 NIAGARA FALLS & RETURN. Leave New York 8:30 P. M. Arrive Excelsior Feb. 11th, return 10th. Tickets good all trains, except Black Diamond. Nos. 123, 124 Broadway—Adm.

Grand Automobile Course. Arrive Madison Square Garden, Friday, February 10—Adm.

Quickest Line to Cleveland. Leave New York 5:32 P. M. Arrive Cleveland 7:15 next morning. Cincinnati 1:30 P. M., Indianapolis 3:00 P. M., St. Louis 9:45 P. M., Chicago 12:00 Central. Fine Service. No excess fare—Adm.

High power and correct definition attained by Spencer's Eye Glasses, 13 Maiden Lane, N. Y.—Adm.

ANCIENT BANK BURGLARY LOOT

MANHATTAN SAVINGS BANK BOND LANDS WILCOXON IN JAIL.

Secret Service Man Spent a Night With Him at the Waldorf—Sub-Treasurer Spotted a Defunct \$10,000 Government 4—Broker Arrested as Forfeit.

A \$10,000 registered United States bond, part of the \$2,747,700 in securities stolen from the Manhattan Savings Institution more than twenty-six years ago, was detected by Deputy Assistant Treasurer G. W. Marlor at the Sub-Treasury on Monday.

Secret Service men, and as a result Dr. Lewis O. Wilcoxon, promoter of Chicago and the Waldorf-Astoria, James A. Smith, a curb broker, and Joseph A. Taylor, a promoter, were arrested before Commissioner Shields yesterday afternoon on a charge of conspiring to dispose of a forged obligation. The same complaint implicates Samuel Warren Miller, whose residence is known to the Sub-Treasury.

The bank obtained an act of Congress under which its stolen United States registered bonds were cancelled and replaced, so that the originals now are valueless and could be made to appear marketable only by forgery. The bond found yesterday was one of thirty \$10,000 bonds issued on July 1, 1877, to the bank and numbered 1871 to 2000. This one bore and still bears the number 1969. The name of the payee had been altered from "Manhattan Savings Institution" to "Samuel Warren Miller."

Dr. Wilcoxon says he met Miller in Alaska eight years ago at Valdes and a year or two afterward on the Klondike trail. The doctor struck it rich in Alaska, he says, and owns valuable copper properties near Valdes. A few days ago, he says, Miller called at the Waldorf-Astoria, where Wilcoxon has lived for two or three years, and offered to buy an interest in the copper properties and pay in Government bonds. Arrangements were made, Wilcoxon says, for a transfer of \$200,000 of the bonds for an interest in the mines.

The bond which was to secure the deal was turned over at the Waldorf on Monday morning, says Wilcoxon, and he and Miller took it to the National Shoe and Leather Bank. Wilcoxon, who has had an account in the bank, introduced Miller to the president, W. S. Meyer, and the latter, at Wilcoxon's request, witnessed Miller's signature to the blank assignment on the back of the bond. The security was now a negotiable instrument, but no attempt was made to borrow on it at that bank.

Wilcoxon returned to the Waldorf. There, he says, he actually met a friend, Joseph A. Taylor, who lives in White Plains, and is around the hotel a great deal. He says he wanted to give Taylor a chance to borrow \$2,000 on the bond. Taylor doesn't deal in bonds himself, but he has a friend, John A. Smith, who lives at the Broadway Central and is a curb broker, and he made a deal with Smith to secure the loan for half the fee.

Smith took the bond the same day to the American Exchange National Bank, where they said it was good but refused to loan on it because Smith was a depositor. A clerk at the Sub-Treasury was then interviewed, and said the bond was good, thereby, it is said, exceeding his authority. Smith went to several other banks, receiving the same reply as at the American Exchange, but finally struck oil at the Etna National, at Greenwich and Warren streets, where both he and Taylor knew some of the officials.

Before making the loan the bank sent a messenger with the bond to the Sub-Treasury, and there it took but a glance at the Government caveat sheet to identify it by number question as worthless, and a forgery, also.

Chief Flynn of the Secret Service operatives was summoned, took Operatives Henry and Klenke with him, arrested Smith at the bank and then hurried to the Waldorf, where they found Taylor. Wilcoxon was taken to a theatre, but he too was a clerk at the Waldorf on his return. Secret service men guarded Wilcoxon and Taylor at the Waldorf and Smith at the Broadway Central all Monday night, while the search for Miller continued.

Chief Flynn and his assistant, being unable to find Miller or any trace of him or any one who knew him, had the prisoners arraigned late yesterday afternoon. Taylor and Smith, evidently being considered innocent agents, were paraded in the custody of their attorneys, Joel M. Marx and Hugh Gordon Miller, with bail fixed at \$1,000 each. Wilcoxon retained Marx & Miller. His bail was fixed at \$10,000. After telephoning about town until 5:30, he was obliged to accompany Marshal Henkel to the Tombs. The examination is set for Tuesday next at 2 o'clock.

Wilcoxon has a wife and child in Chicago, and the child, it is said, was a winner in a baby show recently at the Waldorf. Wilcoxon says he owns valuable copper mines in Dutch Guiana, as well as in Alaska, but is not flush of ready money. Taylor lives in White Plains. Taylor and Smith made a statement in which they declared their connection with the case to be entirely innocent.

Chief Flynn says the substitution of Miller's name for the Manhattan Savings Institution as payee on the bond is a clever piece of work.

"I would not be surprised," said he, "if the forgery was done twenty years ago. The ink is faded in about the same proportion as the ink of the Treasury officials' signatures. The blue silk fibre of the paper has been spoiled but slightly by the erasure and the new entry. Who it was who passed as Miller at the Shoe and Leather bank we have not been able to learn."

The Manhattan Savings Institution was robbed on the morning of Sunday, Oct. 27, 1878. Its net loss was only \$20,000, according to Inspector Byrnes's book. Years ago Jack Cannon, a notorious sneak thief and burglar, tried to sell one of the stolen bonds in Philadelphia and got fifteen years for it. He died in prison.

Dr. Wilcoxon has figured in several court proceedings here and in Chicago, some of them connected with the affairs of Capt. John J. Healy, another man of Alaskan experiences.

LINER WRECKED; IS MISSING.

Furness Steamer Damara Ashore Near Halifax—Captain's Boat Not In.

HALIFAX, N. S., Feb. 7.—The Furness Line steamer Damara went ashore at Pleasant Point, off Musquodoboit Harbor, near Halifax, this morning, and one boat containing eighteen men is missing.

The Damara, commanded by Capt. J. D. Gorst, was on the voyage from Liverpool to Halifax by way of St. John's, N. F., which port she left on Saturday night.

The steamer struck during a thick snow-storm. Orders were at once given to reverse the engines, but as the water was coming in rapidly, it was decided to abandon the ship.

Two boats put off containing the crew and passengers, thirty in all. One was in charge of the captain and the other in charge of the mate. A few seconds after leaving the ship she was lost in the darkness, and the boats were rowed toward what they thought was the land.

The sea was running very high and the weather was down to zero. After hours of hard work, during which much suffering was experienced, the mate's boat made a landing in a desolate place, miles away from the nearest telegraph office.

At midnight no news had been received of the captain's boat. The three passengers, two men and a woman, were in the boat.

The wind is blowing fiercely on shore to-night, and it is freezing hard. There is still hope that they are living.

Those in the boat which landed in the afternoon were badly frozen, and so exhausted that they had to be hauled out of the boat.

There is no doubt that the steamer Damara has foundered, as she was fast settling when the boats left her.

The Damara was built at Glasgow in 1885 and is a vessel of 1,779 tons. She has a general cargo for Halifax. She had three passengers.

STUDENTS FLEE FROM SMALLPOX.

Two Cases of the Disease Are Discovered in Gettysburg College.

GETTYSBURG, Pa., Feb. 7.—Two freshmen of Gettysburg College were found last night to be afflicted with smallpox, and at 1 o'clock in the morning the Board of Health put the entire student body under quarantine.

A large number of men were deputized to guard the dormitories, but before day-break the news had spread among the students, who became panic-stricken, and more than a hundred managed to escape by crawling down fire escapes and jumping from windows.

A crowd of about eighteen boarded an early train to Harrisburg, but the local authorities immediately telegraphed to the Board of Health of that place, and when the refugees reached their destination they were surrounded by a cordon of police, who hustled them into another car, locked them in, and several hours later shipped them back to Gettysburg.

When this carload of students, who for hours had been without food, reached this place they were in an ugly humor. They barricaded themselves in the car and threatened vengeance on the police if they attempted to take them to college. The officers thought it unwise to use force so they laid siege to the car, and after several hours hunger forced the young men to surrender. Constables from nearby townships brought in many refugees. This evening almost all of the escaped students have been recaptured.

CHILD SAVES SISTER'S LIFE.

Five-Year-Old Holds Her on Edge of Ice Till Help Comes.

MIDDLETON, N. Y., Feb. 7.—Harold, the five-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Godfrey of Bloomingburg, saved the life of his sister Hazel, who is slightly his senior, to-day. The children were on their way home from school and took a short cut across a pond.

The ice had been out from a part of the pond and, though it had again frozen over, was thin. Harold went through, but made a baby when he reached the other side. The officers thought it unwise to use force so they laid siege to the car, and after several hours hunger forced the young men to surrender. Constables from nearby townships brought in many refugees. This evening almost all of the escaped students have been recaptured.

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AFTER FREE-PASS LAWMAKERS

JEROME SAID TO HAVE ASKED FOR N. Y. CENTRAL'S FREE LIST.

Story Comes From City Hall, Where Aldermen Are Interested, Because, Like Senators and Assemblers, They Lose Their Jobs if They Take Passes.

It reached the ears of lawmakers at the City Hall and Albany yesterday that District Attorney Jerome is after them if they have accepted railroad passes. Mr. Jerome, when questioned on the subject, wouldn't say a word.

It was said at the City Hall that officers of the New York Central Railroad had been informed that Mr. Jerome wanted to know the names of the members of the Legislature, if any, that annually got passes, either for themselves or their friends, and that he wanted to see the representatives of the company who had charge of handing out the passes, so that he could scrutinize the free list.

It is understood that Mr. Jerome has no intention of bringing criminal prosecutions. A legislator who accepts passes, thereby violating the law, forfeits his office. If Mr. Jerome carries out the plan, and the lawmakers fear he will, he will present whatever evidence he gets to Attorney-General Mayer. It is expected that the New York Central will be at the District Attorney's office either to-day or to-morrow.

This is the section of the Constitution under which Mr. Jerome will act: No public officer or person elected or appointed to a public office under the laws of this State shall directly or indirectly ask, demand, accept, receive or consent to receive for his own use or benefit of the same any free pass, free transportation, franking privilege, a discrimination in passenger, telegraph or telephone rates from any person or corporation, or make use of the same.

A person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall forfeit his office at the suit of the Attorney-General.

Another section of the law says: No person or officer or agent of a corporation giving such free passes, transportation, franking privilege or discrimination hereby prohibited shall be privileged from testifying in relation thereto, and he shall not be liable to civil or criminal prosecution if he shall testify to the giving of the same.

It was said that Mr. Jerome might not be able to obtain the information he wanted, as the passes were never issued in the names of the Albany lawmakers. Mr. Jerome seems to think, however, that the records of the New York Central will show that certain legislators have accepted passes. When the session opened he suggested that it might be interesting to find out how many Assemblers and Senators journeyed to the capital on passes. Various ways of getting this information were suggested, even to spotting the lawmakers on the trains.

Mr. Jerome has been in Albany recently. His excise bill is now before the Legislature. It could not be learned around the Criminal Courts Building that Mr. Jerome contemplated putting the Aldermen on the griddle and finding out if they accepted passes. Yet it appeared that the first news of Mr. Jerome's move leaked out at the City Hall.

"LIES," SAYS GEN. MILES

In Reply to Charges of Cruelty Made by Jefferson Davis's Daughter.

BOSTON, Feb. 7.—Gen. Nelson A. Miles was asked to-day if he wished to reply to the charges of brutality made by Mrs. J. A. Hayes, daughter of Jefferson Davis.

"One cannot reply to a woman," he said. "There is the natural bitterness which she holds and which must be expected. I am somewhat surprised that such a charge should be trumped up now by a daughter of the woman who personally thanked me for the care I took of her husband. Mrs. Hayes says I insulted her mother so grossly that the imprisoned father shook the barred door of the cage and threatened to tear me limb from limb. Well—"

Here the General turned over some leaves of a blue paper covered pamphlet, and read this sentence from a letter written by Mrs. Davis:

"I am taking this occasion to thank you for the care you have taken of my husband and am writing this on the same paper. Mrs. Hayes said she and the way a Southern woman would address a man who had so grossly insulted her, as the daughter more than implies," asked Gen. Miles. "If you know anything of Southern women, you know that once they feel themselves insulted they never forget, and do not forgive it a bit more often."

"Now let me tell you the whole history of that incident. Every act of mine was done under orders. It was humanely done, and at no time was there lack of consideration for the rank and quality of the prisoner. That there was cruelty or brutality in my treatment of him I deny. I was particular that no evil should come to him while he was under my care and gave strict instructions to all my subordinates along similar lines. It is a dastardly outrage to rake up these old lies at this time."

CECILIA LOFTUS IN HOSPITAL.

Actress Has Nervous Prostration and May Be Held Up for Several Weeks.

AKRON, Ohio, Feb. 7.—The condition of Miss Cecilia Loftus, who fainted on the stage at the Colonial Theatre last night at the beginning of the production of "The Serio-Comic Governor," became worse this afternoon, and was removed to the City Hospital. The theatrical company left for Youngstown this morning, but Miss Loftus cancelled her engagement there. Dr. George T. Rankin says that Miss Loftus may not be able to appear on the stage for several weeks. She has a severe attack of nervous prostration.

MACHEN GOES TO JAIL.

With the Grofs, He Is Driven to the Moundsville Penitentiary.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—August W. Machen, formerly superintendent of free delivery in the Post Office Department, was taken this afternoon to Moundsville, W. Va., where he will to-morrow begin a two years sentence in the State penitentiary.

Machen went to the penitentiary in a carriage accompanied by Diller B. and Samuel Grofs, who, with George A. Lorenz of Toledo, Ohio, were jointly convicted with Machen on a charge of conspiring to defraud the United States Government. About a dozen negroes and two or three white men sent to Moundsville for various offenses were taken over at the same time in a prison van.

Lorenz is ill at his home in Toledo and will soon join Machen and the Grofs.

Weather Article.

The city from its slumber rose, in crystal drapery arrayed; infrequently Jack Frost bestows nightgowns so exquisitely made. The wizard sun, whose artist heart was fascinated by the sight, touched with the glamour of his art the dazzling garment of the night. The wild, barbaric west wind came (his temper always has been rude) and stripped the city without shame, exulting that her limbs were nude.

NIAGARA FALLS AND RETURN.

Leave New York 8:30 P. M. Arrive Excelsior Feb. 11th, return 10th. Tickets good all trains, except Black Diamond. Nos. 123, 124 Broadway—Adm.

High power and correct definition attained by Spencer's Eye Glasses, 13 Maiden Lane, N. Y.—Adm.

MOVEMENT FOR PEACE.

Russia Said to Be Countermanning Orders for Army and Navy Stores.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Feb. 8.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Chronicle reiterates his story of yesterday that a movement in the direction of peace, initiated by the Grand Ducal party, is afoot. He says that a special envoy has started for Manchuria conveying important instructions to Gen. Kuropatkin.

He asserts that large orders for army and navy stores have been countermanned, and that the order for the mobilization of another army corps has been withdrawn.