

# **THE NEW RUSSIA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649657353

The New Russia by Lionel Declé

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**LIONEL DECLE**

# **THE NEW RUSSIA**



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Russia



BY

LIONEL DECLE

AUTHOR OF

"THREE YEARS IN SAVAGE AFRICA"

"TROOPER 3809," &c.



LONDON

EVELEIGH NASH

1906

## PREFACE

SINCE this book was written great changes have taken place in Russia, and most of my predictions have been realized.

As I anticipated, Count Witte has resigned. The coalition of his enemies and the antagonism of those who should have been his friends have made it impossible for him to carry farther the burden which he shouldered when he assumed the Premiership.

He has been succeeded by a professed antagonist of popular freedom who has selected colleagues still less liberal than himself; with what seems the most extraordinary lack of foresight, he has entrusted the solution of the agrarian question to a Minister who, if he is consistent with the policy which he has always advocated, is bound to precipitate the agrarian crisis.

The opening of the Duma has also justified my predictions. Imperative demands, almost impossible of fulfilment, have been addressed to the

Emperor the very first day of the meeting of the National Assembly.

The tone adopted by the representatives of the people and the threats of appeal to violence show the spirit which animates them. The advocates of Absolutism who sit in the Duma allowed themselves to be cowed by their opponents; not one of them had the pluck to rise in protest against the open threats of the majority, and their cowardice went so far that they even voted with men whom they have hitherto denounced as villains of the deepest dye. It will be seen that I have insisted upon the characteristic manner in which Russians are cowed by any superior exhibition of strength, and it has never been more conspicuous than in the first meeting of the Duma.

Count Witte is the only man strong enough to deal with this rebellious Assembly—he was not there.

The history of the past year gives us the right to fear that his weak successor may first advise his Imperial master to comply with the arrogant and ever increasing demands of the Duma until its members have become so threatening that it will be necessary to dissolve the Assembly.

Then the weak Cabinet, unable to cope with

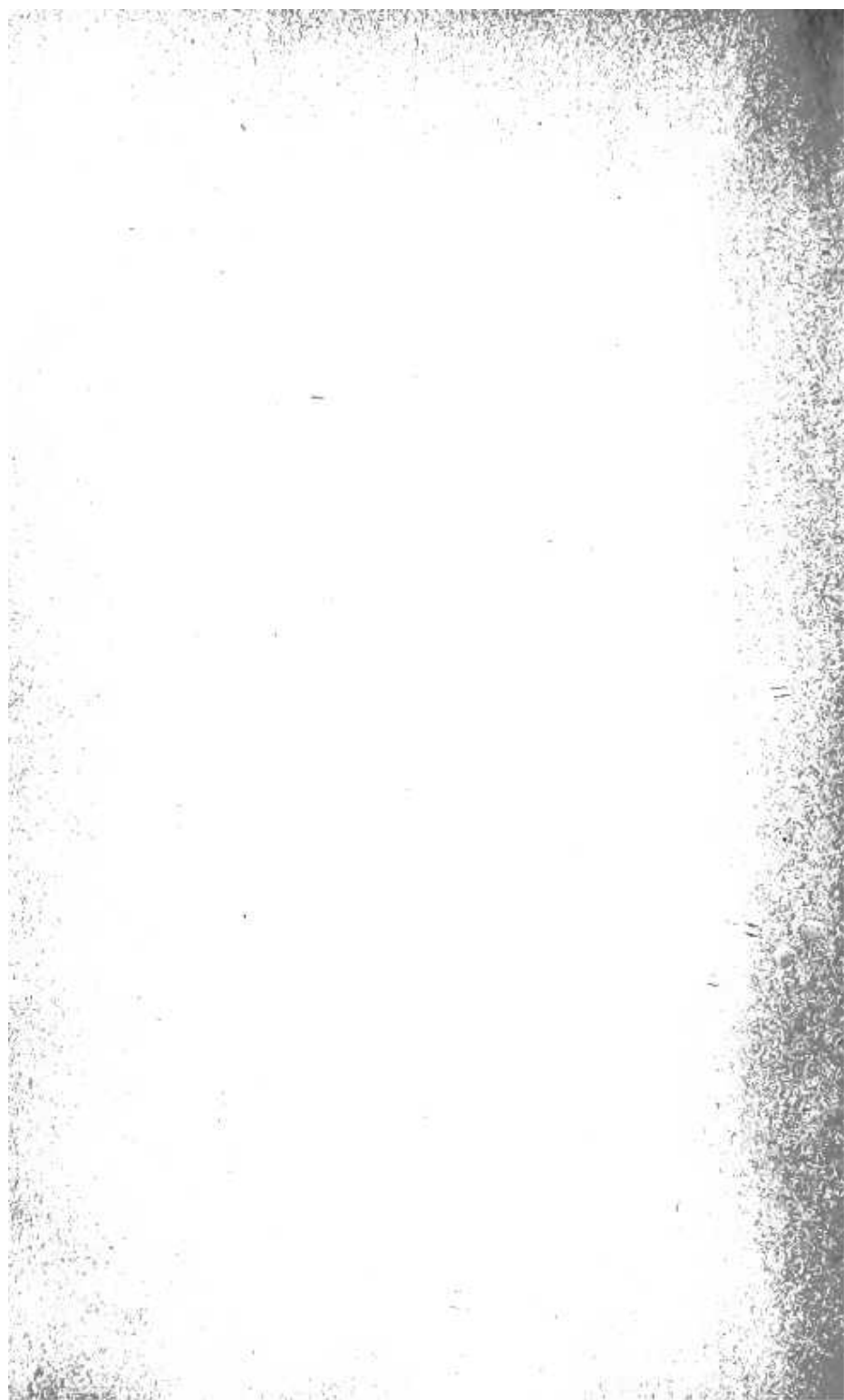
disorders, riots and "Jacquerie," will have to be replaced by a strong man, and I should not wonder if Trepoff then became military Dictator.

What will happen in that event, nobody can foretell. Rivers of blood may flow all over Russia, but to what purpose, with what result, can neither be said nor even surmised.

One thing only seems certain: civil war may rage in the Muscovite Empire, but there will be no Revolution in the immediate future.

There will be no Revolution because the Tsar, or rather Tsardom, for the Russian people as a whole represents more than a Principle—it is part of their Religion.





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