therefore, decided to speak to Nekrasov , requesting him to intercede for us at the "Europe". He was very decent about it and said he would order rooms vacated there for us at once.

June 23rd. Went to the Hotel l'Europe and found that the Minister had kept his word and I was politely asked by the manager to make a selection of rooms. The entire burden of this job was placed upon my shoulders; the precious Secretary of our Commission did not lift his finger to help - nor did the other members - perhaps because I was the only one who could speak French. Yesterday a.m. there was a strike of the waiters at the "Select"; no breakfast to be had. Later, by rummaging in the kitchen ourselves, we managed to get a cup of coffee and some black bread; the wife of the manager volunteered to cook for us. All of the employees had struck, making 21 different demands, among others, a 50 per cent. increase in wages plus 15 per cent. of the money taken in by the hotel, two days each week "off" and a demand for "kind treatment" by their employers and by the guests. No "kind treatment" of the guests was promised in return and I presume we shall continue to ring numberless times and wait, as usual, for response.

June 24th. Comfortably established in the "Europe". We are now in the center of business and official Petrograd and it is possible to reach the Ministry by a pleasant walk of a mile along the Fontanka canal. Also, in the evening one can stroll along clean streets to the Neva and enjoy the park and the delightful prospect of that great stream lined with fine buildings, and a view of the picturesque Peter and Paul fortress on the opposite bank silhouetted against the setting sun.

I had not been in Petrograd for ten years but found it outwardly unchanged; the same city of broad avenues, fine public buildings and immense