

SAYS RUSSIANS ARE READY FOR PEACE

"Mad Monk" Declares Czar Is Likely to Make Overtures to Germany.

RASPUTIN A STRONG MAN

Trufanoff Tells Weird Tale at a Studio Gathering Here.

Berius Michaelow Trufanoff, known as two continents as "Hissor, the Mad Monk," declared with flashing eyes and stinging voice last night that there was every possibility of Russia making a separate peace with Germany and thus bringing the war to a close.

So great is the power of Gregory Rasputin, the mystic lay monk, over the imperial family and the Czar that the Duma will be dismissed and the peace move statements bearing on fact and fancy were made before a select gathering in the Samoiloff studio in Carnegie Hall.

At first he reviewed his own life, describing how he had become the personal confessor of the imperial family and the close adviser of the Czar, gaining the place through the influence of Rasputin. In four years of intimate connection with the Czar's family and with Rasputin he had learned the secrets of the court and the true character of the monk.

Rasputin a Strong Figure. "Rasputin's part in the present war cannot be overestimated," he said through his interpreter.

"When Prime Minister Gorevskyin was superseded by Stuermer the monk Rasputin was the guiding hand. German had its influence. Recently the Duma, backed by the English Government, insisted that Stuermer be replaced by Treppoff, who, though supposedly anti-Germany, is very close to Rasputin and somewhat under his influence.

An interested listener to the "mad monk's" talk was Count Leo Tolstoy, son of the great Russian leader. The Count, who is in America to deliver a series of lectures on the history of his father, refused to comment further than to say that the expressions of Hissor were not in accord with the political and religious beliefs of his illustrious parent.

JOFFRE TO BE MARSHAL

Decree Nominating Him Will Be Submitted as Soon as Possible.

Paris, Dec. 26.—The Government has decided to raise Gen. Joffre to the dignity of Marshal of France in recognition of his eminent services to the country. A decree nominating him will be submitted for the ratification of Parliament as soon as possible.

The title of Marshal of France has fallen into disuse since the establishment of the third republic. A bill, in 1873, regulating the army grades, retained the rank, but specified that the conditions under which it could be conferred should be fixed by a supplementary bill. That bill, however, has never been proceeded with.

The title of Marshal was given first to the leader of the horsemen of French princes. Later the commander of French cavalry received the title and finally the honor was bestowed on the commander of the entire army. The first of the Marshals of France was Albert Clement the First, who was appointed in 1185. The last was Labouret, who got the honor in 1870. Marshal MacMahon, President, received the title in 1859.

WARNS U. S. AGAINST A PEACE COALITION

Samuel T. Dutton Declares That It Would Destroy the Monroe Doctrine.

A wave of distrust and suspicion has developed over the proposal that the United States should enter a coalition of foreign Powers and establish a league to enforce peace, according to a statement issued last evening by Samuel T. Dutton, who was a member of the International Commission to Investigate Cause of the Balkan Wars, and who helped to organize the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief.

"The issue suddenly raised before the American people, in plain and unvarnished terms, presents itself thus: Shall the United States become signatory to a compact with an undetermined number of European and Asiatic Powers whereby the United States would be compelled to use its army and navy jointly with them in such coalition, in any part of the world, in case any member of the coalition breaks its word, and commits an act of war without submitting to a preliminary grievance to impartial inquiry?"

"There can be no question as to the answer which the people of this country will give to such a dangerous proposal. They will never permit the Government at Washington to emmesh this country in the shifting, uncertain, explosive affairs of the Old World. They will refuse to abandon their complete political detachment from incontinent quarrels of conflicting Governments which are the cause of a detachment from entangling alliances which is today even more important for us to preserve than it was at the time when with prophetic vision Washington solemnly warned his fellow countrymen not to abandon it.

"If by any possibility the United States should enter such a coalition as a league to enforce peace, we could not hope to control the coalition by our single vote; in other words the foreign States in that coalition would control us, and they would decide when and where the United States should go to war against some recalcitrant member of the league.

"We have not yet arrived at a point where we will permit England or Germany, or France, or Russia, or Japan, or Siam, or any other nation, larger or smaller, to decide questions of war for us.

"When the present war ends, the time will be at hand to try the only experiment in world affairs which has not been tried, and which seems eminently practicable—the establishment of an international court, a world court, modeled after the Supreme Court at Washington, whose decisions will be supported and carried out by the single greatest force in existence—the sheer force of public opinion."

TWO DAYS TRUCE IN MEAT BOYCOTT

Packing Houses Agree to Sell "Chucks" and "Plates" at Lower Prices.

KOSHER BUTCHERS WIN

Commissioner Dillon Says Secrecy of Milk Is Growing Serious.

A two days truce has been declared in the fight between the kosher butchers and packing house companies doing a kosher meat business. The companies have agreed to cut the wholesale price of "chucks" and "plates" from 14% and 17% cents to 12% and 15% cents per pound pending a conference with representatives of the Federation of Hebrew Kosher Retail Butchers of America, at which the kosher butchers' grievances will be fully considered. The wholesalers also agreed to recognize the organization.

The decision to again buy kosher killed meat from the wholesalers and sell it at retail in their shops was reached by the butchers at a two hours session which they had with the packers yesterday afternoon in the office of the United Drovers and Company, 15 First avenue, between Forty-third and Forty-fourth streets.

Wholesalers at Conference. The wholesalers at the conference were Lee Josephs, New York Butchers Dressed Beef Company; B. F. Noyes, general manager of Swift & Co.; Walter Blumenthal, president of the United Dressed Beef Company; Morris Abramowitz, Nagle Packing Company; Louis Joseph, Wilson Company, and Louis Meyer, Joseph Stern & Sons. The federation was represented by Isaac Wickler, Louis Pivnick, Samuel Brill, Joseph A. Laub, Abram Wiseman and Nathan Blumenthal of the organization.

While the conference was in progress 2,000 members of the federation had a meeting in a loft at 735 First avenue, in the heart of the slaughter house district. The statement was made at the meeting that all the wholesalers charge exactly the same price for kosher meat from day to day.

Talk of Federal Inquiry. Assistant District Attorney Samuel Markewich, in an address to the butchers, said that the fact all packers charged the same prices might indicate a combination in restraint of trade. As the companies were engaged in interstate business, he said, it was a matter for a Federal investigation.

About 5,000 kosher butcher shops in the five boroughs joined in the boycott on the wholesaler. Most of them kept their stores open for the sale of poultry only. The price of poultry went up in consequence of the demand. Many who sold nothing but kosher meat shut up their shops.

Secrecy in Milk Supply. The milk supply is lower than it generally is at this time of year, according to John J. Dillon, State Commissioner of Foods and Markets.

"Milk is very scarce," he said, "because the price of feed is so high farmers cannot afford to buy it for their cows. One ton of feed now is worth as much as a ton of milk. Instead of buying feed farmers are using ensilage and other fodder that they raised on their own farms.

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out that way. Owing to present conditions farmers would be justified in asking a higher price for their milk than they are now getting."

Bids for City Feedstuffs.

Bids opened by the city's central purchasing committee yesterday for foodstuffs for the departments of correction, health and charities and Bellevue and allied hospitals for three months beginning January 1 showed in nearly every instance increases over the bids for the corresponding period a year ago.

The lowest bids as compared with last year's bids were as follows:

Grade B milk (qt.) 1917 1916

Cream (qt.) 1.25 1.25

Buttermilk (qt.) .40 .40

Canned tomatoes (case) \$1.50 \$1.50

Peas (case) .80 .80

Corn (case) .90 .90

Beans (case) .75 .75

Cherries (case) .75 .75

Twenty Violations of Law.

Joseph Hartigan, Commissioner of Weights and Measures, said yesterday his inspection of evidence of twenty violations of law on the part of retailers who sold Christmas turkeys. The infraction consisted of overcharging. One dealer's short weight scales meant a loss of thirty-two cents on the price of one small turkey he sold to a customer. Each alleged offender will be sued to recover a penalty of \$100.

It was said yesterday at the office of George W. Perkins, chairman of Gov. Whitman's commission on market conditions, that the State will issue recommendations for remedial legislation to cut the cost of foodstuffs will probably be made public in a day or two.

The injunction proceedings brought by Commissioner Dillon to restrain certain egg dealers, wholesalers and retailers, from selling refrigerator eggs without stamping the words "cold storage" on the shells, and by W. H. Hayes, a member of the New York Mercantile Exchange, to restrain Commissioner Dillon from making returnable yesterday, but counsel for the egg dealers obtained a postponement of a day.

FOOD LAW VIOLATIONS.

N. J. Board of Health to Act Against Middlemen.

The New Jersey State Board of Health has found some sources of violations of the law which require that storage goods to be marked, and in a bulletin issued yesterday warning was given that a campaign will be started against the men responsible—the middlemen.

It has been found that after eggs and other goods are taken from cold storage in many cases they are taken from the original packing, which bears the required stamp, and put in new cases or boxes which bear no mark to differentiate them from strictly fresh goods. These are sold as fresh to the retailer, who in turn, not knowing the change that has been made, passes them on to the consumer.

FRIGID WAVE IN WEST.

Snow in Los Angeles and Zero Weather in the Dakotas.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26.—Far Western States were in the grip today of the coldest weather of the winter and snow fell in Los Angeles for the sixth time in forty years. In Helena, Mont., thermometers registered 25 below zero. There was more than a foot of snow in eastern Washington and Montana, and transcontinental trains were running behind schedule. Southeastern Nevada is experiencing wet weather. In the mountains of Fresno county, California, the snowfall yesterday was four feet.

BISMARCK, N. D., Dec. 26.—A blizzard with a snowfall of seven inches in twenty-four hours today broke the record of the fall during the great blizzard twenty years ago last November. In the wake of the thirty-six mile gale carrying the blizzard is a zero wave.

ST. PAUL, S. D., Dec. 26.—The worst storm in years is raging over the western and central part of the State tonight. A heavy gale is drifting the snow, which fell early today and railroad traffic is badly crippled. Aberdeen, S. D., reported a fall of twelve inches of snow yesterday.

B. R. T. HEAD PLACES 'COLD CARS' BLAME

Public Service Board, Says Col. Williams, Delays Action on Power Houses.

COMPANY TO SELL HEAT

New and Larger Plants Would Permit Trade and Assure Warmer Coaches.

Col. Timothy R. Williams, president of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company, sent a letter yesterday to Oscar Straus, chairman of the Public Service Commission, in which he puts the matter of heat in B. R. T. cars squarely up to the commission. If the latter will authorize the installation of new and larger power houses, Col. Williams says he will promise to provide the heat.

The offer of Col. Williams puts a new face on a controversy that even now threatens to make a defendant of the B. R. T. through District Attorney Lewis's offer to prosecute it in the Brooklyn courts in the event of its refusal to comply with the orders of the Public Service Commission regarding heat. Col. Williams in his letter charges that the commission is to blame and requests Chairman Straus to make public all the facts in the case.

Col. Williams says he realized a year ago that the present B. R. T. equipment was incapable of supplying the new system, which includes the city owned but B. R. T. operated subway lines, and asked the commission to approve plans and a contract for the enlargement of its power plants with a view to selling a certain amount of current to the city as a secondary consideration. Since then terms and conditions have been discussed, but without definite conclusion.

Col. Williams insists it is physically impossible to heat the cars properly with the present equipment during rush hours, and it is understood the commission will not insist on a maximum of heat during those hours for the present. In order to provide heat and avoid the purchase of 250 new cars ordered by the commission, the B. R. T. is seriously considering the use of trailers, which may be heated by stoves.

Commissioner Emerson of the Health Department has also taken a hand in the heating controversy. He sent a letter to Col. Williams yesterday in which he says his inspectors in the past nine days have found fifty-one violations out of 266 B. R. T. cars inspected, as against five violations for 604 in Manhattan. The commissioner's order calls for a minimum heat of 40 degrees.

CALLS HER SON FORGER.

Hotel Man Arrested as He Was Leaving City.

Charged with forging his mother's name to a check for \$74, Alfred Kammerer, 24 years old, who said he was manager of the Blossom Health Inn, Rockaway road, Queens, was arrested as he was about to board a train for the West arranged yesterday in the Tombs police court.

Morris Shoenthal, a silk merchant of 540 Broadway, complained that he had cashed the check. Assistant District Attorney Murphy said that the check on which the complaint was made was one of a series to which the name of Mrs. Emma Kammerer, a milliner of 150 West Ninety-eighth street, had been forged. Mrs. Kammerer had paid out checks to keep her son from being arrested. Mr. Murphy said, but at last her patience was exhausted.

Saks & Company Broadway at 34th Street Telephone 2626 Greeley

Beginning today, at 9 o'clock Sharp, an Important Pre-Inventory Sale of Women's Coats

Almost every desirable model is shown, in the most fashionable materials and colorings, at prices which are at least one-third below former prices. The materials include:

Velour, Plush, Arcadian Lamb, Broadtail Cloth, Bolivia, Wool Velour, Mixtures, Bolivar Cloth

The majority of these fine garments are trimmed with Natural or Skunk Opossum, Near Seal, Hudson Seal, Natural or Skunk-Raccoon, Muskrat, Flying Squirrel, Taupe Wolf, Moufflon or Plush.

- Coats... formerly \$19.50... Reduced to \$11.75
Coats... formerly \$22.50... Reduced to \$13.50
Coats... formerly \$29.50... Reduced to \$18.50
Coats... formerly \$35.00... Reduced to \$22.50
Coats... formerly \$39.50... Reduced to \$27.50
Coats... formerly \$55.00... Reduced to \$35.00
Coats... formerly \$65.00... Reduced to \$39.50
Coats... formerly \$85.00... Reduced to \$50.00

Today—An Exceptional Offering of

Women's Skating Boots at \$3.95

Designed especially for skating and hockey, and reinforced to afford added ankle support.

Regulation height; tongue lined with felt and may be had in all sizes and widths. Colors: Tan, Black and Washable White.

Skates attached Free of Charge

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Important Pre-Inventory Sale Beginning Today Misses' Suits, Coats and Dresses

Models for all occasions, in the most wanted fabrics, colors and trimmings, offered at the following reduced prices to effect immediate disposal.

- Misses' Suits... formerly \$19.50 and \$25.00... now \$12.75
Misses' Suits... formerly \$29.50 and \$35.00... now \$19.50
Misses' Suits... formerly \$39.50 and \$45.00... now \$24.50
Misses' Suits... formerly \$49.50 and \$55.00... now \$29.50
Misses' Suits... formerly \$59.50 and \$69.50... now \$35.00
Misses' Coats... formerly \$19.50 and \$22.50... now \$15.00
Misses' Coats... formerly \$25.00 and \$39.50... now \$18.50
Misses' Coats... formerly \$45.00 and \$49.50... now \$29.50
Misses' Coats... formerly \$55.00... now \$35.00
Misses' Coats... formerly \$59.50... now \$45.00
Misses' Coats... formerly \$65.00 and \$69.50... now \$49.50

- Misses' Dresses... formerly \$22.50 and \$29.50... now \$15.00
Misses' Dresses... formerly \$35.00... now \$18.50
Misses' Dresses... formerly \$39.50... now \$25.00
Misses' Dresses... formerly \$45.00... now \$29.50
Misses' Dresses... formerly \$49.50 to \$65.00... now \$35.00

Today—A Remarkable Offering of

Mackinaw Coats for Boys, \$4.25

New skating pocket model, made of bright colored mackinaw cloths, in a wide variety of plaid designs. Ages 8 to 17.

In a Special Display Today, New

\$5.55 Wonder Hats

Made of satin, trimmed with flowers, ribbons and fancy feathers, in the very latest styles, as dictated by Paris.

The hat illustrated is just one of many models shown in cunning Chinese effects, trimmed with tassel and Chinese coins.

Third Floor.

Wavy Hair Switches, \$5.50

No matter what shade your hair may be, our experts will perfectly match it with one of these genuine natural wavy switches, specially priced for today.

Highest Grade Men's "Cordovan" Shoes at \$7.00

Newest Winter Lasts and Models at last season's price.

There is no place in New York City where, to our knowledge, this grade of shoes is sold under \$9 or \$10,—except here.

Our policy is to refrain from quoting comparative prices. But here is a case exceptional enough to warrant an exception.

The leather for our "Cordovans" was bought last Spring—and our policy is to always pass all advantages on to our patrons.



Mahogany, Oxheart or Black finish. Lasts and models according to the newest style edicts.

Men's Shoe Shop A Separate Shop On the Street Level 4 West 38th Street

Franklin Simon & Co. Fifth Avenue—New York

\$35 Overcoats at Saks'

* Saks' Overcoats run from \$17.50 to \$60, but the variety of choice doesn't run any better after \$35, nor quite so good below it.

* \$35 is the Happy Medium—it is an overcoat price without limitations—it is the figure at which this great overcoat stock of ours gets into its stride.

* Practically speaking, there is no overcoat model in the Saks stock which \$35 will not buy—there are no features of making nor of styling which are not embraced in our \$35 selections.

* Ulsters, Trench Coats, Ulsterettes, Fly Fronts, Button Throughs, and Double Breasters come under the \$35 figure, and exhibit a range of variety in staple and novelty weaves not obtainable in any other ready-for-service stock.

Saks & Company Broadway at 34th St.

Saks & Company 34th St. & Broadway Announce for today, a Sale of Men's Fine Shirts at \$1.20

* Broken lots of high-grade shirts from regular stock, combined with a special purchase of 2,400 shirts from a leading manufacturer.

* Madras—both imported and domestic; fine mercerized fabrics, and novelty weaves are some of the materials represented, in new and most attractive stripe and Jacquard designs.

* Not all sizes in each design, but a good selection of materials and patterns in every size, in stiff cuff, soft cuff and pleated front models.

Also—A Sale of Men's Dress Shirts at \$1.65

* Finely tailored garments for formal and informal wear. Made with fancy pique bosoms, pleated bosoms and plain linen fronts. Not all sizes in each style.

It Would Cost You \$20,000 to Buy the services of the architects whose Country House Designs printed in "Modern Suburban Homes" make that publication the most notable addition of recent years to architectural literature.

These Designs submitted in The Sun Country Home Competition marks a new era in the planning of out of town residences. Price \$1.00. Six cents extra for postage. Check or money order preferred.

Address Cashier, The Sun, 150 Nassau St., N. Y. City.