

CHAPTER LVII.

Russian Government Telegraph—Categorical Arrangement of Dispatches—
Regulations for Receiving and Sending Dispatches—Classification and
Tariff of Charges—Regulation of the Clocks.

RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPHS.

THE telegraphs of Russia are all government lines and under the minister of public buildings, ways, and communications. The lines were built by private contractors, and surrendered to the government from time to time, as completed.

There have been no efforts to extend the telegraph under private companies, nor is there any probability that such will be the case. To some readers many of the rules governing the transmission of dispatches on the lines in Russia, and other parts of Europe, may be considered as too severe and arbitrary. Practically such is not the case. In Russia the lines are open to individuals for their private business. Commercial affairs are not restricted. Full liberty and protection are given to every person in the transmission of domestic, social or business dispatches. It is to prevent the abuse of those privileges that the government has adopted the rules, which to the American reader may be regarded as too stringent. The following, issued by the minister of public buildings, ways, and communications, and approved by His Majesty the Emperor, will give an idea as to the administration of the telegraphs in Russia :

CATEGORICAL ARRANGEMENT OF DISPATCHES.

1st. The dispatches transmissible over the telegraph, shall be divided into five categories, viz. :

- 1st. Orders from, and reports to, His Majesty the Emperor. Dispatches to and from royal families.
- 2d. Government dispatches, such as from the commander-in-chief, minister of foreign affairs, military governor-generals, governor-generals, military and civil governors, military commanders, and reports to the government.
- 3d. Dispatches of the administration of the telegraphs.
- 4th. Dispatches of the minister of public buildings, ways, and communications.

5th. Private dispatches, without regard to rank or condition. (The private dispatches of public functionaries belong to this class.)

REGULATIONS FOR RECEIVING AND SENDING DISPATCHES.

2d. The reception and sending of dispatches take place in the order of their presentation, except in cases under the first class before mentioned.

3d. Dispatches can only be received at the telegraph station, and in the apartment devoted to that purpose, except imperial messages, which are to be received at any of the palaces of His Majesty the Emperor.

4th. Under no circumstances can any one enter the operating room, unless employed therein.

5th. Dispatches are received every day, Sundays not excepted. Government dispatches can be received day or night. Private dispatches are to be presented at the station between the hours of 8 A. M. and 3 P. M.; after that hour the tariff is double. Between 8 P. M. and 8 A. M. dispatches can be received and sent by giving notice in advance, and the payment of the tariff of a dispatch. If the dispatch is not presented, the money is forfeited to the government.

6th. Every dispatch must be signed by the sender, and a detailed address must be given. It must be written only on one side of the official forms, furnished at the station, that the same may be filed, by pasting it in a book arranged for that purpose. All dispatches must be written with ink.

7th. Dispatches of the interior are to be written in the Russian language. From St. Petersburg to Warsaw, to Helsingfors, Cronstadt, Dunaburg and Riga, may be written in the French, German, or Russian language. Foreign dispatches may be written in French, German, Russian, or English language. Dispatches to and from members of the imperial family, and government dispatches, may be written in cipher, provided the cipher be composed of figures, Russian or Latin letters.

8th. Dispatches containing exchange news may contain ciphers, but the sender must explain the meaning of each cipher to the administration, and sign the same, giving a satisfactory guarantee as to responsibility.

9th. In no case whatever can a political dispatch be received.

10th. Government dispatches are not within the control of the station officers of the telegraph, and they cannot be stopped.

11th. Private dispatches containing anything contrary to the

laws, or incompatible with the public good, or containing objectionable language, cannot be transmitted. All such dispatches are strictly forbidden to be sent, and it is the duty of the officer of the station to transmit them forthwith to the minister of communications. Payment for them is to be refused. Should it happen that the dispatch be forwarded through inadvertence, it is the duty of any other station officer to stop its delivery, and to transmit it to the minister of communications. The money is to be forfeited to the government, if the dispatch is found objectionable. When a dispatch, as above described, is received from a foreign country, it is not to be delivered; but it must be sent to the minister of communications, and notice of that fact must be sent to the stations from which the dispatch originated.

12th. Any one aggrieved by any act of the telegraph, may address the minister of communications.

13th. Government dispatches and messages between imperial and royal families are unlimited. Private dispatches cannot exceed 100 words, unless the line is unemployed with other business. One person cannot send but one dispatch until the line has sent all others offered. Duplicate dispatches can be delivered in the same town by the payment of 20 copecks (15 cents), for each duplicate delivered. For copies sent to other stations, full charge is to be made.

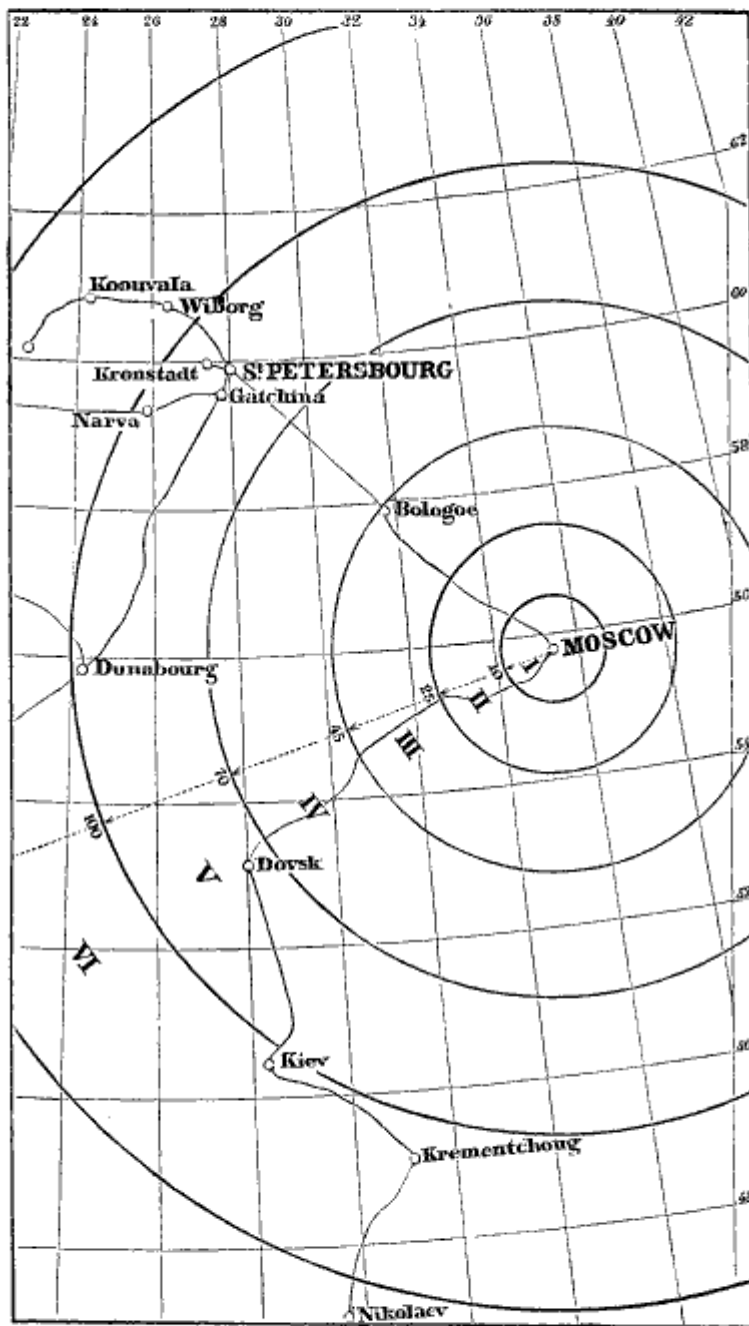
14th. A sender of a dispatch may pay one fourth the tariff of a message, and he will be entitled to be informed by the station, the exact time of the reception of his dispatch, either at the destination station, or at the residence of the person to whom the message was sent. The price for sending back the message for collation, is one half the tariff of a message.

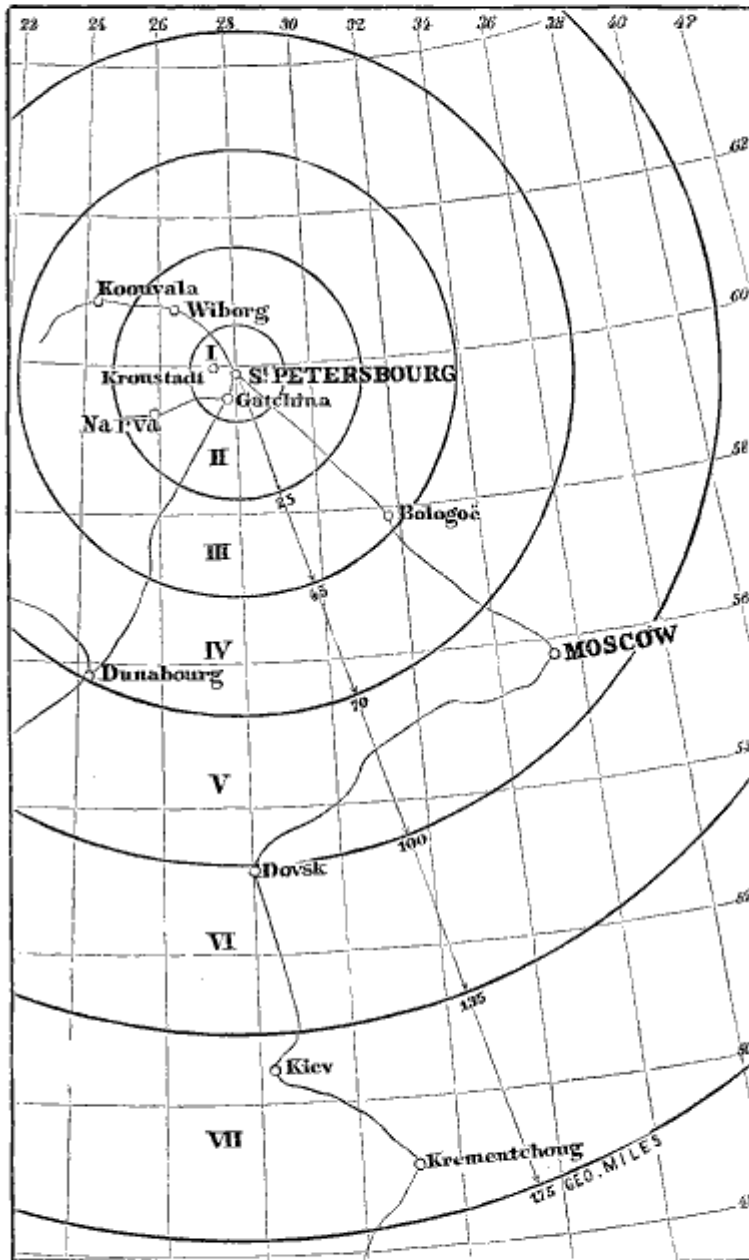
15th. The identity of the sender can be certified to, on a dispatch, by the station receiving the same. In such cases, the sending station adds the following, viz.: "The administration of the telegraph attests the identity of the sender." The charge for this certificate is 31 copecks (about 23½ cents). In case the director of the station does not know the sender of the dispatch, his identity can be established by a passport, foreign or local, or by some officer of a police tribunal.

16th. The maximum of a single dispatch is 25 words.

17th. No dispatch can be transmitted until it has been examined by the director of the station, whose duty it is to see that it does not contain any objectionable matter. When approved, it is sent.

18th. After a dispatch has been received and *in transitu*, if the direct line gets out of order, the sender is not to have the





extra expense for sending the dispatch by a more circuitous route.

19th. Dispatches cancelled by order of the sender, after transmission and before delivery, cannot be returned, and the fee for cancelling is half the tariff of the message. If cancelled before transmission, the money is returned, except 15 copecks.

20th. All messages to or from members of the imperial family are free on all the lines in the empire. On all dispatches to be sent over foreign lines, the tariff for the foreign service is paid through the minister of the imperial household.

CLASSIFICATION AND TARIFF OF CHARGES.

21st. Private dispatches are arranged in the following classes, viz. :

1st Class not to exceed 25 words.	4th Class from 100 to 125 words.
2d " from 25 to 50 "	5th " " 125 to 150 "
3d " " 50 to 100 "	6th " " 150 to 200 "

The price of dispatches as thus classified is as follows: Taking a given office as a centre, describe a circle 70 versts or 10 German geographic miles, or about 46 miles, English each from the centre. Within this circle is called the first zone.

The following are the prices arranged upon the bases of the zones, as prescribed by the government. This tariff may be changed from time to time, but the principle will most likely continue for all time :

No. of Zones.	Width of the Zones.	1st Class.		2d Class.		3d Class.		4th Class.		5th Class.	
		25 Words.		25 to 50 Words.		50 to 100 Words.		100 to 125 Words.		125 to 150 Words.	
I.	70		62	1	24	1	86	2	48	3	10
II.	175	1	24	2	48	3	72	4	96	6	23
III.	315	1	86	3	72	5	58	7	41	9	30
IV.	490	2	48	4	96	7	44	9	92	12	40
V.	700	3	10	6	20	9	30	12	40	15	50
VI.	945	3	72	7	44	11	18	14	88	18	60
VII.	1,225	4	34	8	68	13	02	17	36	21	70
VIII.	1,540	4	96	9	02	14	88	20	84	24	80
IX.	1,890	5	58	11	16	16	74	23	32	27	90
X.	2,275	6	20		40	18	60	24	80	31	00

22d. The address and signature on a dispatch are not counted. Seven syllables is the maximum for a word. Exceeding that number, the fraction will count as two words. Compound words with hyphens are counted as two words; without the hyphen they are counted by syllables. Punctuation, apostrophes, and quotation marks, are free. Every separate letter, as "P," is

counted as a word. Numbers written separately are counted as words; but when united, five figures are considered as a word, and all points of punctuation, such as commas, semicolons, in the use of figures, etc., are counted each as a figure. Fractions of a series of five figures count as a word. The dash in fractions ($\frac{1}{2}$) is counted as a figure; thus 260 $\frac{1}{2}$ counts as two words. In cipher messages five figures compose a word; if singly, each is a word; if together, the whole is divided by five to get the number of words chargeable. When figures and letters are run together, the whole is divided by five, as in preceding case. Prefixes to proper names count as separate words, such as "Von," "De," "La," "Van," "Der," etc.

23d. The tariff on cipher dispatches is fifty per cent. more than the charges on ordinary messages.

24th. If the sender does not pay enough for the transmission of a message, by fault of the officer receiving it, he cannot be made to pay the deficit, but the officer receiving the dispatch must pay the balance due, in the form of a fine. If the sender overpays on a dispatch, the amount must be refunded.

25th. In case a message is missent, lost, transmitted incorrectly, or fails to reach its destination in time, the sender has permission to petition the minister of communications, within six months, for the sum paid to be refunded.

26th. The officers of stations must report monthly to the minister of communications, a full account of their transactions.

REGULATION OF THE CLOCKS.

27th. All the clocks on the telegraph lines are to be regulated by the time in St. Petersburg. Each station is provided with a table showing the difference in time. Each station is required to correct its clock daily; thus before 8 o'clock, A. M., the director of the station in His Majesty the Emperor's palace, in St. Petersburg, commands "attention." At that moment the pendulum of every clock on all the lines must be stopped, and their hands placed at 8 precisely. Standing in the window of the Winter Palace above mentioned, the director, at 8 o'clock exactly, presses upon the signal key of his instrument, and at that instant the needle of the galvanometer at each station descends to its normal state, and the clocks are set in motion.

28th. After the fixing of the time, each morning, the directors of the respective stations transmit to the director at the palace, the business of the preceding day, embracing, 1st. Dispatches transmitted; 2d. Dispatches received; and 3d. Dispatches repeated *in transitu*.