

The Working Out of the Russian Internal Problem



THE giant ways of disorder now rolling over Russia, the constantly recurring industrial disturbances in the larger towns, the threatening nature of the agrarian movements in the provinces, the mutinous attitude assumed by naval seamen, the violence of race hatred and the lamentable evils which flow from that source once more fix the attention of the reading public on the empire's internal problem. Characterized and complicated by the specious fiction of her strength displayed, her ghastly weaknesses all uncovered to the eyes of the nations, will it come to pass that her national integrity shall be shattered by forces that lie within?

As time passes one truth becomes more and more evident—the integrity of the Russian empire has not been maintained until now either by reason of the ability of the government or by the patriotism of the people. The government has shown itself to be miserably feeble on every occasion when actual strength was demanded. The people as a whole have been pitifully unequal to every opportunity. The grumble of national discontent has been heard by the czar and his advisers in their palaces on the banks of

among themselves the business of collecting the taxes—always a lively governmental industry in Russia—the use of the public funds, the preservation of the archives and the maintenance of order.

A third administrative body is the greatly misunderstood holy synod. It is charged with the administration of ecclesiastical affairs, and in Russia that means a great deal. In the discussion of Muscovite government as a whole it would be impossible to eliminate the church. It is as manifestly a factor in the scheme as is the czar, the great central figure. Church and state are not only connected inseparably, but they are practically one. There is no well defined line between matters ecclesiastical and matters political. It is impossible to tell where one begins and the other ends. Religion in Russia is an essential feature of the business of living—formal religion, that is, from czar to humblest moujik there must be no disposition to evade the responsibilities which the church imposes, and they are many and great.

The majority of the members composing the holy synod are ecclesiastics. There are in it the three metropolitan of St. Petersburg, Moscow and Kiev, with the archbishops of the Caucasus and Poland and several bishops. There is one lay member, with the title of procurator general, and he is the mouthpiece of the council of the em-

peror may come, but it will come from without.

The true Russians are divided into three groups. Much the largest division is that of the Great Russians, or Muscovites, who occupy the entire center of European Russia and number about 60,000,000 souls. The Little Russians are in the southwest and number about 15,000,000. To these belong the Cossacks, who are settled in a compact body in Little Russia, whence they have thrown off colonies to the southeast. The White Russians live in the west and number about 5,000,000. Besides these, there are at least 5,000,000 true Russians in Asiatic Russia.

Only America can compete with Russia in the variety and number of its foreign peoples. The following partial list will demonstrate that this is true: Of Poles, Russia contains about 8,000,000, three-fourths of them living in Poland and the remainder in the western governments of the empire. Hungarians, Czechs and Slovaks, about 3,000,000. Germans, 2,000,000, mostly in the Baltic provinces and in colonies in south Russia. Swedes, 300,000, mostly in Finland. Finns and Karelians, about 2,500,000, all in Finland and the neighboring parts of Russia proper. Estonians, about 1,500,000. Letts and Lithuanians, about 3,500,000, the former in the Baltic country and the latter in the west and in Poland. Armenians, Kurds and Persians, about 1,300,000, all in the Caucasus; Roumanians, 1,000,000, all in southwest Russia; Jews, at least 5,000,000, in southwest Russia and Poland; Georgians, Mingrelians, Kabardians, Circassians, etc., about 2,000,000 in Georgia and Siberian Mongolia, fully 1,000,000. This list, it will be observed, does not include any of the peoples inhabiting Russia's unfortunate Asiatic acquisitions.

In this nation of 130,000,000 people, embraced in forty distinct races and speaking more than a hundred languages and dialects, there is only one genuine Russian type—the Slavonic

before the Norsemen came. There was quite a large settlement of the newcomers at Kiev, and in time Rurik's grandson, Oleg, made that now thriving city his capital. The inhabitants of this town became so rich and powerful in a few years that they made a raid against Constantinople. Oleg, Rurik's granddaughter, became a Christian. That was the beginning of the Orthodox church in Russia—945. The next ruler was a warlike pagan. The Scandinavians had by this time become thoroughly amalgamated with the original Slavs and race distinctions were growing fainter with each succeeding generation. Vladimir the Great, who died in 1015, extended the boundaries of Russia on all sides. He adopted the Christian religion and made it obligatory in his domains. A metropolitan was sent from Constantinople to Kiev and thus it happens that it is today the seat of a patriarchate.

The wealth and importance of the country were immeasurably increased during the succeeding two centuries. Then came the Mongol tide of invasion, Genghis Khan and his hordes came in and overturned things generally. This catastrophe gave the country a tremendous backset. It also gave Russia an oriental character which she has never lost. It was not until the beginning of the sixteenth century that Ivan the Great was able to throw off the Tatar yoke. His grandson, Ivan the Terrible, was the first czar, and his wife was Anastasia Romanoff, the ancestress of the present royal family.

Over 75 per cent of Russia's vast population live off the soil, and it is to this one must turn for a glimpse of the real Russia. This is the slow, half-somnolent force whose sudden awakening may some day sweep from existence the highly veneered and artificial class which has misrepresented the Russian people for so many years. To understand the fundamental and final working of a possible great popular movement for the overthrow of the present Russian government one must have some sort of understanding of the

ulation of the cities, lives in wooden buildings, and the carpentering trade is of great importance. The carpenters from the same locality form themselves into associations, each numbering from six to twenty persons. The best and most experienced of the workmen is elected manager and finds work, enters into contracts, receives deposits from the employer and during the work supervises matters generally. He is even expected to look after the domestic affairs of the artel, the food, lodging and washing.

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with a home—such as it is—to which he may always return in slack times, in sickness and in old age.

This is the individual of Great Russia, and this is the life he leads. It would not be an unhappy one for a being of his slow intellectual unfolding if he were left unmolested to enjoy it. Those who rule him have not had the wisdom to keep him good natured. A little light has filtered into his fatalistic darkness, and taxation and the conscription have forced him to think. He is almost ready to believe that a state is at hand, and his communal experience with the principle of election has taught him that in representation lies a remedy for at least some of his ills.

The true Russian has from the first refused to accept the war with Japan as his own quarrel. Dense as he undoubtedly is and made cumbersome and inert by superstition, he has never been capable into the belief that the war was for the glory of the fatherland. Burdensome as it has all been to him, he finds it less interesting than many another matter—the decline of industrial activity, the failure of the representatives of the zemstvo to interest the czar in their appeal for reform in governmental administration and more recently the outbreaks in various parts of the empire are very more engrossing. He is not yet wide awake, but he is waking. The bloodshed of Loda did not sting him to repentance; neither did the conduct of the Krima Potemkin bring him to the defense of the fatherland.

CHANNING A. BARTOW.

Mackay. And the widow of the silver king did not admit that she was the powerful and brilliant Chicago woman without a struggle. It is strongly hinted that this is the main reason why she is giving some entertainments at her magnificent residence in Carlton House terrace this season, which will recall her best efforts when she reigned undisputed over the American colony.

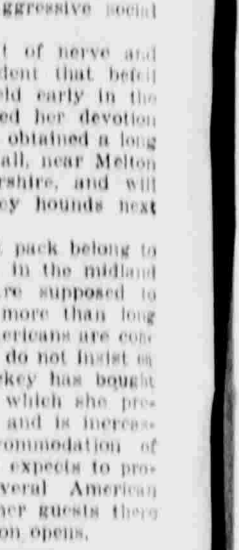
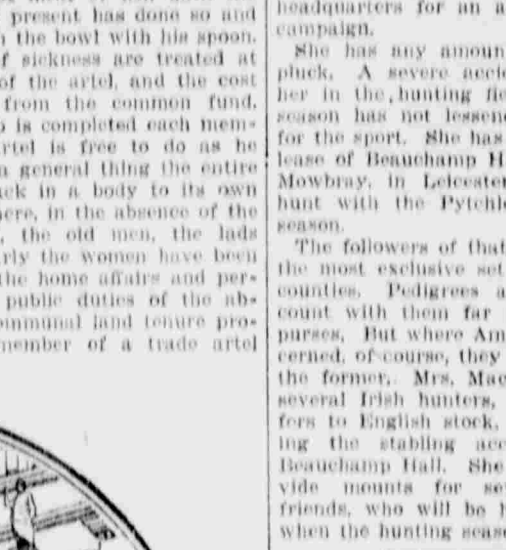
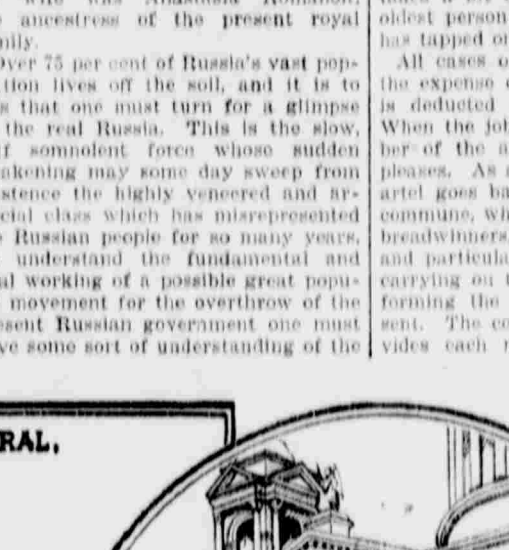
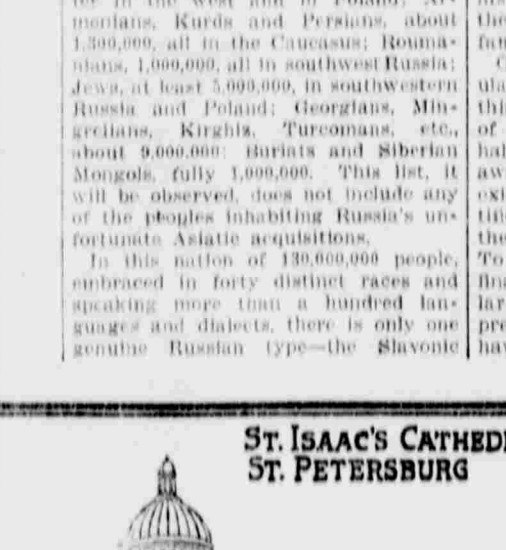
Mrs. Mackay has for some time been joined in the possession of a motor car which is acknowledged to be the most luxurious, gorgeous and costly vehicle of its kind in London. It attracts more attention than any other conveyance at the fashionable afternoon parades in Hyde park. But it is said, it will soon be eclipsed by a motor car which Mrs. Mackay has ordered from France and which will represent everything that is latest and best in automobile regardless of expense.

Special housing accommodation has been secured for it, and two chauffeurs, skilled mechanics as well as expert speed negotiators, have been engaged to run it. They come from New York, Mrs. Mackay's two chauffeurs are Frenchmen. Mrs. Mackay will not only score over her younger rival by appearing in a finer car, but also, when Americans are concerned, in the nationality of her chauffeurs.

But Mrs. Mackay may have some cards to play in the interesting contest that nobody knows anything about. She has rented Mrs. Adair's house in Curzon street. It makes a first class headquarters for an aggressive social campaign.

She has any amount of nerve and pluck. A severe accident that befell her in the hunting field early in the season has not lessened her devotion for the sport. She has obtained a long lease of Beauchamp Hall, near Melton Mowbray, in Leicestershire, and will hunt with the Pynchley hounds next season.

The followers of that pack belong to the most exclusive set in the midland counties. Pedigrees are supposed to count with them far more than long purses. But where Americans are concerned, of course, they do not insist on the former. Mrs. Mackay has bought several Irish hunters, which she prefers to English stock, and is increasing the stable accommodation of Beauchamp Hall. She expects to provide mounts for several American friends, who will be her guests there when the hunting season opens.



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The Russian sovereign exercises his legislative and administrative power through the aid of certain great councils of state. These councils are composed of functionaries appointed by himself and nominally responsible only to himself. In point of fact, these councils are the real government. First of all is the so-called "council of the empire." This is a purely consultative body, established in 1801, and consists of a president and about eighty members, exclusive of the ministers, who are members ex officio and four princes of the reigning family. This council is divided into four departments, each vested with the control respectively of legislation, civil and ecclesiastical administration, finance and commerce and industry and science. This council actually does the major part of the business of ruling. It originates all legislative measures, interprets all laws, has at least some influence over the budget, decides financial measures and takes charge of all political questions. This is the potent instrument controlled by the Romanoff grand dukes.

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The fourth great agent of imperial administration is the council of ministers. This august body dates from 1802 and consists of thirteen members, all appointed by the czar and responsible to him alone. Besides all these governing and advisory bodies, the czar is provided with abundant private chancelleries, whose business it is to see to the execution of the mandates of the superior officials and to supervise the police service of the empire.

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Each government is divided into districts, usually from five to twelve. In each district there is also a so-called deliberative assembly, the zemstvo. These are the bodies which have taken advantage of the internal disorder to become truly deliberative and have uttered sentiments that in ordinary times could have been held as treasonable. They have formed a certain kind of union and have met and passed resolutions demanding of the czar and his ministers the privileges of a representative body, but have received nothing but promises.

The zemstvo is an elective body, as nearly so, that is, as anything in Russia can be made. Its members are chosen by three classes of voters: landed proprietors, burghers and inhabitants of the rural communes who are twenty-five years of age and possess a certain amount of property or are doing a profitable business. Members of these district assemblies are elected for three years and are paid no salaries or fees. In spite of this fact there is great competition to secure the office. Their powers are extremely limited and extend only to local matters, the repair of the highways, the administration of charities and the regulation of public health. In 1894 it was found that the zemstvos were rather too active in the affairs of their districts, and their powers were somewhat curtailed by imperial mandate.

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These prophecies, so unobtrusively accepted at the time of their utterance, have been fulfilled. The great composite empire has been made pitiable both on land and on sea, but thus far no concerted national movement has threatened to denude her. Riots there have been without number and bloodshed and mutiny and protest against the established order of things, but the very lack of homogeneity among the empire's widely differing constituents has kept it intact. A revolution in one of the conquered provinces might serve to unite all the others in an effort to quell it. The ill-used inhabitants of the grand duchy of Finland is so absorbed in the contemplation of his own misery that he feels little interest in the wrongs of Poland. The Poles themselves are revolutionists in theory only. The commercial spirit has taken possession of him, and the Russian Pole is no longer the unrequited hero of romance. There have recently been grave breaches of the public peace, but patriotism has not inspired them. The riots in Warsaw and other Polish cities are not the preliminary signs of a great national uprising.

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An excellent example of the working of the artel system is furnished by the carpenters' trade. Almost the whole of Great Russia, including even the pop-

ulation of the cities, lives in wooden buildings, and the carpentering trade is of great importance. The carpenters from the same locality form themselves into associations, each numbering from six to twenty persons. The best and most experienced of the workmen is elected manager and finds work, enters into contracts, receives deposits from the employer and during the work supervises matters generally. He is even expected to look after the domestic affairs of the artel, the food, lodging and washing.

Sometimes it happens that a member of the artel has his wife with him at the work. Then the household is handed over to her, and the members of the artel call her "matka" (mother). The matka prepares the food and does the washing and mending for the entire association. When the job is finished and the earnings are being divided the matka and the young half-time workers get each half the share of an able-bodied workman. In some artels the manager gets a share and a half, and in others he is allowed a double share. In these associations the members not only live together, but eat from one common bowl. Usually the dinner consists of soup, cabbage soup, meat or fish and porridge. The meat or fish is cut up into small pieces and thrown into the soup. Every member of the artel waits for his turn and is very careful not to dip in his spoon before his neighbor on the right. No one takes a bit of meat or fish until the oldest person present has done so and has tapped on the bowl with his spoon.

All cases of sickness are treated at the expense of the artel and the cost is deducted from the common fund. When the job is completed each member of the artel is free to do as he pleases. As a general thing the entire artel goes back in a body to its own commune, where, in the absence of the breadwinners, the old men, the lads and particularly the women have been carrying on the home affairs and performing the public duties of the absent. The communal land tenure provides each member of a trade artel

In normal respiration the air is expelled from the chest at the rate of four feet per second.

Nineteen per cent of the British nobility are childless.

The wolves of Russia devour about 200 people every year.

The purest water in Britain is that of Loch Katrine, which has but one

quarter of a pound of soil suspended in 1,000 gallons.

In a modern battle one man in every twenty engaged is either killed or severely wounded.

The annual amount of sickness in human life is thirteen days.

A student after spending thirty-five years at Utrecht university, during

which period he has been regularly "plucked," has just gained the degree of doctor of medicine.

British members of parliament pay over \$75,000 for a year's refreshment while the House is sitting.

The railways of this country give employment to 900,000 people.

About sixty different kinds of substances are known to be radioactive.

It may not be generally known that

whenever King Edward orders his court to go into mourning king's counsel are under a distinct obligation to obey his majesty's command.

English railway tunnels cost \$1,000 a yard.

London sweeps up 50,000 tons of refuse weekly.

A Severn oxiform vase dated 1763 and sixteen and three-quarter inches in height was sold at auction in Lon-

don recently for \$21,000. A companion vase belongs to the collection in Buckingham palace.

Germany breeds 250,000 canaries every year.

Spain has more hunchbacks than any other country. In some of the villages of the Sierra Moderna 7 per cent of the people are deformed in this way.

The average height of a man is found by A. Dastre to have continued the

same for thousands of years, as shown in primitive man, prehistoric man and historic man. The great size of ancient man is imaginary.

A wink occupies about one-sixth of a second.

Nearly 30,000 letters are posted with out addresses in the United Kingdom every year.

Wages are very low in Spain. Farm laborers get about \$1.50 a week. The

women who work in vineyards do not get more than 15 cents for ten hours work.

A little more than half the gold brought into the Dutch West Indies comes from the United States. The countries next in order as to value of goods imported are the Netherlands (Germany, England, France and Italy follow).

Unusual invoices are received from other countries.

Common clear glass left exposed in certain desert regions of the earth soon changes greatly in appearance and acquires color, sometimes rose purple and sometimes amethyst. This change has been attributed by some observers to alkaline soils, but others maintain that such changes occur where there is no alkali and that it must be due to the great activity of the actinic rays of the sun where the atmosphere is very clear.

When the visitor had an infection and pronunciation that suggested the Australian colonies, and it was about a one to three shot after the clerk at the San Francisco hotel discovered that the Mr. Jolly for whom he was inquiring was in reality Mr. Hanley, who arrived in "Prison on the last Australian steamer." Mr. Hanley sent down word, in response to the inquiry, that he would be pleased to have the visitor go up to his room in five minutes. So the visitor sat down in a red plush armchair in the hotel office and fastened his gaze on the brass numerals of a dial that stared at him from between two immense marble pillars. The one brass hand of the dial pointed to 1. For forty minutes the visitor kept his gaze fixed on the brass pointer of the dial. Then he rose excitedly and hurried to the countess.

"Oh, say," he demanded of the clerk, "don't you suppose that five minutes is up? Your clock over there has bloomed well stopped."

The clerk heroically suppressed a giggle and explained that the dial in question was an indicator on the elevator, and that the only reason the pointer had not moved was because that particular elevator was not running.

"How, how?" came from the visitor. "I shall have to write 'one that in America they put clocks on the bloom' in my diary, how, how?"

"That fellow played in great luck," commented the clerk two minutes later. "Imagine what his sensations would have been if the elevator had been running!"

GLASS AND SUBLIGHT.

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