Fontanka, i.e., along the Fontanka canal. Our conferences were with the head officials and engineers of the various "railways" and our work was divided between Miller, Darling, Greiner and myself to collect data and discuss matters relating to our various specialties. Stevens did not attend these meetings during the first month, in fact, he was ill for this entire time and in the hospital for three weeks. These sessions were laborious and trying because of the difficulty of carrying on conversation through an interpreter; also because the Russian is the greatest talker on earth and prefers to conduct even the simplest inquiry in committee where each one feels obliged to express views. It is not surprising, consequently, that most matters get talked to death, rather than acted upon. Much delay was, also, occasioned by the necessity of translating the Russian data; we had too few interpreters and they were of the non-technical kind and made endless mistakes.

June 17th. A fine warm Sunday. Attended service at St. Isaac's Cathedral and in P.M. visited the Hermitage. The picture galleries are open to the public, but the art collections are not. There is no evidence that any public property has been disturbed since the revolution, but probably the very valuable articles of precious metal and stones have been boxed and specially guarded against theft. On all public buildings a proclamation is posted saying that the property has been taken over by the people, who are admonished to respect and guard it as their national inheritance for the benefit of the people. This request seems to have been respected, in fact, the amount of destruction of buildings, etc., during the revolution is very small, aside from the burning of one of the prisons. When the war broke out in 1914 the German Embassy building was looted and burned; also, the lower floor of the Astoria Hotel was more or less "shot up". The latter place was