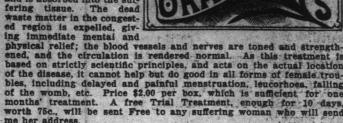
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## A-Foot In North Russia.

a vast area of country that marching tion of our river transport was use was as a rule the least practicable less, being unable to cross the various method of moving about it.

Only on one occasion had I the ex- to the difficulties of the campaign. cuse and the opportunity for a tramp of any length, and this, though it ex tended considerably beyond my anti cipations, proved one of my most in teresting experiences in that fascinating and unhappy country.

Having spent a rather exhausting day, mostly on horseback in the blazing sun, about our forward positions in front of Troftsa on the Dvina, I heard that a tug was likely to leave for Beresnik, my next objective, during the evening. Beresinik was some miles down stream, and was at that time occupied by G. H. Q.

I hurried on board about 8 o'clock selected a clear piece of deck, whereon to lay my sleeping-bag, and waitedsometimes trying to doze, sometimes watching the scene of ceaseless activ-Ity presented by that unresting beach all through the hours of cool and pallid night-until 3 o'clock in the morning. Only then were we ready deciding that fate was against them, at the table. Round it sat represent ing on the polished blue surface of the river, and shining with silver radlance on the skin of the observation baloon which had her station in the air above Troitsa, we set out on our voyage, towing a barge-load of prisoners and salvage.

On board there were several British officers besides myself, and we olcknicked happily together on the sun-scorched deck, making tea with water always boiling in the ship's samovar," and eating our bully beef with enjoyment. The necessity for taking on more fuel caused a fresh delay before the day was very old.

Wood is in North Russia the universal fuel for domestic and commercial purposes alike, and river trips gained in interest what they lost in rapidity ing." Lengthy stacks of beautifully cut billets scattered at close intervals the steamers for replenishment, and

At this time-July-the continued

ing a courtly bow to the hot foreigner (By a British "Expeditionary" Man.) drought had caused the shallow Dvina The Archangel Front included such to shrink so low that a great propor-

Delay on the Dvina.

and brazen noon, the vast radiant sky reficted from leagues of unrippled water-we came in sight of a fleet of else anchored as a precaution. After a which only served to what m colloquy with others of his frata-nit our skipper announced that the nel for which he had been heading was

try the one on the other side of a large island which here occupied the middle of the river. This entailed selves to this further loss of time. At Pless-while a blue-black thundercloud piled its menace into the vast sky-a spirit of inertia entered

the skipper and crew moored the tug to the baking beach and disappeared into the village that straggled along Russian procrastination, or fatalism, exhausted my scanty British patience, so that I determined to be bold and in-

along the banks of the Dvina serve, For the first few miles the road, of hard, rutted mud, patched here and the tea, the white and rye bread, a the ceremony of fuelling, so unpleas- there with rough fire-poles, led me pleasant and romantic meal. My enant on coal-burning steamers, is on through village after village separatthe Dvina associated with charming ed only by a field or two, where barforest scenery, the pungent smell of ley, rye, potatoes, and onions were sawn pine-wood, and general good growing. These villages were so astonishingly alike in general features that for all my steady tramping I peasant a survivor of the Golden Age, seemed to be ever in the same quiet street, plodding past the same sharp gable-ends, the same wells, the same neat piles of fuel stacked against the houses, the same sleighs stored under the shelter of wide-carved eaves. Russian village houses do not face the street, adorned sometimes with crude painting-perhaps a brace of animals which might have escaped from the College of Heralds, or a huge nosegay. Of course, everything is of wood, churches, houses, fences carts, and

Groups of peasants the men patriarchally bearded and in colored blouses in cottons of all the brightest and passed. One splendid old fore-father uttered an exclamation of childish wonder or envy as he pointed to m?

Passing through these villages foot, one observed details missed while steaming up and down the highway of the river. Tiny pictures in black paint on some of the gable-ends drew my attention-silhouettes of axes, ladders, buckets, horses. In case of a fire, it seems, each house is responsible for some component essential of the firefighting equipment, as advertised by the particular picture on the wall. Thus the fire brigade would rally complete with all appliances; or, if not, the community would know whom to blame for the lack of any item.

blame for the lack of any item.

The most popular village game was a form of skittles, tiny logs being set upon end to be knocked over by a missle like a rolling-pin, thrown from some 20 or 30 feet. Russian boys and seldiers never tired of this sport. The swing was also popular, but in this country the plank forming the seat moves longitudinally instead of broadsideways. As many as half a dozen burly soldiers might be seen enjoying the thrill together. Another favorite amusement was the see-saw, again with a difference, the Russian practice

fondness for this pastime, and I never aw a more serious accident than the racking of an over-tried plank.

A Romantic Meul.

A charming atmosphere of rural eace hung about those villages as I passed through them. With the aproach of evening the sun same out and his calm rays shining beneath a dun and golden fringe of cloud lit up and magnified the great white and green churches that rose above the dark roofs of every village and dominated the level leagues of river, meadow, and forest.

Children were driving home the cattle, sturdy women strode by the side of little carts, so piled with newcut grass that the energetic pony between the shafts was wellnigh hidden. Merry-faced girls, wearing the be-ribboned pigtail that is the token of spinsterbood in these parts, sat carelessly astride long maned ponies and raced one another homewards. The priest, with his beard and flowing locks, his long robe and curly-brim med, sober-tinted strave hat, sat on the green bank beneath his stately church, and chatted with the peasants-spar-

tramping past. Women dressed like the flowers of the field for brilliance drew water from the deep- cold wells, or carried on a yoke a pair of brimsaidbags. This fact added enormously ming buckets.

I was very hungry and thirsty, and the information I collected from time Towards noon—a breathless, blue- to time as to the distance of my goal seemed to suggest that the versts were elastic. A kind-faced woman, passing with a pony, handed me with a friendtugs and barges, either aground or ly word the green top of an onion

the houses family parties were impassable, and that he proposed to gathered round the samovar. This was tantalizing for a thirty wayfarer, and presently I stopped and said jointly to a clean-looking woman about to enter steaming up-stream for miles to the a tidy, painted house, and to a man vicinity of a village called Pless, and, at the window, "Chai, pazhalst." Now half-dazed with the heat and glare on observation and experience had taught the unsheltered deck, we resigned ourunderstood to mean "Tea, if you please." My invitation and welcome was instant and warm.

I was shown upstairs into the big living room, and a place made for the tatives of several generations, from the grey-bearded ancient to the clamorous infant. In its centre stood the the summit of the shingly cliff above.

Now, I was really anxious to be a hig bowl full of a syrupy liquid, in back at my work at Beresnik, and this which berries were floating. The choice of white or brown rye bread was given me, and a wooden sport wherewith to dip in the common bowit dependent. My sleeping bag and each member of the party was siming gear—the usual luggage for these ilarly armed, and transferred the fruit Dvina trips—were in an ordinary direct from the basin to the mouth, Tommy's kit-bag; with them I ruth-not without moist noises signifying lessly packed my tunic, and asking a relish, particularly on the part of the fellow-voyager to leave the lot in the hands of the Embarkation Staff officommon in Russia, and known to hillcer at Beresnik—if ever he reached climbers in Scotland as cloud berries. My luggage was a revolver, though as a passport to the goodwill of strangers it always seems to fall short in geniality.

After my third dip, my hostess produced a separate little basin of berries for me, together with a saucer full of sugar.

seemed to enjoy one another's company, and I found the cloud berries tertainers would not hear of payment, and I left feeling that I had friends in that far village on the Dvina. Make his acquaintance like this, and you will think the Russian simple, kindly and hospitable. Ossinova was the village I was making for. Beresnik was on the opposite side of the river, but I counted on my luck to provide a farry of some sort.

Through Field and Forest. Thinking it just possible that the steamer might attempt the channel after all, I left the road when it turned inland, and took to the fields, walking along the brink of red clay cliff that fell twenty perpendicular feet into deep water where the current ran on my side of the river. As I might have expected, the flies were appalling in these meadows, where field flowers- on the wide river, and at length I reor "rubashkas," the women glowing cranesbills, marguerites, cornflowers, joined the road, and following its to their billet urged me to share it me to let the embarkation staff know was applied in the form "person" to most vivid hues, sat staring as I grew in beautiful profusion. This parthe forest. Before turning my back reached that stage of fatigue when one make my little boast. And what do few weeks earlier, but a tiny, filmy- cause I declined the substitution of ed on across the meadows, pushed my winged, black-bodied sort of midge. milk. A man leaning from a window, way through the daw-wet, insect-In his thousands he floated around me, to whom I had first appealed, underdrifting into my eyes, my ears, my stood neither my words nor my gesnose, ticking my hands, my face, my was impossible—that way madness lay! There was nothing for it but to press on, waving a handkerchief tied o my stick as a fiy-switch.

There was no sign of any stean





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tures, but arrived at the conclusion neck. To sit down to rest and cool that I was seeking sympathy for tooth my luck held, for almost at once

was no sound save a stealthy creak- gig rowed by two sturdy naval ratings ing caused by the slow settling, as who were cruising thus late on an exey cooled in the night air, of stacks of lately cut wood. Luckily, for some ure, having by chance discovered and trees were very few. A couple of roshkies passed me, going, of course, in the wrong direction. The informattion gained from the occupants made it clear that I should have to walk seven or eight hours more than I had wound myself up to cover, making the amp upwards of 25 miles, which the th and heavy going seemed to multiply. All through that interminable forest the road was deep in sand,

er with every mile. The End of the Walk.

It was after 11 o'clock when I dragged my weary steps into Ossinova, with the lights of Beresnik still a mile or two away across the river meadows and the Dvina dazzling in my eyes. A

couple of British subalterns returning meadowsweet, buttercups, coltsfoot- windings presently found myself in with them for the night, but I had their steamer's plight, and perhaps to human beings in general. ticular pest was neither the mosquito on the last of the houses, however, I refuses to contemplate a halt before you think were the first words of the kinds. The incumbent of a living, in nor the big tiger-striped, jewel-eyed begged a drink of delicious water the journey's ultimate goal is reached; officer on duty when I appeared in instance, was a cierical perbuilding fly which had terrorized us a from a woman who was troubled be still trusting the tramp's luck, I trdug-side his Ettle cabin on the barge that haunted fringe of willows, and scrambled down on to the beach.

Beresnik looked very near now, and heard rowlocks, and saw the dark blot The silence and loneliness of the of a boat upon the water. My anxious forest were intense and palpable. On hail was answered. In another minute the right hand and on the left there I was sitting in the etern-sheets of a pedition of combined cuty and pleasreason, the flies beneath these tall thereafter towed ashore a flotsam corpse.

When your head feels like a basket of broken bottles—you need



Tired as I was, I thought it up to Then, since all the world is a stage, formed the quay at Beresnik? "Hullo, ford, and Berksbire, we can still see I've got a kit-bag here for you. A asked me to keep it till you

the had beaten me by an hour not regret the hard labor -W. Kersley Holmes, in

## Word Wanderings.

word which began by meaning a mask can, after the lapse of two thousand years, come to denote a clergyman Jerusalem or the Temple. The mean Nor does one see immediately how of ing of "servant" was eventually los ing of "servant" was eventually los ing of "servant" was eventually los sight of, and "knight" came to have meant "boy," one should become a its present significance. The German oveted title and the other an epithet

pplicable to a scoundrel. Roman actors always wore conven-onal masks denoting the hero, the eroine, the villain, or the comic man; and to help the actor voice to carry o the distint parts of the auditorium ch mask contained a kind of mega-The Latin word for mask is ona, from per (through) and sono ound). "Dramitic personae" really ans, then, the masks of the play. By an easily understandable transferona came to mean not the

But there were persons of various

Su

mer out we spec of Man Val Fri.

son. In the place names Derby, Herb survivals of the time when er was pronounced ar. At this period the word "person" was split into two: person was spelt in the old way, and parson was spelt phonetically, drop-

ping its distinguishing adjective. In Anglo-Saxon the word child meant, originally, a boy; but as most boys had to be useful in those days it came to mean a servant. Humility being the keynote of knighthood when it was first instituted, great warriors were proud to become servants (knights) of the Order of St. John of

enape, or enafe, which is the mo word "knava."

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nask, but the actor who wore it. Minard's Liniment Cures



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