Golder had bought before leaving Petrograd and which contained an announcement of the departure of the party that day. This was real news and was immediately read aloud to the great crowd on the station platform. This ended the incident, as far as we were concerned, except that we noted men carrying bags of bombs stationed at the bridge east of the town; they evidently intended using them in case our train should pass without stopping.

The Bolshevic spokesman continued on our train until we arrived at Irtutsk; apparently he distrusted appearanced. I got into conversation with him. He said he had lived in New York City and was a jeweller by trade; had gone home, upon hearing of the revolution, to "get his share" of the land. I asked if he had accomplished this and he said "no"; also, that he was disappointed with the outlook and might return to America. We talked of the war and he said the soldiers were against continuing it; they did not know what they were fighting for; they were against a "separate peace"; but simply would not fight longer.

August 23rd. The past three days require no particular mention; weather fine, but we suffered some from the dust. Arrived at Manchuria station at 8.00 a.m. about 24 hours late. Stayed a couple of hours for Customs examination. Curious to say, the officials are English, a part of the efficient organization put together for the Chinese Government by the late Sir Robert Hart. I got into conversation with one of them. He said they searched particularly for opium and generally found some concealed behind the car panels. Did not search our car, as he thought it unnecessary because our "provodnik" was too old and stupid for such trade; besides, our car was not a regular one on the trans-Siberian; he was mistaken in his size-up of our man, as will be seen. The composite character of the crowd at the