

Territorial Acquisitions of the Russian Empire

THE reluctance of Russia to admit American and other foreign consuls into the Manchurian capital, Mukden, and the Yalu river towns of Antung and Tatung-kow in accordance with the terms of the recent treaty between the United States and China gives a pointed illustration of the motives and purposes of the Russian empire. Never in the history of nations has there been another such example of persistent expansion as that afforded by the Slav. It was only about four or five centuries ago that he emerged from barbarism and Mongolian rule, at which time he possessed a territory but little larger than the other nations of Europe. Tirelessly and unrelentingly from that day to this he has gone from step to step gathering tract after tract and kingdom after kingdom until now he possesses the largest amount of contiguous territory of any government on earth.

The means by which this land was taken have varied. Sometimes by war, sometimes by diplomacy, sometimes by settlement, he has reached his ends. The matter of the land was the primary object. He did not hesitate at butchery if butchery were necessary. He cheerfully lied if lying would forward his purpose. He fomented internal discords in the coveted kingdom if he thus could come in under the guise of peacemaker and take the country for his own. If it were necessary to reach his goal by indirect means, then the indirect route was followed. If he was compelled to seize his prey when the other powers were not looking, such seizure was made; if he had to wait a century before achieving his object, he waited patiently and steadily. Beaten back at one point, he reached out at others, but always and everywhere he kept in view one thing—to get the land. Czar were born and died, but the Russian purpose was deathless. Governments changed, but this one vital, central policy was changeless. Ivan, Peter, Catherine, Alexander, Nicholas—these monarchs personally have represented the widest divergence of makeup and character, but on the line of expansion they have followed one course.

Russia can be compared to a lake fed from some invisible source and ever increasing in its area. Sometimes it has crept foot by foot, sometimes rushing over some impeding embankment, it has swept over leagues and leagues of plain. Sometimes a human upheaval has crowded it back at one point. Its waters increased at others. Whatever the incidents attendant upon its progress, it moved on. Like the lake, too, it has only spread over contiguous territory. This is the peculiar difference between the Muscovite and every other conquering nation. Rome and England have taken colonies wherever they could be secured. Russia took only those adjacent. She even sold Alaska, which, though near, was separated by water. There is no nation so unified, so organic, and this unity is not only governmental, but geographic. Whatever she takes she assimilates. It may be never so much at enmity to her, she makes it Russian. This process may require centuries. Her purpose is longer. She may leave the captured territory the fiction of a separate government, even permit it to remain ostensibly under the control of some other great power. It suffices that she has



The Russian bear, his hind paws having crushed Finland and Poland, has one front paw on Manchuria, while the other is held menacingly above Korea.

gained a foothold. This she never relinquishes, but hides her time, gaining larger and larger concessions, until at last the captured province is a portion of her ever advancing empire. Thus she spread eastward from Moscow to the Ural mountains. Thus she moved onward into Asia and annexed Siberia. Thus by struggle after struggle she took Finland from Sweden. Thus by partition after partition she absorbed the larger portion of Poland. Thus by war after war she wrested the Caucasus and Transcaucasus from Turkey. Thus by crowding and fighting she conquered portions of Turkestan, Transcaucasia, Khiva and Boukhara. Thus by diplomacy she is gradually

tightening her grip upon Manchuria. Who can wonder that Napoleon, who had the longest vision into the future of any man of modern times, said that Europe would ultimately become "all Cossack or all republican?" He could have added that Asia will become all Slav or all civilized.

The original Russia is said to have been of Scandinavian origin. These viking Norsemen that gave vigor to the Anglo-Saxon, the Teuton and the Frenchman also stirred first life in the Slav. In the tenth century all the country known by the Russian name lay in the regions later occupied by Poland and Lithuania. Then in the eleventh century arose Novgorod under Vlad-

mir, and this was all of Russia that was free during the two centuries of the Tartar invasion. The modern Russia, however, dates from Ivan of Moscow, who arose at the time the Tartar inundation ebbed back from natural causes. Ivan took Novgorod in 1478. Later he gathered in several other provinces to the south and east. Following him came Ivan the Terrible, who gave himself the title of czar of Muscovy. This title he derived not from Caesar, as is generally supposed, but from an oriental name, the Russian translation of the Biblical king. It was during the reign of this second Ivan that the first war with the Czarist Tartars was fought, resulting in their re-

pulse, and also that Siberia was captured. Yermac went over the Ural mountains and swept through the sparsely settled plains of northern Asia with his Cossacks, turning over his conquests to the czar. In a century nearly all the present Siberian territory had been overrun and taken.

The next accession of any moment to Muscovy, or Russia, as it was coming to be called, was in 1652, when the Cossacks of the Ukraine revolted from Poland and gave their allegiance to the czar. The land movement at this time, however, was away from Russia, for Gustavus Adolphus was defeating her half civilized soldiers and forcing cessions of territory to Sweden. Among the rest the site where now stands St. Petersburg went to the triumphant Swedish king.

To become effective this material humanity, this Muscovite body, needed a soul. That soul came in 1689. The name it bore was Peter—Peter the Great. He has been called by succeeding ages, Russia had been an animal mass before. This man touched it with a higher life, taught it civilization, gave it a capital, organized it till it could fight in modern fashion, brought it into touch with other national human units that had culture—made it, in fact, an entity, an organic thing. And, of course, he continued the acquisition of territory. He invaded Livonia, Ingria and other of the Swedish possessions, and when disastrously defeated by Charles XII, rather grimly remarked that "Sweden will teach the Russians how to whip her yet." As grimly he went to raising and training an army, and his prediction was verified when Charles was utterly demolished at Poltava. It may be remarked in passing that the two most untiring fighters of modern Europe, who have dazzled the world with their previous victories, dashed against the human mass of Russia and were shattered. If one would form a just estimate of the power of the Muscovite he has but to look at the closing chapters of the lives of Charles XII and Napoleon Bonaparte.

Peter defeated the Turks and took Azov the first time. He defeated the Swedes and took the present site of St. Petersburg and a large amount of territory roundabout. Then he founded the capital practically in a swamp, calling it "the window to western Europe." Later he moved his court there. Who has not read the melancholy fate of Finland and Poland? It was long after Peter had awakened him into life that the great bear came hulking up to the northwest across the wheat-fields of Pomerania and Finland, fought off the Swedish guards and took most of the country for his own. This happened in 1743. Nearly thirty years later, in the reign of Catherine—Catherine who had instigated the murder of her husband and had taken the throne from her son, Catherine who lived openly with her lovers in the imperial

palace, yet who was a strong ruler and thoroughly imbued with the mission and purpose of Russia—in her reign in 1773 came the first partition of Poland. At the height of her power Poland had from 11,000,000 to 15,000,000 population and above a quarter of a million square miles, being larger in area than France. But internal dissensions came, possibly at the instigation of Catherine, and the great bear shambled over to make peace and preserve order. He also interested Austria and Prussia in his benevolent plans, and the result was that, presumably to maintain the peace more effectively, each took a large slice of Polish territory. Then in 1795 came a second partition, and this time Russia secured twice as large a slice as before, over half the kingdom in all. Two years later the fiction of an independent government was wiped out, Russia took all of the ill fated kingdom that was left, and Poland became a Muscovite province. All this was not accomplished without fighting, some of the fiercest fighting in the world's history, and there were occasional outbreaks for years after.

At the very time poor Poland was being absorbed the bear was also busy in the Crimea. There in a fierce war the Caucasus came into the hands of the Russian. Azov was taken a second time, with several of the provinces lying roundabout, a naval road into the Euxine and the Mediterranean was opened, and Sevastopol arose, as St. Petersburg had arisen before and as Odessa arose later. Some of this territory was lost in the subsequent Crimean war with England, France and Turkey, but most of it remained permanently Russian.

During the nineteenth century the empire of the bear steadily pushed out in all directions. In 1812 Bessarabia was taken from the Turk. In 1814 and 1815 came further acquisitions in Poland. From 1839 to 1859 was the complete subjugation of the Caucasus and Transcaucasus. In 1855 was the capture of Kars. From 1859 to 1876 central Asia was overrun and portions of Turkestan, Bokhara and Khiva came under the dominion of the czar. Fighting and settling, the Cossack moved to the southeast.

Now it is Manchuria. Port Arthur and Dalny are already secured. Russian troops are in Mukden, the capital; a Russian railroad traverses the country and Russian settlements are being made at various points along its route. After Manchuria what? Korea? Persia? Northern China? The Balkan states? Turkey?

The world has not yet measured the strength of the Russian. He is only awakening from the sleep of barbarism. He is the last of the great races that came from the Aryan migration to so awaken. When he is fully aroused, what then?

CHESTER L. FELDER.

Horace Allen, an American, the Most Powerful Man in Korea

THE most influential man in Korea is an American. Notwithstanding the fact that he is the official representative of another government, being the minister resident from the United States, he is the political adviser of the emperor, is trusted with state secrets and is treated as a member or close friend of the royal family of Korea rather than as the diplomatic agent of a foreign power.

Horace Newton Allen, a grandnephew of Ethan Allen of Revolutionary fame, was a missionary—perhaps "it" could be the better word, for he still regards himself as a missionary. Since leaving college practically his entire life has been given to Korea and Korean affairs, so that he has been identified with ev-

ery step in the development of the Hermit Kingdom since it was opened to western influences.

Korea lies on the rough little peninsula of Chosen, "Land of the Morning Calm." It is the dumping ground, the refuse corner of eastern Asia. Despite the fact that it was much more backward than either Japan or even China to admit the outside world, it is still made up of almost every nationality. There is no very distinct national type, the complexion of the people varying all the way from the lightness of the Caucasian to the black skin of the negro.

The country was for a long time under the suzerainty of China; hence the Chinaman is there found in force. It touches elbows with Manchuria, and for that reason the Manchos are in evidence. Japan is a near neighbor and is seeking to colonize the land for her

own, so that her settlements are in every important city of the kingdom. As a result there is little national homogeneity, the general attitude of each man to his neighbor being one of ill will. The native inhabitants are generally lazy, the women doing most of the work. There are two weeks in the year, however, when the male portion of the community becomes active. This is the "clearing up time" following the first moon of each new year, when there is license for all sorts of fighting in the streets, and grudges made during the previous twelve months may be settled by the arbitrament of the fist.

These characteristics account for the frequent political outbreaks and riots in Korea. The towns are filthy, without any sort of drainage or sewerage, and the houses are ill constructed. The women are the burden bearers and are given little consideration, not even being allowed a name, but each being referred to as "the daughter of —" or "the wife of —." The people are exceedingly superstitious and are little more than children in mind.

These were the conditions that were found by Mr. Allen when he visited Korea in 1885, being the first missionary to enter the Hermit Kingdom. He sent back such reports of the possibilities of the work in this virgin soil that the Presbyterian mission board wired him to remain. He had taken a medical course and was what is known as a "medical missionary." Shortly after his advent into his new field occurred a riot in which one of the princes was dangerously wounded. Civil war seemed imminent, and all other Europeans and Americans fled. Dr. Allen remained and saved the prince's life, or at least prevented the native doctors from pouring pitch into his wounds, according to their custom; then by applying the methods of western surgery gave nature a chance to save his life. The queen was the real ruler of the kingdom, and the prince was her nephew. The young American was at once high in royal favor, and the king established a hospital, with Dr. Allen in charge. Later the American physician saved the life of the monarch himself, and this still further enhanced his hold on the royal affections. He was established as court physician, as personal friend and as political adviser all in one.

When Korea decided to send a legation to Washington, the first that had left her shores for any other country than China and Japan, the American missionary accompanied the body. He had great difficulty in getting them past the Chinese fleet to an American ship. Korea had always been a Chinese dependency, hence the reluctance on the part of her masters to allow her a separate representation to a foreign power. Another difficulty was encountered in Washington in having the legation recognized. Finally the mission was successful after two years of labor, and Dr. Allen returned to Seoul only to be appointed secretary of the American legation. In 1893 he returned to America in charge of the Korean exhibit to the World's fair, but was hurried back to his post by the troubled conditions in the Korean capital. At this time he was practically at the head of the American legation and was made so in fact early in President McKinley's first administration. He has the ear of the king as has no other man, native or foreign. The fact that America has larger concessions in Korea than any other nation, with the notable exception of Japan, is due in large part to

Minister Allen's efforts. This truly remarkable man was born at Delaware, O., in 1858 and graduated from the Ohio Wesleyan university there in 1882. After taking a two years' medical course he went as a missionary to Shanghai, China, where he remained only one year, thence going to Korea. His wife is a relative of ex-President Hayes.

Some estimate of the man may be formed from an utterance in time of danger. Just after his arrival at Seoul, when houses were burning, bullets flying and all other white men were fleeing for safety, Dr. Allen went into the hastily vacated home of the American legation and held the fort. "I came to do just such work," he said. "I can't leave these wounded people. We shall live in the legation, with the old flag flying, and trust the kind Father to care for us."

LESLIE W. MAGOUN.

New York State's One Hundred Million Dollar Canal

THE construction of a \$101,000,000 canal is the gigantic task that now confronts the state of New York. The real amount invested in the completed work, in fact, will considerably exceed that sum, as the new canal through a portion of its length will follow the beds of the present Erie, Oswego and Champlain canals, so that to this extent the expenditure will simply represent improvements rather than original construction.

The thousand ton barge canal, for as such the proposed waterway is known, comes about as the result of an act passed by the New York legislature, submitted to the people and overwhelmingly carried at the last general election in the state. The estimated cost of the enterprise has been placed at \$101,000,000, and before bonds could be issued to secure loans to cover this enormous outlay it was necessary for the voters to pass on the question at the polls. The bonds issued by the state comptroller are to run not more than eighteen years and to bear interest at 3 per cent. It is believed by State Engineer and Surveyor Edward A. Bond, who has the work in charge, that the actual task of constructing the new canal will occupy about five years.

The Hudson river between Troy and Albany is to be deepened, as is also the Niagara river. The present canals are to be enlarged to 75 feet minimum bottom width, with an average top width of about 125 feet and 12 feet minimum depth, while the face of the minimum water cross section will be 3,125 feet. At aqueducts, locks and locks this may be slightly reduced. In rivers and lakes the minimum bottom width is to be 200 feet, with 2,400 square feet cross section. The locks are to be 325 feet in length, 28 feet in width and 11 feet in depth. They will be single except at Waterford and Lockport.

At Waterford will occur the most difficult piece of work on the new canal, consisting of three adjoining double locks and two single locks, also an immense dam in the Mohawk river of 2,400 feet in length and 58 feet in height which will back up the river for over ten miles. These elaborate works will all occur in less than two miles in length and will serve to transfer the main line of the canal from the Hudson river at Waterford into the Mohawk river above Cohoes.

In detail the route of the main or new Erie canal will be as follows: Congress street, Troy, by Hudson river to Waterford, west by branch north of People's island, thence by locks already described into the Mohawk river again, thence to a point near Jacksonburg, by existing canal to Herkimer, by the Mohawk river to a point six miles east of Rome, by Woodcreek valley to Onondaga lake, through the lake to Onondaga river, to the outlet of Onondaga lake, by Seneca river to Crusee creek, thence parallel to the New York Central railroad to the old canal near Clyde, then to Prepost, then by new canal across to old canal again at a point near Irondequoit creek, then by old canal to two miles west of Pittsford, then south of Rochester to Genesee river near Genesee Valley park, then across river west of Rochester to old canal, to a point near South Greece, then by old canal to Niagara river at Tonawanda, then to Black Rock harbor, Buffalo and Lake Erie. The present Erie canal from Tonawanda creek to Main street, Buffalo, is to be kept as a feeder. The improved Oswego canal is to run from the junction of the Oswego, Seneca and Onondaga rivers north to Lake Ontario by the Oswego river and the old canal. The Champlain canal is to follow the Hudson river from Waterford to Fort Edward, thence by old canal to Lake Champlain.

The number of men to be put to work in such a gigantic undertaking is no inconsiderable feature of the benefit

that is to come from the enterprise. In the very nature of the work the larger portion of the \$101,000,000 to be spent on the canal must be given out for labor. But, even on the supposition that only half of it is so spent, that would still leave enough to employ 20,000 men for a little over a dollar and a half per day during the entire five years that it is estimated will be required to complete the task. Of course very many of the men employed will receive much



more than this, as there will be an army of engineers, designers and other skilled workmen needed. But at an average of even a much higher wage there will still be enough demand on labor to increase the price and to make a condition of prosperity extending throughout and even beyond the territory contiguous to the line of the proposed work.

Another element of interest is the fact that this is one of the largest enterprises ever undertaken by an American state, if not altogether the largest. Now that there is so much agitation in the direction of the state or nation taking a more immediate part in industrial affairs the public construction and operation of the canal will attract the attention of all students of political and economic questions.

Still another feature that lends the canal about the fat of May. The state

will proceed much in the same way as would a large private corporation. Plans will be made under the direction of the state engineer covering the construction in detail, and on these plans contracts will be let, as in ordinary public works.

There are about 445 miles of canal to be built, of which practically 250 miles are new, and 155 miles consist of improvements of existing canals. It is intended to take up the most difficult work first, which is that at the Troy end, about Waterford and Cohoes, to which reference has been made. The second point selected for immediate operation is about four miles west of Rome and reaching from that to Onondaga lake, where a harbor will be built. This section of the canal includes two locks, with a total drop of forty-seven feet. Other points selected for early attention lie just west of Rochester.

The body of men having in charge this mammoth undertaking are the lieutenant governor, state treasurer, attorney general, state engineer, commissioner of public works, state comptroller and secretary of state.

The original Erie canal was opened by Governor Clinton in 1825 and was one of the noteworthy achievements of the new century. It now develops that George Washington before his death urged the construction of such a waterway and in a measure may be considered the father of the plan. After being opened the canal was repeatedly improved and always had an important influence on the transportation problem of the Empire State. It was and is the longest canal in the world.

The proposed improvements, however, will make this already historic waterway so much greater than ever before as to completely dwarf its past pretensions. For example, the new 184 ton barges will be twice as fast as the old ones, and will carry four times as much freight as the old ones. The new canal will be 75 feet deep, and will carry 10,000,000 tons annually in the new Erie canal alone.

CHANNING A. BARTOW.

VARIED TOPICS OF HOME AND ABROAD.

Constables in London receive \$25 a year as a clothing allowance. The Buffalo online in Cornwall runs for two-thirds of a mile out into the sea.

In 1889 an Australian stockman, kangaroo hunting, picked up an owl. Since then Australia has exported 12,000 owls worth of them.

There are 1,072,448 houses and shops in Great Britain. Of these only 1,131,388 are private dwelling houses of more than 100 years' rental.

Some of the higher institutions of learning in Germany have increased the fees for foreign students. France produced 135,748 pounds of beet sugar during the last season, which is a falling off of one-third from the previous season. This is a result

of the agreement reached in the Brussels sugar conference. The beet yield of 13 1/2 per cent of refined sugar, which is the highest yield ever known.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are the possessors of thirteen yachts, every one of which was a wedding present.

The officers and men who have tried the new rifle are practically unanimous in its favor. The infantry board and the cavalry board unanimously recommended the adoption of twenty-four inches as the length of the barrel for all arms. Exhaustive tests of a cartridge for the new rifle have proved most satisfactory.

The United States has 75,000 post-offices, Germany is next with 45,433 and Great Britain third with 25,400. It is reported that a letter posted in Arizona and addressed to "One-eyed Joe Lee, His Van, England," was duly delivered to the addressee, a grayer in a midland village. Joe answered the note, which was from an old comrade in the states, and his reply was addressed to "Red Jack Lovell, Van or Prison, U. S. A."

A French astronomer, M. Joubert, head of the St. Jacques observatory, has had all his children named after stars. He has a Uranus, Jupiter, Saturn and a Venus.

In completing the family monument he has had the good fortune to be preceded by his wife with twins and has christened them Castor and Pollux.

England now produces only 300 pounds of grain for each head of her population. The North American output is 25,218 pounds for each inhabitant.

Railways with personal violence have become so frequent upon the Transcaspian railway that the authorities have decided to equip with revolvers the station masters, the older railway

servants and especially the men charged with safeguarding the line. The metal lithium is little more than half the weight of water. A cubic foot of it weighs 59 ounces. Mercury is twenty-three times heavier.

After a rose is usually sold costs 600 francs and all of it is sold in 100 minutes.

The United Kingdom has sixty-four borough councils and sixty-two county councils.