

# GLAD HE'S FREE FROM THE CZAR

**Frank Popkin, of Duluth, Discusses the Russian Situation and Declares Revolution Will Never Be a Success Without Aid of the Soldiers.**

Though beyond the reach of the czar's secret police and for twelve years a citizen of the United States, Frank Popkin, a Russian, whose place of business is on the corner of Lake avenue and Superior street, has not been able to rid himself of the terror he felt in his native land when the emperor's name was spoken. He shudders at the thought of his fate and that of his family were he still living in Russia, one of the army of workmen who were attacked and shot down by the troops on Sunday.

At the conclusion of an interview with a News Tribune reporter in regard to the St. Petersburg situation, Mr. Popkin said, last evening: "I have said enough in five minutes to send me to Siberia for life, had our conversation taken place in Russia. The Russian children are reared in mortal fear of the emperor and the mere thought of speaking his name lightly is sufficient cause for fright."

Mr. Popkin lived at Nikolaief, near Odessa, where he learned the trade of a machinist. As an illustration of the high handed acts of the Russian police he related an incident of his youth. Three men were arrested on suspicion of having attempted the life of Alexander II. by dynamiting his carriage.

The prisoners were hanged without a trial, but one of the number, a friend of the Popkin family, was granted permission to address the crowd that assembled to witness the executions. Fearing a nihilist outburst, the gendarmes ordered the drummers to beat loudly when the doomed man began his farewell address, but above the din he was heard to say, "We are the buds; the full blossoms will soon burst upon you and Russia will be free." A moment later he was hurled into eternity and his burial place and that of his companions is known only to the police, who are the terror of the common people.

In another instance the young son of Dr. Dray, a wealthy physician, who was suspected of complicity in a nihilist's plot, was seized in a house with two others and transported to Siberia without the formality of a trial.

One of the prisoners was a young girl of good family who was forced into the dreaded, green police wagon and was seen no more.

All efforts on the part of the Dray family to mitigate the sentence of the boy were unavailing. The aged father lived for years in hope of again seeing his son, but the decision of the police is final and the cherished wish was unfulfilled when the parent was claimed by death.

Mr. Popkin served four years in the regular army and was honorably discharged, a letter of recommendation being furnished him by his superior officer. He then went to Odessa and sought employment in the government shipyards, where 4,500 men were working for from 20 cents to \$1.35 a day. He was promised employment but after waiting three days during which time twelve men were given positions, he demanded an explanation.

"If we give employment to you," said the superintendent, "it will be the first time on record that we have hired a Jew." Seeing no hope for a Hebrew in Russia, he decided to come to America.

The man states that the Zemstvos (pronounced Zemst-wo), are the Russian farmers. The working classes have joined them in their demands for a constitution, and are a formidable power.

"Without the soldiery," said Popkin, "the revolution must fall. So potent is the oath taken by the Russian soldier, to fight for the czar and for his country, that he would butcher his own father if he received a royal order to do so. I have a personal knowledge of such orders having been executed."

## WHAT GERMAN NAVY IS FOR.

In an interview printed in the *Nineteenth Century and After*, Count von Buelow undertakes to show that the new German naval policy is not aimed at Great Britain. A war between Germany and Great Britain would be good for their rivals, says the Chancellor. While such a war "would completely destroy German trade, as far as one can judge, and would seriously damage British trade, our rivals would utilize the opportunity for securing the markets of the world without firing a shot."

The Chancellor says Germany's navy is purely for defensive purposes, and remarks that "foreign countries must reconcile themselves to the fact that the German merchant beyond the seas is no longer the poverty-stricken creature who must content himself with picking up the crumbs from under the table. He now takes his seat next his fellows, and we are fully entitled to stand up and defend the rights which are ours in company with the citizens of other nations."