



1, N. N. Znow; 2, H. I. Roditcheff; 3, Count de Znow; 4, F. A. Golovine; 5, Kovalevsky; 6, Count Dolgornikoff; 7, Count Troubetzkoff; 8, Nowossiltzeff; 9, Count Chalkowsky; 10, Baron P. Z. Kouff; 11, Count Heyden, president of the delegation of zemstvos; 12, J. J. Petrovskitch; 13, M. P. Fedoroff; 14, A. N. Nikitine.

This deputation called upon the Czar at Petrof on June 19. Prince Troubetzkoff, of Moscow, and Mr. M. P. Fedoroff, of St. Petersburg, addressed him at considerable length. Mr. J. J. Petrovskitch has spent many years in exile for his liberal views. Mr. F. Roditcheff is another famous radical and Count Chalkowsky is known as the "anarchist prince." The Czar shook hands with the entire deputation and made address which brought up expressions of satisfaction even from the radicals.

### THE ZEMSTVO DEPUTATION TO THE CEAR.

#### THE ZEMSTVO CONGRESS AND THE RUSSIAN POLICE.

CONSIDERABLE surprise is experienced by the American press at the mild treatment of the zemstvo delegates in Moscow by the police. "The procedure of the Moscow police was characterized by a mildness and moderation which would not have been looked for in the Fifth Ward of Philadelphia," remarks the *Philadelphia Ledger*; and the *New York Times* observes that "if the business had been conducted in the New York manner, there would have been some nightstick tactics." The congress, so the dispatches tell us, was held in the palace of Prince Dolgornikoff, whose portrait appears in the accompanying group, and Count Heyden, also in the group, presided. Just as F. A. Golovine (standing in the rear in the picture) was assassinated by the delegates that no interference with the gathering was expected, the chief of police, with numerous officers, entered and announced that the meeting had been prohibited. As this did not seem to disconcert the delegates in the least, he began talking their names. Several delegates exclaimed, "Write down the whole of Russia!", and many persons present who were not delegates insisted that their names be taken too. This done, the police instead of dispersing this forbidden meeting, actually remained as interested spectators, and when the afternoon session was over, each delegate as he passed out handed his visiting card to the chief of police. At the evening session a resolution condemning the reform scheme of Minister of the Interior Boulyguine was passed by acclamation, and on the next day, Thursday, a proposal petitioning the Czar on the subject of the constitution was rejected. "We have appealed to the Emperor in vain, we now appeal to the people!" declared Mr. J. J. Petrovskitch the former exile, and he added that a revolution was inevitable and that it was the duty to prevent, if possible, the accompaniment of bloodshed. This was too much for Prince Roditsky who declared he belonged to the revolution, and left the room. The congress endorsed a constitution by a vote of 220 to 7, and it will be submitted to the local zemstvos and dumas and be brought up again at another congress next month.

The *New York Tribune* and *Brooklyn Eagle* think that the Mos-

cow police adopted the wisest course, for harsh measures would have merely exasperated the people. This congress, believes the *Brooklyn Times*, "may have a place in history akin to that occupied by the Convention of the Estates in Paris that was the harbinger and inspiration of the French Revolution." Its delegates are not revolutionists now, adds the same paper, but the congress "may easily prove the prelude to revolution." To quote:

"The delegates are patriotic Russians and are urgent in their demand for constitutional government in place of the autocracy that has brought a great empire to the verge of ruin, nor do they hesitate to speak out boldly in denunciation of the evils of the present system. But they are not revolutionists; they are loyal subjects of the Czar and they would do nothing to oppose anything that would threaten to overturn the dynasty. Therefore, although the police heard much more of free speech than they have been accustomed to, there was nothing that was a reason to the Czar or the people to justify them even in Russia, breaking up the assembly. This is the present mood of the council. The delegates demand the calling of a national assembly, to consist of representatives freely chosen by Russians of every class and every creed, which shall have power to frame a constitution. They concede to the Czar the power to veto any of the acts of the assembly, but they insist that the ministers shall be appointed by the assembly and shall be responsible to them alone and not to the Czar. Expenditure of money shall be controlled by the national legislature. These seem moderate demands, but in Russia they may well be regarded as revolutionary and there is no reason to believe that the Czar has been sufficiently humbled by defeat as yet to make it likely that they will be granted. The close of the war without further humiliation and the return of Russia to the status quo now eating their hearts out in Manchuria will relieve the Czar from the necessity of conceding his subjects' demands and would enable the police to shut off all manifestations of discontent by the old methods. Therefore it may be expected that the Czar for the present will adopt towards his subjects the temporary policy in which Russian statesmen are accustomed to postpone any definite action in regard to such reforms as the council of zemstvos may recommend. It will take a few more crushing defeats of the Russian armies to bring reform within reaching distance in Russia.

"Nevertheless, the meeting of the Moscow council is a significant event. It may easily prove the prelude to revolution."