

The English papers, just to hand, and belated through the irregularity of the mails, supplies the details of the most remarkable national uprising that has ever taken place. It preceded the birth of the New Russia. The war was begun by the Czar and his government with a desire to prosecute it to a successful finish. But after the famous Guards and Cossacks had been practically annihilated it became apparent that the democracy was a leading force, and that with its rise and progress the autocracy, (and the bureaucracy which was allied with it), would lose in prestige and presently pass away.

Then the reactionaries became active. They hampered the army by failing to see that it had the necessary munitions. The Zemstvos and Union of Towns took up this task and carried it through. The reactionaries antagonized the Duma. They irritated the people by provoking them to revolt. They created a famine by refusing or preventing the distribution of foods of which there was an abundance in the country. When the people cried for bread the troops were ordered to fire upon them. The troops, however, declined and fired on the police who were doing what they could to cause disturbance.

The aim of the reactionaries was to prevent the growth of power among the common people and by their blundering tactics caused a revolution which had a different result from that expected, namely, the exaltation of the duma and the exercise through it of the power of the people. There may be trouble in Russia so long as some of the reactionaries are at large, but they have shot their bullet. The army, navy, high officials, nobility, and even some of the imperial party are behind the duma, and most of the nations have recognized the provisional government of Russia which is pledged to carry on the war with more spirit and with greater assurance of success.

The democracy has been variously described, but in a few words it means government by the people as a whole. Their representatives or agents who hold office or authority only so long as they reflect public opinion in their acts and legislation. Democratic government rules in Russia, and it cannot be displaced by any reactionary power now. The war has wrought some great changes and the greatest of all the change in Russia.