



## An Intimate Sketch of That Far Off Snow Covered Land Where the American Soldier Keeps Guard.

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**W**HEN one had thought of Siberia it has recalled the horror or suffering associated with it for up until quite recently the average American connected Siberia with the desolate barren frozen quarters of the political exiles of Russia. The most harrowing and heartrending stories have come from there of the treatment of the prisoners and of the hardships they must endure. The public mind was kept so occupied with these dreadful tales that little attention was paid to the interesting part of the country, to its riches, to its possibilities if its vast resources were developed. The soil in certain portions is quite fertile and constitutes one of the great sources of wheat which was supplied by the Russian Empire. In its hills are minerals, the extent and riches of which are undiscovered and those mines which are in working order are being only half developed.

Now that furs are so high the inducement to trap the animals which abound in that country is great.

The present war has already brought a great change to Siberia. First, there is no longer any Siberian exile for political prisoners and the majority of those who were there have returned to Russia to a freedom which at present seems to be on a par with an exile in Siberia. Military necessity has made cities along the Siberian railway which stretches from Moscow in central Russia to Vladivostok, the great city of Siberia, which has become an important seaport as well as railway depot, for the exigencies of war caused much of the ammunition and war material sent from this country for the

use of the Allies to be sent across the Pacific and landed at Vladivostok. Naturally this brought our soldiers, who are still policing this end of Russia.

### Immense Country

Just before the outbreak of the war Russia began to encourage immigration to her Asiatic colony, and quite a number had taken up land where wheat might be raised. It is the vastness of Siberia which fairly overwhelms one when it is discussed for while it belongs to Russia it embraces more than one-half the area of the entire Empire—4,831,882 square miles, more than one and one-half times as great as that of the United States exclusive of Alaska. While practically all belongs to Russia it is divided politically into four governments—Irkutsk, Tobolsk, Tomsk, Yeniseisk and six provinces: Amur, Kamchata, Primorska, Sakhalin, Transbaikalia, and Yakutsk.

About ninety per cent. of the population are of Russian origin. The others are of Chinese, Korean and Japanese descent.

The history of Siberia is so closely linked with Russia that it seems to be just an episode in Russian history for it has belonged to Russia since the days of Ivan the Terrible, and seems to have come to that country through the adventure, exploration, settlement and development by the Russian people.

White thousands of acres of its land are still uncultivated and many thousands of acres of swamp land absolutely unfit for cultivation yet on the whole during the next ten years its products will amount to millions. The great wheat fields will be made to produce heavy crops and many of

the mines will be opened. The wonderful trans-Siberian railway began in 1891 and completed eleven years later covering a distance of 5,481 miles and costing \$172,625,000 will give a fresh impetus to agriculture.

### Great Railway

This railroad proved of great importance to Russia during the war, as it was the only route by which ammunition and other military supplies could be obtained from the United States when the port at Archangel was closed. In 1915 over \$45,000,000 worth of goods was sent to Russia by way of Vladivostok and the trans-Siberian railroad.

Even before the war the freight travel of goods to and from the United States was so great that the Consular office in Moscow had to be changed to that of a Consul General in order that the business might be properly handled.

The four great rivers of the country are the Obi, Yenisei, Lena and Amur and with their tributaries they afford about 30,000 miles of interior navigation. At present there are over 400 steamers on these waters and they carry a large amount of freight from the railway and bring the products from the interior to certain points

where they are loaded on the train for Moscow.

The climate of Siberia has little to recommend it for the summers are short and very hot while the winters are long and severe but dry, that is, it never rains but snows and snows until the great white stillness of the land is so great that few people outside of the natives can live there and keep from going insane.

### Omsk And Tomsk

Omsk is the agricultural center of about 2,000 square miles and has a population of about 100,000. It is one of the coming cities of Siberia. It has long shop lined streets, the Cathedral of St. Nicholas, three libraries, a large number of schools, a large theatre and several cabaret shows which are more or less questionable in their performance.

The railway platforms are always filled with American agricultural machinery for the Russians, who emigrated here before the war and have learned the value of the American harvester—a machine which can be seen in all parts of Siberia. In fact, Omsk is the Chicago of Siberia in its exports, skins, hides, meat and butter. In one year 12,250 sabres alone were sent to the great market in Leipzig.

The railway will bring us to the city of Tomsk, not on the Siberian railroad, but on a branch. This city is known as the city of orgies and education as there is a university of no little merit where there are hundreds of students and dance halls and cabaret shows which would be closed in the United States five minutes after they had opened, but something must be done to amuse the people, and men whose shows were too vile for Paris seem to have settled here. The hotels are very like the hotels of Russia, about an uncomfortable as they can be made. They have no running water in the rooms and very little in the pitchers and after a few days stay in one the traveler comes to the conclusion that cleanliness in a Siberian hotel is not next to Godliness, but next to impossible.

Somehow the very curiosities of the place makes it interesting and the traveler is willing to even put up with the various kinds of cockroaches which parade about the bed room walls.

The market on the banks of the river at Tomsk is wonderful in its way—little wooden huts, hundreds of them where all sorts of gilded ware, bright colored knickknacks and col-

ored picture books are offered to brighten the cheerless homes of the Siberian residents. Women squat about in the snow outside the huts offering second hand goods for sale and while they sell little they are often remembered by the prosperous passer-by. There is also one part of the market devoted to the sale of Siberian ponies.

Of course, some mention of the great Lake Balkal must be mentioned for this body of water is the real beauty spot of Siberia. With great snow capped mountains on one side, the shore carpeted with snow as far as the eye can see her turbulent waters present a pretty picture. It will be remembered that some years ago the carcass of a mastodon was found in the ice along the shore of the lake and the explorer is said to have actually tasted the meat of the pre-historic animal which seems to prove the theory of cold storage being a real preservation.

### Village Life

Naturally Siberia has many villages where the real life of the people can be seen, but to those who have traveled in Russia they will seem little different. The houses are built of logs with few windows which are now on.

"It's a place to make money all right," said one returned soldier. "But you will die of homesickness before you get home to spend it."

## HOLIDAY-MAKING AROUSES SOVIETS

Russian Government Threatens Drastic Action Unless Practice Ceases at Once.

LONDON, April 12.—The Russian soviet government has threatened to put the workshops of the northern railways under martial law to put an end to what it calls the "crime" of the workers in wasting time in holiday-making, according to a wireless message from Moscow. The government asserts that 1,000 working days were thus lost in one month and that "the railway men are arranging to have two days off every week at a time when millions of people are hungering and when it is impossible to transport bread, owing to lack of railway engines." It notifies the idlers that they will either have to make up for the time "of which the republic has been robbed" or receive full penalty under martial law.

The message issued by the government is headed "Shame commands," and declares Russia cannot await salvation from foreigners but must fight its own internal blockade in order to "end the ruinous condition of things, conquer hunger and save the soviet republic."

## RIVER PARK

Miss Margaret Burke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Burke, E. Eighth st., and Waldo Bronson were quietly married Saturday afternoon at the court house. Following the ceremony a wedding dinner was served to the immediate family at the home of the groom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Bronson, Minor st. Mr. and Mrs. Bronson will reside in South Bend.

The meeting of the Women's Bible class scheduled to meet Wednesday afternoon has been postponed until the close of the Bob Jones meetings.

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Sackman, Thirteenth st., entertained with a dinner of 14 covers Sunday in honor of their nephew, Raymond Niel of Niles, Mich., and Miss Sophia Wittner of South Bend, whose marriage took place in South Bend Monday. Mr. and Mrs. John Neil of Chicago were out of town guests.

Owing to the Bob Jones meetings all services at the M. E. church have been cancelled for this week. The schedule for the morning prayer meetings have not been arranged by the committee.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Sackman are in Detroit, Mich., for a few days.

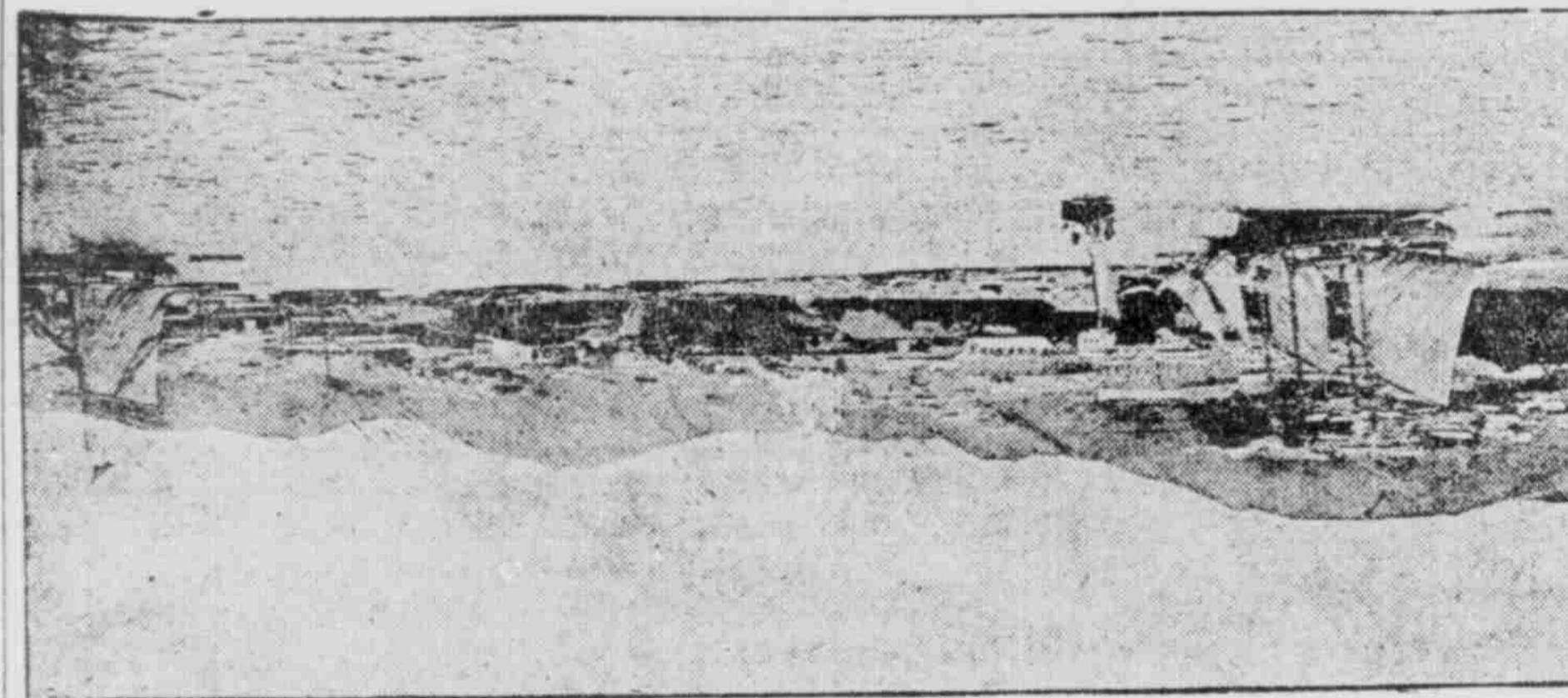
Mr. John Frederick of Chicago has been called here by the serious illness of his father-in-law, W. Frederick, N. Sixth st.

The condition of Mrs. Paul Straub, who has been seriously ill at the home of her daughter, Mrs. William Schock, S. Sixth st., the last week, is improved today.

J. L. Beardsley of Chicago spent the week end with Mishawaka and River Park friends.

Mr. and Mrs. William Schuster, Jr., and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Henne and daughter of Chi-

## Vladivostok Occupied by Japs



An excellent view of the harbor at Vladivostok, which has been occupied by Japanese troops after hours of severe fighting. All Russians have been disarmed, while some have already been arrested and deported. The Japanese imperial flag is flying in place of the Russian ensign from all government buildings.

ego are guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Schuster, Smith st.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Brown and son, Clarence, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Brown at Rolling Prairie.

Twins, a son and daughter, were received Saturday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Krider, Greenlawn ave.

Walter Ernsperger, who was called here by the death of his grandmother, Mrs. Cline, has left for his home at Colorado Springs. Mrs. Ernsperger and daughter will remain here until June 1.

**ROBBERS BLOW SAFE.** INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., April 12.—Robbers secured \$2,000 when they blew the safe in the office of the Western Oil Co. here. The robbery was discovered today.

**POZZO**—The Italian Process Stucco—holds the secret of the permanence and beauty of many of the famous structures which have stood the test of time since Rome flourished.

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## CLAIM STUDENTS ARE GETTING TOO CARELESS

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., April 12.—Men students at Indiana university have grown careless in tipping their hats as a mark of respect to women. Miss Ruth Lauer, co-ed editor, of the Daily Student, the school newspaper, charged in a recent editorial.

Miss Lauer's editorial followed publication of an item said to have been written by a young man in Indiana, Mrs. Ruth Lauer, co-ed editor, of the Daily Student, the school newspaper, charged in a recent editorial.

"I think that people are divided into definite classes, according to manners," Miss Lauer said. "If they are courteous, their courtesy puts them in the well-bred class. Possibly the denatured military salute which seems to have taken the place of hat tipping is due to army training of the men who received it. At any rate, men at Indiana university have grown exceedingly careless about tipping their hats to women."

NEW YORK.—Mayor Hylan has added to his laurels. Bricklayers made him an honorary member of their union.



Wash off your oil cloth with Grandma suds.

Grandma's Powdered Soap keeps oil cloth bright and shining without fading.

If anything dries to the oil cloth place a damp cloth wrung from Grandma suds on the spot for a few minutes. Do not try to pry off nor scrape off with a knife.

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