

1d. Wise, & Foolish

In housekeeping, as in other things in life, one should look ahead. Do not be induced to spend a few pence less to-day on buying Soap of an inferior quality which will ultimately cost shillings, and even pounds, in ruined Household linen and clothes. This is not economy. True economy is to use a pure Soap.

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Strange Convict Republic Has Been Found in Siberia.

EXTRAORDINARY CODE OF LAWS IN OPERATION—OVER THREE HUNDRED PEOPLE EXECUTED SINCE SETTLEMENT BEGAN.

St. Petersburg, April 14.—One of the most troublesome tasks of Privy Councillor N. A. Maglakoff, who has just been brought from governing Tchernigoff to the Ministry of the Interior, is to decide what should be done with the Imanak Republic, the mysterious commonwealth whose deeds and terrors have astonished Russia during the past six months. For twenty years this Imanak Republic has existed in the Czar's dominions with its own constitution, laws, punishments, printing press and police, yet its discovery is only recent.

The Imanak Republic was found last year by the traveller, Kasimir Veliki, who had made a tour up to the Ussuri and up part of the Inman River to look for furs. It lies three hundred miles from Vladivostok, in an unexplored part of Primorsk Province, in the valley of a tributary of the Ussuri. It is entirely within the Russian Empire, and all other villages and settlements in the neighborhood are officially known, and are subject to the jurisdiction of the Czar's government.

Veliki hit upon it accidentally, and with peril to himself. When crossing country which in the maps is marked blank, he came upon some isolated farms, and further on, a town of about a thousand houses. Imagining himself to be near an unknown Chinese settlement, he went on and came across Mongolian-looking infants, who, to his surprise, cried out to him in a mongrel Russian dialect. A moment later he was challenged by an armed man, and seized.

He found himself in a big village with houses and church mainly in Russian style, but showing strong Chinese influences; and he learned that he was in a Russo-Chinese community which called itself "Imanaska Respublika," and claimed to be independent both of the Czar and of the government of Pekin. Over a dirty inn floated a flag which resembled the Russian tricolor, but was embroidered with a bad copy of the Chinese dragon. By a stroke of luck, and after surprising adventures, Veliki escaped before he could find out more about this unknown republic.

Started as Retreat: Became Convicts' Town.

At Vladivostok Veliki's story was at first not believed. Afterwards, a commission of enquiry was sent out

under the escort of 500 Cossacks with three mountain guns. The commission accepted the town by surprise and returned to Vladivostok with a complete report.

It discovered that the republic had first been started as a holy retreat for ascetics and that it afterwards fell into the hands of Russian and Chinese convicts and prospered amazingly. The founder was the millionaire ascetic Innokenti Sibirskoff, who inherited a fortune of \$25,000,000; fell under the influence of mystical persons; and finally gave up his property and wandered about Siberia and Russia as a "Besserebrennik"—a beggar.

When travelling in East Asia he was struck by the secluded position of the Inman. He gave \$5,000 to three holy men to build log houses and a log church. The good men and about twenty other persons, prayed there for three years.

In the fourth year there descended upon them a band of Yakuski convicts, who murdered the whole twenty-three persons. These invaders started the Imanak Republic which was at first a mere robbers' den, and for two years kept pirate boats on the Ussuri River. The republic developed. More bandits and convicts came, fought, murdered and drank. Next came Chinese with their wives. The bandits murdered the Chinese and stole their wives. The settlement grew; made its own constitution and laws; and in the village and country around counted nearly 5,000 adherents at the time it was discovered by Veliki.

Terrible Code of Laws in Force. The Russian Commission carefully guarded by the 500 Cossacks, set itself to examine the laws and economic state of the republic. They had opportunities to see the law at work. When they entered the village a man was being hung up by the heels for stealing a horse. And not far off a naked Chinese, who had been beaten to death, lay in the snow. Around his body danced the Imanak women, and sang menacing songs. The punished Chinese, it appeared, had broken the local fishing law.

The Imanak population had invented, in their native ignorance, a code of laws a hundred times more severe than that of the ancient Hebrews. For instance, among these is not counted murder. The punishment for murder is beating and the payment of a fine of thirty pounds of meat or fish. The "State Attorney" of Imanak, an ex-convict named Kobuleff, gave the following as offences for which the only punishment is death:

- Whoever steals a sable skin is buried alive.
- Whoever steals the roots of the yenschen plant is drowned.
- Whoever does not keep a dog as watchdog against intruders in the Imanak settlement is drowned.
- Whoever leaves the village and

tries to make for a Russian settlement is beaten to death.

Whoever lets his house catch fire is hanged. If his wife only is guilty, she is hanged and he is beaten with sticks.

Murdered All Who Discovered Them. The Imanak "Starshina," or Elder, is the constitutional chief of the republic. The real government is carried on by an oligarchy consisting mainly of relatives of the convict, Znamensky, who led the first bandit invasion, and organized the massacre of the original ascetic settlers. All these families are of mixed Russian and Chinese blood and the present chief of the settlement, Vassil Znamensky, looks like a pure Chinese.

The Imanak republicans have taken extraordinary precautions to keep their existence a secret from the outside world. The trappers, explorers, and tramps who have fallen into their hands have always been put to death, except where they undertook to join the republic, and never to leave it. This choice, however, was very seldom given to an educated person, as such would be likely to tire of life in the republic, and make an attempt to escape.

The Commission discovered that M. Kyriil Fedoroff, the rich grain merchant of Marlinsk, who disappeared mysteriously five years ago, fell a victim to the republic's laws. In July, 1907, M. Fedoroff, with two Cossack servants, went exploring in the Sungari and districts. They were seized near Imanak town by Znamensky and the guards of the Republican government. One Cossack was killed, while the other Cossack was beaten on the soles of the feet and given pardon on condition that they stayed in the republic and abandoned all hope of ever returning home. In order to save their lives they promised, Fedoroff was given up for dead; his wife sold his house in Marlinsk, and migrated to Moscow.

Friendship Marries of Grain Merchant. In the spring of 1898 Fedoroff and the other Cossack tried to escape. They laid their plot with a Chinaman who also wanted to leave the republic. The Chinaman pretended to be going fishing, and took the two Russians in his boat, covering them up with matting. The canoe capsized in a rapid and the Cossack and Chinaman were drowned. Fedoroff swam ashore and fell into the hands of the Republicans.

He was taken back to Imanak where the three brothers Znamensky held a court. They found him guilty of being a spy sent by the Russian Government, and ordered him to be beaten eighty times with pine staves and then buried alive. His sentence was carried out. The half-fainting Fedoroff was buried up to his neck. On being asked ironically how he felt, he complained of cold, whereupon a Chinaman was told to throw a bucket of nearly boiling water over his head. He died of shock.

Altogether it is estimated three hundred persons have been executed during the existence of the republic. Nevertheless the Russian Commission admits that the town and country around have been administered in an orderly fashion. The reason of this was that the punishments for even slight offences were so terrible that no man dared take risks. The problem before M. Maklakoff at present is whether to punish these guilty of executions and tortures or not. If the decision is to punish them, then practically the whole population of Imanak must be put on trial for murder, and it is very doubtful whether any jury would convict them.

What will become of the Imanak republic is not yet settled. It is still flourishing. The Cossacks withdrew when the Commission returned to Vladivostok. The Imanak people thereupon held a meeting and threatened to resist by force any attempt to make them submit to Russian laws. M. Maklakoff's present plan, it is stated, is to disperse the Republicans and use them for colonizing the Loyers Ussuri. They will make good colonists, as they are first-rate men at fishing and forest work and are skilled trappers and hunters.

Canadians Poor Fish Eaters. Ottawa, April 25.—A special bulletin issued by the Marine Department to-day deplores the fact that Canadians are poor fish eaters, and announces that steps will be taken to educate the public to the physical and financial advantages of this food. The department will make a comprehensive fisheries exhibit at the Toronto Exhibition this year, and at a number of other exhibitions. Through modern express and cold storage facilities fresh fish can be conveniently placed on the markets of any interior section of Canada.

FURNESS AGENT OFF.—Mr. Montgomerie, Furness, Whitty Line Agent at this port, leaves to-morrow on a business visit to Halifax, New York and England.

WATERBURY'S LINIMENT CURES DYPH. THERIA.

Cable News.

Special Evening Telegram.

TOKIO, May 5. Takekichi, a Japanese aviator, who recently returned from America, was killed at Osaka, to-day.

LONDON, May 5. Suffragettes set fire to the residence of the editor of "The Light," at Finchley, on Saturday night. The fire was quenched before serious damage was done.

SEATTLE, May 5. A Dawson City despatch says the Dawson Electric Light and Power Company's premises were burned on Saturday night. The estimated loss is \$2,000,000.

FALL RIVER, Mass., May 5. The Fall River Cotton Works Co., to-day, posted a notice saying that seven mills of the plant would be closed down on Saturday for an indefinite period. No reason for the shut down was given. The Company employs 5,000 hands, and their weekly pay roll is \$35,000.

ROME, May 5. Pope Plus gave his first audience since his illness, this morning. The honor fell to Cardinal Dominic Perata, who recently returned from Malta, where he had presided over the Eucharistic Conference as Papal Legate. The Pope said that the success of the great religious gathering had given him the keenest consolation.

PEKIN, May 5. President Yuan Shi Kai has warned the people that although he has refrained up to now from employing military force against plotters, he will not permit conspirators to foment trouble in future. After the next Presidential Election he desires to be relieved from the care of office.

LONDON, May 5. The Women's Suffrage Bill was introduced in the Commons this afternoon, the second reading being moved by W. H. Dickinson, M.P. (Liberal) for St. Pancras. The bill proposes to enfranchise 6,000,000 women. It is thought that the fate of the Bill will be settled one way or the other to-morrow night.

TOKIO, May 5. The Navy Department has contracted for three battleships to be built in Japan. They will be sister ships to the Fuso, now building in the naval dockyards at Kure. Little is definitely known about the Fuso, but it is supposed that her armour, in accordance with the Japanese practice since the Russian war, will consist of a moderately heavy belt, probably ten inches thick, extending over nearly her entire length. Her speed is reported to be 27 knots.

PORT AU PRINCE, May 5. Michael Cassuto, the new President of Haiti, elected yesterday, displayed great energy in restoring order in the city, and declares he will maintain peace with a strong hand. General Dely, who attacked the Parliament building during the voting for the presidency, yesterday, was repulsed, together with his followers, by the regular troops commanded by General Pottievien. General Dely fled and took refuge in the Cuban legation.

LONDON, May 5. The suffragette conspiracy case was resumed at Bow Street to-day. There were nine prisoners, seven women, Drummond, Kerr, Lake, Barrett, Saunders, Kenny and Lennon, with Clayton, the chemist, and Drew the printer. Aveline Boken, the prosecuting counsel for the Treasury, described the law of conspiracy, and said that the accused had been constantly engaged in conspiring. He referred to Mrs. Drummond as a violent and unscrupulous woman. Clayton had supplied the brains for carrying out the crimes, while Christopher Pankhurst, from comfortable seclusion in Paris, had sent articles weekly to the suffragette paper, commenting what had happened and inciting to further crimes.

LONDON, May 5. At to-day's meeting of the Ambassadorial Conference Sir Edward Grey announced that Montenegro had unconditionally placed the question of the future of Scutari in the hands of the European Powers. This decision, reached by King Nicholas at the very last moment, had the effect of immediately relieving the great tension in European politics, and caused unbounded satisfaction to diplomats and the general public. The stock exchange at once responded. It is generally hoped that Montenegro's action will now do away with any necessity for military incursions into Albania. It is also thought that it will have a salutary effect on other disturbing elements in the Balkan peninsula and cause them to bow to Europe's will.

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Tom (his assistant) JOSEPH WRIGHT
Gates (looking for quiet) HARVEY DENTON
Joseph Bradshaw (retired merchant) GEORGE BARR
Mrs. Bradshaw (his wife) RACHEL BARR
Garment Carmine (of the Gaiety Theatre) AMELIA BARLOW
Carrie Bradshaw (very susceptible) CORA ELVIRA

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