ment and are now being sent to the front in disgrace. Mounted Cossacks, carrying spears, were on guard. It was an interesting sight.

July 23rd. A conference at the Railway Ministry with a new official (the President of the Ekaterinsky Railway) who has been instructed to carry out our recommendations for various transportation improvements. All sorts of objections were raised to our report, but after a long conference they finally agreed to introduce our new operating method on one division of each railway making up the trans-Siberian system, if we sent from America Superintendents, Train Despatchers, etc., to instruct them; this means a total of sixty men to be sent. Another meeting is called for to-morrow.

We have had most discouraging news regarding the war to-day. Yesterday, the Russian troops at the front near Tarnopol declined to obey orders, threw down their arms and retreated to the rear; the enemy advanced and, it is reported, took many prisoners. The Austrians entered Tarnopol and pushed the Russians back to the positions they held last fall. This condition of affairs must end soon or else Russia is out of the war and we might as well go home!

This evening Mrs. Walter Farwell (who is correspondent of the "Chicago Tribune"), gave a dinner at the Donon; Col. Judson and the Houghs were present. She is another adventurous American woman who ought to be home. I've not seen the despatches to her paper, but from her make-up, charming but inconsequential, I should imagine it would be the same sort of emotional "scare" stuff as that which is sent home by Florence Harper.

July 24th. A cold cloudy day. This evening dined with Hough and Col. Judson at the Russian Club; an excellent dinner -- first good one I have had for some time. We afterwards played bridge; quite a homelike even-