

PICTURES OF RUSSIA.

The Russian Peasant, the Backbone of His Country,

We may look upon the Russian peasant from two different points of view. Observing him through the eyes of Mr. John A. Logan, Jr., a favored guest of the czar, and a gentleman not given to close investigation, we push the Russian rustic aside as a brute, totally unworthy of our notice, a menace and burden to his country and government. On the other hand, if we look through the telescope of Stepiak, who brings conditions as they are into reach of our full understanding, we see a picture that calls for pity, that arouses indignation, that stamps the peasant as a martyr hero and his superiors as the brutes.

But today we will look through our own eyes, and get acquainted with the external appearance of 65 per cent of Russia, the real foundation upon which the present empire is built, and which is destined to support in some future time the greatest republic of the eastern hemisphere.

The very features, statue, and walk of the Russian peasant express suffering and speak of the burdens he has borne during the time of serfdom under the landlord, and the burdens that are crushing him now in his serfdom under the government, the "kulak," or

money-lender, and the church.

His face, a mixture of Slav and Tartar, is by no means void of beauty. Sporadically springs forth a peasant child, male as well as female, that in form and feature is well worthy to be the model for an ancient divinity, but these children grow rarer from year to year. Privation, labor and starvation push the Russian peasant steadily down the physical, mental and moral grade, and what he is, is not by choice, but by force of the most trying conditions.

The Russian peasant is the natural link between the Orient and Occident. Even his dress is a picturesque mixture of eastern color effects and western sobriety. He wears his shirt outside his trousers. It is either of bright red, pink or white, and when possible the little standing collar, the lower edges of the shirt and sleeves are richly, yes, even artistically embroidered in red silk. The trousers are really bloomers tucked into high boots, and the favorite material for this voluminous garment is a cheap grade of velvet. In strange contrast to this gay house dress stands the coarse, ill-fitting overcoat of a dull brown and the sheepskin fur coat worn by men and women, making it difficult to distinguish the sex from a distance.

The peasant woman's attire is not less picturesquely. A comfortably fitting shirtwaist with low neck and short puffed sleeves, partially covered by a loose "mieder" and straps across the shoulders, a skirt which is of modest shortness and a headgear "kokoshnik" of bright colored silk ornamented with tinsel and encircling a generally heavy mass of hair like a crown, forms fitting ornaments of the Russian woman that is only rare today.

This is the way Russian peasants dressed in the good old times, and how few, probably not over 10 per cent, dress so today. The rest go in rags, glad to have something to cover their nakedness and protect them from the burning sun of the summer and the icy cold of the winter. Since 1861 the liberated serf became the slave of the government, and the Russian government, like the American trusts, has no heart.

The Russian peasant is the most glaring monument of misconceived, misapplied and mismanaged reform.

Free as the peasant is supposed to be, he is a slave worse than ever. Before 1861 he had only one master, and even to this one he used to say "My yash, no zemli nasha" ("We are yours, but the soil is ours"), but now he is the prey of the government, the kulak or usurer, and the church, and between those three vampires, he is staggering through a miserable life to a miserable grave.

Even in purely social externalities he is a slave. At the approach of one of superior rank he will jump to his feet, even in his own house, or, rather, hut. He will stand bareheaded for hours in the burning sun or the piercing cold.

In asking a favor, he will fall upon his knees and touch the ground with his forehead, before a man or woman that is not worthy to be mentioned in one breath with him, the free peasant.

Still he is human. His heart is open

to hatred and love. He may be driven to despair, and thus 75 per cent of all crimes committed by Russian peasants can be traced to a state of mind which drive the higher classes to suicide. Even his love is tarnished by his masters. He can but seldom marry the choice of his heart—he has to consider the productive ability of his life's partner. He can't pay the taxes, the interest on his debts, and the dues to the church by the work of two hands. He needs four, and as soon as even his babes' little hands can grasp, they must help to keep bread in the home. What a home it is! A shack of rough logs thatched with straw, a great part of it filled by a huge oven, the top of which serves the family as a bed. This is the home to which he takes his bride after a short courtship.

He probably could earn more, sufficient even to support his family in a way; but here his religion, or rather the church, puts in her veto. He has to celebrate saints' days and anniversaries, and spend his mite in wax tapers and church contributions, until out of 365 days only 235 remain for work.

Idleness is the root of all evil; poverty is not inducive to family happiness, and to escape the bore of a holiday, the grumbling of his wife, often the hungry cry of his child, he goes to the "kabak" and exchanges his coat for a brain unbalanced by liquor. He can't buy bread for his clothes, but he can lose an hour's memory, and that is worth something more than a coat—it is happiness to him.

It takes a Russian peasant to survive under such conditions, but he not only survives, he even manages to find some happy moments in spite of all the misery that surrounds him.

Let us step on a Monday to the edge of the river that generally passes a Russian village. It is wash day. The

women stand on narrow boards which reach a few feet into the water, and after rinsing the clothes, beat them in rhythmic dance with dentated pieces of wood shaped like miniature oars. Unconventional jokes and laughter ring through the air as if it were picnic of happy children and not the hard labor of downtrodden women. In winter the ice takes the place of the boards, and a hole cut into it brings the cleansing fingers sting and pain from the cold; the women joke and laugh and seldom one hears a complaint.

These peasants do not work to live, but live to work. Their labor is done semi-consciously, almost automatically, like the act of breathing, and when the hour of rest has come, the sun's work is also done, and the tired body stretches upon the brick bed of the oven top and Mr. Logan's brute sleeps the sleep of the just, because ignorant of a better life.

The holiday, and one has to stay but a short time in a Russian village to live through one, is the time to get acquainted with the amazingly childlike character of the Russian peasant. At a wedding they feast, at least they think they feast, while the gentleman in Polson grieves would revolt if he had to eat up with such a food. The men get gloriously drunk on alcohol, often made of musty grain, or half-rotten potatoes, the ill-smelling fuel oil giving it a flavor worse than wood alcohol. The women relish pastry filled with cabbage, hot cakes that weigh pound to the square inch, and candy made of a pound of flour, an ounce of sugar, and a liberal amount of coloring matter. Thus they feast for three days and necessarily recuperate for another three days from the unavoidable

"Katzenjammer" in the head and stomach.

On Saturday before Easter, after confessing a whole week, the village assembled at the church. After the priest has sung a long and tedious service of which the congregation has not understood a word, except the ever-returning "Gospody pomiluy" ("God have mercy"), and after the faithful have spent every copper they ought to spend for bread to buy wafers, the man of God, followed by the choir, carrying a glass coffin in which there rests in caricature of Christ, makes the rounds through the church, sprinkles the congregation with holy water, and disappears in the holiest of holes. In a few minutes he returns with uplifted hands, and proclaims in a voice that sounds like the distant bellowing of a maddened bull, "Christos voskress" ("Christ has risen"). "Christos voskress," answers the church, and everybody kisses anybody. Of course the bells of the village has gone limp the next morning, and the old maids look happy.

The villagers return home. Their huts are decorated with the fluffy first sprouts of willow; on the table stands a gaily-painted wooden dish filled with red, blue and yellow colored eggs, another one with a mixture of pressed fresh cheese, cream, sugar and raisins, the invincible bottle of cheap vodka, and whatever else the poverty-stricken household can furnish.

The feast begins, and lasts for a week. Everybody keeps open house, except the priest, who lives during the seven days board free, going from house to house, giving his blessing, and filling himself up with something more substantial.

Such is the Russian peasant, his character and his life. It may sound ridiculous to call him the backbone of his country, but still it is just what he is.

Only from an economical point of view can this be proven, and it will take another article in another issue to draw a picture of the immense weight that rests upon the shoulder of this nature highly intelligent and quick-witted beast of burden, the Russian Marquis de Venelle in La Angeles Times.

Cured of Bright's Disease.

Gen. A. Sherman, Lisbon Bed Mills, Lawrence Co., N. Y., writes: "I had kidney disease for many years and had been treated by physicians for twelve years; had taken a well known kidney medicine, and other remedies that were recommended. Policy's Kidney Cure. The first half cured me of me and four bottles have I begun taking Policy's Kidney Cure. I had water about every fifteen minutes, day and night, and passed a little water, and sometimes a little stool. I believe I would have died if I had not taken Policy's Kidney Cure. For sale by F. J. Hill Drug Co."

OPAL CLUB EXCURSION

To Ogden.

Next Sunday via Oregon Short Line, 9:30 a.m. Round trip \$1.00.

The pamphlet recently issued by the Deseret News containing complete list of the Church Authorities and Presidents of Missions, fills a long felt want. If you need one, send a two cent stamp and it will be mailed to you.

Monday Being a Jewish Holiday Our Store Will Remain Closed—But Tuesday You'll Find

The New Fall Fashions IN ALL THEIR Glory Here

NEW Written Large Over All. Genuine Economy in Every Price.

READY with the newest goods—First with the lowest prices—The "Auerbach" Store at a bound occupies the field for Fall Business. The crisp newness of every line tells its own story of recent shipments. The stylish swellness of everything is evidence of the good sense and the marked reasonableness of every price tells of sound business judgment of uncommon alertness in buying. High quality and low prices—hand in hand—claim your custom. Your best interest demands it. You serve yourself by allowing us to serve you.

MONDAY
Being a Jewish Holiday
WE REMAIN CLOSED ALL DAY.

But Tuesday

You'll find some particularly bright bargains for your acquirement—mention of a few presents the possibilities of many others.

All new Spick and Span Offerings in all the newest Fall Goods.

Dress Making!

Madame Cawthorne is expected to be in her rooms Tuesday morning where she will be pleased to see her customers.

She has been East for several weeks looking up new models, and has attended many important openings.

ESTABLISHED 1864
F Auerbach & Bro.
ONE PRICE TO ALL NEVER UNDERSOLD

Our New Illustrated

FALL AND WINTER CATALOGUE

Ready For Mailing

Beautiful New Laces

The grandest assortment of hand-some Laces it has ever been our good fortune to show are gathered here this season. Exquisite Lace Fancies for Dress, Trimmings and Millinery purposes in Galloons, Medallions, Motifs, Insertions, Allover, Collars and Edges, in all the prevailing styles, at moderate prices.

OUR OPENING SPECIAL!
50 pieces of Net Top Lace, Galloon, Insertion, embroidered Chiffon Applique, etc., worth up to \$6, a yard **25c**

MILLINERY OPENING
FALL SEASON
1904.
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY,

Sept. 20th.

Sept. 21st.

Sept. 22nd.

WILL BE SPECIAL EXHIBIT DAYS, and the variety is so great that each day's showing will give you new and different presentations of the new, chic and beautiful, in Autumn Millinery. Never have styles been so attractive, so effective, so becoming. The endless variety presents an exceptional opportunity for selection. We claim to show the finest Hats created this season—the most elaborate down to the very simple, yet rich and tasteful effects. From a style standpoint and price standpoint, our values are incomparable.

YOUR VISIT WILL SETTLE THE QUESTION OF YOUR NEW HAT

THE NEW SILK STOCK!

COME AND LOOK AT IT.

Fine and curious loom products in prodigal variety, for all who demand richness and elaborate elegance. Simple weaves in abundance for quiet, taste and modest purposes. The stock lacks nothing. Two of the little priced opening specials.

NEW BLACK TAFFETA SILK.
Black Taffeta Silk, 27 inches wide, firm, crisp and lustrous quality. This is an excellent Silk and well worth \$1.00 per yard. Opening price Tuesday, per yard—

79c.

CREPE DE CHINE.

Crepe De Chine, 24 inches wide, in a full range of colors in street and evening shades, and comprising light blues, Nile Green, Pink, Grey, Champagne, Lavender, Brown, Navy and others, this is a beautiful quality, firm, soft, sheer, and clinging, and the handsomest Crepe material for evening dresses, usually sold at \$1.00 per yard, opening price Tuesday—

75c.

Fashionable Dress Goods.

Opening for easy selection.

Since the opening of the Fall Dress Goods Season, each day substantially added to the business of both our colored and black Dress Goods section. Although each of these departments are already great in variety, we are constantly adding the latest productions of foreign and home manufacturers, and offering these at prices commanding the attention of the most critical buyers.

Two Opening Specials For Next Week.
\$1.50

NEW GERMAN PRUNELLA CLOTH.

Beautiful in quality and finish, in all the leading colors, including the new leather shades, onion brown, tan, grays, blues, greens, etc. 42 inches wide, at per yard—

\$1.25

NEW MANIFOLD SUITINGS.
For strictly tailored Suits, in mixtures, uneven checks, broken plaid, etc., a grand collection of new style dress materials, 45 to 54 inches wide, at per yard—

\$1.25

New Kid Gloves

Opening of all the new fall and winter shades in the finest of real kid gloves from the world renowned factory of

TREFOUSSÉ & CO., PARIS, and other famous makers of Europe, gloves that are perfect in every detail of fit and finish, absolutely correct for street and evening wear at prices incomparably low and every pair warranted.

Trefoussé Dorothy in the dress of selected French kid, 3 clasp wrist and Paris point back, all colors and sizes of this \$2.00 grade at

\$1.50

Trefoussé Black Suede Kid gloves, unstrapped for wear and elegance, all sizes, at

\$1.50

NEW GERMAN PRUNELLA CLOTH.

New Autumn Flannels & Waistings

Opening of all the new fall and winter shades in the finest of real kid gloves from the world renowned factory of

TREFOUSSÉ & CO., PARIS, and other famous makers of Europe, gloves that are perfect in every detail of fit and finish, absolutely correct for street and evening wear at prices incomparably low and every pair warranted.

1,000 pieces new Outflannel in stripes, checks, plaids, light and dark colors, also a full line of plain colors, value 12½c. Our season's opening price—

10c

10 pieces Cream White, all wool Ballardvale Flannels, 32 inches wide value 75c, this week, per yard—

55c

It's Now Blanket And Comfort Time.

Our great stock of these in all

kinds, weights and colors will

meet your needs fully. These

prices are just what you'll be

looking for, as we have these

bedding supplies. Judge our

values by our season's opening

specials.

One case 11-4 size heavy fine

gray wool blankets, blankets that

have the good looks and good

service of any you've seen at

\$5.50 this week, per pair—

\$3.85

18 pair extra size fine white

wool blankets, 11-4 or 8x72 inches, worth

\$6.00, this week, a pair—

\$4.60

New Fall and Winter Dresses</