unpleasant to the taste, as it has an agreeable "tang", but no one knows what water is used in its makeup; I am, therefore, avoiding it. The shop keepers can, only with difficulty, be induced to pay any attention to would-be purchasers; they don't have to as their stock is limited and certain to be sold at advancing prices. They generally return the irritating "niet, niet" (no, no) to any inquiry and pay no further attention to one. Prices are terrific; I paid 15 roubles ($7.50) for a cotton undershirt of a quality which costs in America 50 cents; $2.50 for a pair of 25 cent socks, etc. I smoked bad cigars at 1.50 to 2 roubles each and paid 3 to 7 roubles for a droschke ride worth in normal times 30 to 50 copecks. My room (with bath) at the "Europe" cost 35 roubles per day (without meals); dinner, which was before the war 3 roubles, is now 15, the quantity limited and the quality poor. Of course the value of the rouble has gone down; normally it is worth 52 cents, now 30 cents (and later 22 cents). The Government has pegged exchange at 3.40 roubles for $1.00, irrespective of the International rate. No metallic money is to be had, although silver and copper fractional coins are still current in eastern Siberia. The very small money, 25 down to two, copecks is in the shape of postage stamps and is extremely difficult to handle. American gold is in demand and one can generally get 3.80 roubles for $1.00 gold. In using my American Letter of Credit at the National City Bank branch I was told that I could save $30., over the Russian exchange rate, in each $100. by cabling to New York, asking them to cable back the Russian equivalent. This roundabout process takes at least a week's time and it is uncertain as often the cables don't get through.

A word as to our reception by the Russians. The arrival of the two