subsequently many conferences with him and found him always most considerate but long on promises and short in performance. In fact, he had little time for anything except Ministry meetings and schemes for his political advancement. Our arrival, as it later transpired, came in the nick of time to enable him to hold his job.

This evening after dinner we motored out with Gov. Francis to the Islands on the northbank of the Neva. It was quite warm and we had a most delightful run of about 20 miles to a summer resort park on the shore of the Gulf of Finland. The fine residences of the City are in this section, which is an almost continuous park for miles. Many of the "palaces" are unoccupied since the Revolution and I was told any one of them could be had rent free provided the tenant keeps a sufficient number of servants to guard the premises.

This is the season of the "white nights", and longest days of the year. We sat on the chairs in the park and watched the crowds and the yachts and motor boats in the river. The sun set about 10 P.M. and a very long twilight followed. At midnight the red glow in the west gradually died out and, turning to the east, we saw the sunrise glow begin. It was a most strange and impressive sight. At no time during the night was the light insufficient for me to read a newspaper comfortably. We motored home at 1 A.M. in the advancing dawn. The streets were still full of people, which explains the Russian's fondness for late beginning office hours.

June 15th. Our daily sessions with the Railway Ministry and staff began. This organization consists of an immense centralized bureau from which the Government railways are directed. It is housed in a number of large buildings, including an old palace with a fine garden and park behind, at 170 etc.