

RUSSIA'S PREPARATIONS IN ASIA.—In the last ten years, Russia has absorbed Khiva and Bokhara submissively, Persia has become subservient to her influence, and the ruler of Afghanistan has had reason to be a friend of the Russians and an enemy of the English. The Cossack advance is already within fifteen days' journey of India, and should an invasion be a future part of the plan, Russia could easily strengthen her forces by two hundred thousand or three hundred thousand Afghan, Persian and Tartar recruits—white races for whom the Cossacks would be no match. Should such a war arise in the future, the English rule in India would be greatly imperiled. The Mussulman of India already looks to Russia for protection, and would probably join her in expelling the hated English from his soil.

The main difficulty of Russia in properly governing these new possessions lies in the desert region intervening between Orenburg on the European limit and the border of Turkistan. There is, however, a possible means of overcoming this obstacle. The Amoo Daria, or Oxus, is said by the Greeks, who penetrated to this region during the invasion of Alexander the Great, to have formerly run into the Caspian. They report the same ancient terminus for the Syr Daria, or Jaxartes. Competent engineers, who have examined the land between the two inland seas, declare that such an ancient course of the river is possible, and it is rumored that the idea is seriously entertained of turning the two rivers into their former channels, and forcing them to reflow to the Caspian. Such a result would give Russia full military control of Central Asia, forming a water-route, in continuation of the Volga, for two thousand miles farther into the interior of Asia; thus giving the Russian war-steamer a complete line of navigation water extending from St. Petersburg to the Hindoo-Koosh Mountains, a South Asian range which forms the northern line of the English territory. Could troops thus be forwarded by continuous transportation from St. Petersburg, through a friendly and fertile country, to the foot of the Hindoo-Koosh and Kuen-Lun ranges, and to the borders of Afghanistan, it is apparent that India would lie open to a Russian invasion in force at any moment the Czar might order; the only hindrance to such an invasion being the height and difficulty of these mountains, and possible resistance to a march across Afghan territory. —From "Russia in Central Asia," in the July number of Lippincott's Magazine.

CARE OF THE FEET.—Concerning this subject, the *Scientific American* very truly says:

"Many are careless in the cleaning of the feet. If they wash them once a week, they think they are doing well. They do not consider that the largest pores of the system are located in the bottom of the foot, and that the most offensive matter is discharged through the pores. They wear stockings from the beginning to the end of the week without change, which becomes completely saturated with offensive matter.

Ill health is generated by such treatment of the feet. The pores are not repellant, but absorbent, and this foetid matter, to a greater or less extent, is taken back into the system. The feet should be washed every day with pure water only, as well as the armpits, from which an offensive odor is also emitted unless daily ablution is practiced. Stockings should be worn more than a day or two at a time. They may be worn one day, and then aired and sunned, and worn another day, if necessary."

An interior paper, speaking of a man who died in its town recently, says that for years he has proved that honesty and efficiency are compatible with literacy in cleaning and repairing clocks.

A Maine Yankee has invented a \$5 sewing machine, which is about as large as a four-bladed jack-knife, and is self-feeding and knits a perfect elastic seam. It looks like an apple parer or a nutmeg grater.

Recently a very peculiar surgical operation was performed in the drug store of Dr. T. C. Rowels, in Bridgeport, Ohio. A man came into the house who had been suffering for eight years with a beating at the root of his tongue. He applied to Dr. Todd and Rowels for relief, as his long suffering from the painful ulcer, occasioned by a pistol shot in 1862, which penetrated his chest, was such as to make him favorable to any operation for relief. Dr. Todd probed the ulcer with an instrument, coming in contact with a hard substance. The man's tongue was slit to the root, and a molar tooth taken from the ulcer, the tooth having been driven into his tongue by the bullet.

There is a breed of horses in southern Texas known as the red fox. They are a large medium pony, being a cross between the Spanish horse and mustang pony. They are distinguished by a streak along the back, from the mane to the tail, of the deep color of the red fox—the body being of a lighter color. The limbs are of the finest form and finish—bodies rather long and round; the whole build indicating great endurance, activity and speed. They are kindly disposed, but full of high mettle. They perform good service under the saddle, but are especially valuable in harness. The stock like dogs, and with a prairie country before them will leave eight to a hundred miles behind them in a day.

An exchange says: "The Isthmus of Darien canal project seems to have entirely 'petered out.' It is estimated by engineers that if the whole country from ocean to ocean were a dead level and only twelve feet above the ocean level, the cutting would be over forty-four million cubic yards, three-fourths of it a 'wet cut.' If a dry cut, and through rock, it would cost, at \$10 per cubic yard, over \$44,000,000. If a wet cut, pumping, draining, &c., would amount to six times as much, or \$2,640,000,000, which, added to the \$2,000,000,000, would make the amount over \$4,640,000,000. If the cut should be two hundred feet above the ocean level, the expense would be proportionately greater, might be computed, but there is not money enough in the world to pay for the construction."

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