also, that Vauclain would have hustled the plans for the Vladivostok erecting shop. We all feel disgusted and disheartened at the failure of the Government to keep in close touch with our work.

August 2nd. Food at the hotel is running short again. I have succeeded by good luck in buying a package of oatmeal; it looks as if it had been in stock for years; Golder says it is the only one left in Petrograd. I must experiment to-night on a method of cooking it. Had lunch to-day with the Wrights. Presented him with a bottle of Scotch whiskey which I got in Moscow. He could with difficulty only be persuaded to take it; said it was too valuable a present. We spent last evening until 11 o'clock at the Railway Headquarters in conference over our report; all matters are now agreed upon, but the Committee must put its report up to the Provisional Government Ministry before any authorizations can be given for work. This is not likely to expedite matters, as for a week past there has been no working ministry; all members, except Kerensky, have resigned and several abortive attempts have been made to set up some compromise body which will satisfy the demands of the radical element in the Soviet.

This evening I dined with Mrs. Farwell at the Donon. One of the exiled Polish nobles and his wife were guests; also the Vice-President of one of the private railway lines. The latter lamented the impossible railway conditions of the country and was inclined to blame Nekrasof for most of the present demoralization. Said Nekrasov's recent circulars to employees had done great harm. The wages and conditions of work which were fixed are impossible and if insisted upon, the private Railway Companies will have to go out of business. He condemned severely Government ownership and he said he