to me about Stevens' habit of sending cipher cablegrams to Washington over his (Francis') signature; he did not propose to allow this to continue. Some of Stevens' cablegrams were rather hot ones and I think the Ambassador had had a protest from Washington regarding their tone.

August 5th. Weather very hot for several days. No stable ministry yet and nothing done regarding the adoption of our report.

August 6th - 8th. I have been laid up in bed and Doctor in attendance. O.K. again now, except for an infection on my arm from a ring-worm. It has to be dressed each day and I go to the Russo-English hospital for this. Dr. Lingard, a very decent young Englishman, has been looking after me. Says he is going to live in Baltimore after the war is over. I must look him up there.

News from front continues bad; the Russians retreating, without fighting, over a wide areaein the southwest.

At last a new ministry has been formed by Kerensky. Nekrasov, after having been moved around in different positions, has been made Vice-Premier and Minister of Finance. P. P. Yureneff, a subordinate in the Railway Bureau, has been appointed Minister of Ways and Communications, with A.A. Baryshnikoff, Assistant Minister. The new cabinet has four Cadets (Constitutional Democrats); three (with Kerensky) Social Revolutionists; two (with Nekrasov) Radical Democrats; and three Social-Democrats, or "Minority Socialists". A belief is expressed in certain quarters that this hodge-podge Ministry will not outlast a week; we shall see.

The Minister told us this morning that the Tomsk Railway is badly disorganized as the result of Bolshevik (or, he thought, German) intrigues; Krasnoiarsk is the worst spot. Men will not work and are stopping all pas-