

The Sandwich Headlines

SANDWICH MUSEUM



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CZAR NICHOLAS II ABDICATES Provisional Government Appointed MARCH 1917

Earlier in March there was a general dissatisfaction in the Government of Russia, partly due to the military failures of the war and the threat of famine. Before the war Russia had the highest economic growth rate in Europe but now, due to the War, was unable to trade with the European markets which resulted in high inflation and wages could not match.

The revolution broke out without any real leadership or formal planning. Thousands of workers flooded the streets and were joined those celebrating Woman's Day, who were protesting against the impending food rationing of flour and bread. Soon there were over 200,000 protesters on the streets.

The Czar ordered the Military Commanders to disperse the crowds with rifle fire, but the troops were new recruits or older working class reservists. These troops mutinied and were later joined by the Pavlovski Regiment and other Regiments joining the uprising.

The Czar returned from the Front line and with his Loyal troops still fighting the war, he adjourned the Dume (lower house of Parliament) leaving it with no legal authority to act. The Duma decided to appoint a Provisional Committee to restore law and order.

A Provisional Government was formed, well represented by the centre-left, and with the Worker's Party a "Duel Power" sharing arrangement was agreed, and although having no legal power it will be planning for election to be held later in the Spring.

The Czar's power had been lost and had to bow out and abdicate