closed for a month. Tereschenko said, however, he would arrange for a special safe-conduct for us. He gave me a letter addressed to "All Concerned", asking that our trip be facilitated and every possible comfort provided. I shall have, in addition, a commission as Embassy Courier to take the official mail to Peking, so these documents, together with the "Red" passports of our State Department, should see us through safely.

August 10th. Another sudden change in the weather; very hot today. August is the hot month here.

We called upon Kerensky by appointment to discuss railway matters. The meeting was in the Winter Palace, where he now lives and has his official headquarters. He occupies the Czar's apartments in the northwest wing and our interview took place in the private study, or library, of the Czar. This is a moderate size, beautiful and homelike room, lined on all sides to the ceiling with bookshelves and comfortably but not elaborately furnished. The handsomest piece of furniture is a grand piano with a superb marquetry and carved French walnut case. I examined the collection of books with interest; it is a gentleman's library containing the standard authors', mostly in English and French, fiction, travel and accounts of military campaigns. There are also a number of the recent American, English and French books of light fiction. I saw practically no German books of any kind.

Kerensky soon entered in a quick, nervous manner and without formality began the interview, through our interpreter. He speaks no English and little French. He appears to be a very active, neurotic, but tired man of about thirty-six; is tall and has a high and fine forehead surmounted by a growth of coarse black hair, a la pompadour. His eyes are fine, but shifty