

Russia's Great Release

Will Affect the Exiles

In the Siberian Wastes

SIBERIA is a Russian province larger than Europe. Such a bald, guidebook introduction gives, perhaps, an idea as good as any other of the vastness of that great land which stretches from the Urals to the Pacific, and from the Arctic Ocean to the Chinese frontier. Perhaps no other country is more consistently and persistently misapprehended than Siberia. To the world at large the name still conjures up visions of eternal snow, of frozen wastes and frozen rivers, of bleak, forbidding uplands and great, treeless valleys and, every now and again, a long file of chained convicts "slowly and toilsomely" after ver, traversing the continent on their three years' march to that great inferno of the Far East, the convict island of Sakhalin.

This traditional Siberia was for many years a favorite field for the melodramatist and for the novelist who desired to give an utterly free rein to their imagination. Siberia, however, is very far from being a "frozen waste" or any other kind of waste. In winter, it is true, there is snow more than enough, but, by the end of April, spring has set in with remarkable beauty and charm, and, during the weeks that follow, Siberia makes up for lost time. Of course, in a country so vast, conditions vary greatly in different parts; but, generally speaking, the land is astonishingly fertile, and those who know the country best confidently predict that it will, some day, become one of the great granaries of the world. The Russian authorities have known all about this for years, as they have known of Siberia's immense resources in other directions, and every means has been resorted to to secure the colonization of the territory by Russians.

As early in its history as 1658, Siberia began to be a place of exile and a penal colony. Rebels under Peter the Great, courtiers of rank under the empresses, Polish confederates under Catherine II., the "Decembrists" under Nicholas I., nearly 50,000 Poles, after the insurrection of 1863, were exiled to Siberia, and vast armies of political prisoners since have passed through the great clearing station at Chelyabinsk, on the eastern side of the Urals, and have been transported thence to their allotted zone or prison somewhere between the Urals and the Pacific, 3,000 miles away. Prisons, indeed, are common enough buildings in Siberia. Irkutsk, for instance, is literally surrounded by great prisons which, for generations, have received the criminal and political offenders of Russia. Then, as imprisonment for any length of time has almost invariably carried with it exile for life, scarcely any of the prisoners, when released, have been allowed to return to Russia. The population of Irkutsk, as of so many other Siberian towns, is mainly composed of former convicts or their descendants.

A convict in Russia, however, is very far from being necessarily a criminal. And these towns, such as Omsk and Irkutsk, have no appearance of being convict settlements. They are not the overgrown, dreary, steppe villages which many still picture them, but thriving and modern cities, with lofty buildings and broad streets, long and straight, with all the side streets set at right angles; schools, universities, theatres, and hotels in which the traveler finds himself amidst the most approved hotel surroundings. Then there are public gardens, public fets, fireworks displays, and bands, whilst everybody dresses very much in the same way as people do in Europe or America.

All that, however, is the best side of Siberia. A very little closer inspection only is required to understand the full misery of the life of thousands of those exiles, so many of whom are now returning joyfully to Russia. The horrors of the prescribed area, the utter inadequacy of the Government allowance, the loneliness of the exile, often highly educated, condemned to live within the confines of some village peopled with a semicivilized peasantry, would require many books adequately to describe. Certainly for no part of the Russian dominions will the great release of March 17, 1917, be more full of immediate blessing than for Siberia.

Remarkable Insurance.

Mr. A. de Biere, a famous illusionist, has insured his thumbs, on which he relies for his cleverest tricks, for two thousand five hundred pounds. Paderewski's hands are insured for two million five hundred thousand francs, as also is Kubelik's right hand. This sum is payable in the event of total incapacity, proportionate amounts being guaranteed in the case of temporary disablement. In the case of Kubelik the premium is said to be seven thousand five hundred francs a year. Cavalieri's larynx is insured for one hundred thousand pounds. When a year or so ago an injury to the first finger of Paderewski's right hand prevented him from playing at Philadelphia he received one thousand pounds under the terms of his policy.

Aerial Night Compass.

Dr. Aikitsu Tanakadate, of Tokio, has invented an instrument for the use of airmen in flights at night or in fog. For several years he has been studying the variations of the compass in different parts of Japan, caused by recognized terrestrial changes due to earthquakes and volcanic outbreaks. During the present month of March, the inventor is flying his dirigible "Yuh-Go" over the chief cities of the Empire, perfecting his instrument.

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FEROCITY ON THE STAGE.

Salvini as Othello Was a Terror to His Desdemona.

So abandoned was Salvini at times that it was difficult to believe that the force was at all governable. Though there would have been time just before the fifth act to run over my important scene with him, it was not done. In this act Desdemona's bed was placed in what seemed from in front to be an alcove, but the alcove was not boxed in, and I could stand right up against the bed.

Before the act began Miss Brooklyn, who played Desdemona with sweetness and appealing grace, implored Salvini to be gentle. "Now, Mr. Salvini," she begged, "do be careful, won't you?" He playfully promised. When, after she was asleep, he drew the curtains of the bed aside and gazed down upon her I stood within five feet of him.

The scene that ensued was at such close range very poignant. I did not wonder that she had implored him to be gentle. As he was choking her with the pillows she kept gasping in broken whispers of real terror between her heard outcries and moans: "Oh, Mr. Salvini! Please, please, Mr. Salvini!" Sickened and fascinated, I watched him, and I did not make connection with the real world again until Emilia—that vigorous and intelligent actress, Mrs. Bowers—made her round off scene at the back of the stage, calling, "Murder, murder!" Then I rushed headlong to Iago, for I knew that I must shortly go on.

Of what happened that first night I have no clear picture. I was dazed by the sudden transition from the darkness where I had stood and seen Desdemona strangled a few feet away to the torches of the stage and a world which in comparison to the one I had just left was palpable acting. Docilely I hurried after Iago and took my appointed place. But I should not have been in it when the time came had not terror rooted me rather than given me legs, for the ferocity with which Othello ran at Iago and the rage that distorted his features were unexampled. It was one thing to have seen it directed elsewhere and another to find it plunging your way—"A Super With Salvini," by Algernon Tassin, in Scribner's.

THAT UPPER BERTH.

Getting Into It Sometimes Is a Good Acrobatic Stunt.

The ascent to an upper berth is an art in itself, and, as one would expect of an art, it is long. I do not mean the ascent by stepladder. There are those who climb mountains by railroad, who let minions put on their bait, who require caddies to tee their golf balls, who hunt with beaters to drive the game toward them. There are also those who reach their uppers on carpeted steps.

Yet the heroic breed is not extinct. Luxury has not yet completely sapped our national virility. Some of us are made of sterner stuff. We climb unaided and alone.

We are off. Quickly we assume position A, with both hands grasping the horizontal bar and with our right foot firmly planted on the chest of the old gentleman in the lower. We push off vigorously. If the old gentleman's chest be of a proper firmness and resiliency this push brings us to position B, with the left knee in the sharp knee hold on the edge of the upper berth and the right leg at large. The right leg is then brought convulsively upward and forward and laid carefully in the upper berth, and the left leg is at liberty to follow it. From this point on all is plain squirming.—Frederick L. Allen in Century.

No Indulgence of passion destroys the spiritual nature so much as respectable selfishness.

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M. Venizelos Explains

Why King Constantine

Must Give Up His Throne

THE TEMPS reproduces the most important passages of an interview which M. Venizelos granted recently to a special representative of the Havas agency. The Greek statesman dealt with the motives which had compelled his political attitude during the European war. Having recalled the conditions in which he was kept from power, after having obtained a majority in the 1915 elections, he referred to the second occasion on which, in a perfectly unconstitutional manner, he was kept from office. "It was at this point," said M. Venizelos to his interviewer, "that I might have considered revolution. You want to know why I did not adopt that plan? First of all, because a government man cannot, in 24 hours, become a revolutionary, any more than a nation can plunge with a light heart into the convulsions of civil war, especially at a time when its hereditary enemy is massed on its frontiers. It is only when all other means have failed that such methods can be considered. If, previous to the Bulgarian invasion of Macedonia, I had started a civil war, public opinion might have



M. VENIZELOS

considered me responsible for that invasion and this would certainly have been a drawback to the cause for which I stand. Limited to my own resources I could not have succeeded. Not being able to count on the Greek army, the majority of whose officers are devoted to the King, I was risking the defeat of the Liberal Party if civil war had broken out."

"You want to know why I did not at once give my movement an anti-dynastic character, since I knew and had declared that King Constantine had betrayed his country? The reply is a simple one; it was not my intention to change either the form of government or the reigning dynasty. What I wanted was to fulfill, as far as possible, our alliance obligations to Serbia, co-operate with the Allied armies in turning the Bulgarians out of our territory, and contribute, in so far as we could, to the final victory, by bringing Greece back to its traditional policy at the side of the protecting powers. After the war and following on the success which I expected, we could have re-established our constitutional liberties by calling a constituent assembly for that purpose."

M. Venizelos went on to say that after his arrival in Salonica he intended to have visited the islands of the Ionian Sea which stood for the Venizelist cause and to have raised important contingents which would have helped to hold Greece in the interests of the Allies, but the Ekaterin incident occurred which put a stop to his plans.

Following on this incident it was decided to create a neutral zone which prevented his access to Thessaly and Epirus, preventing thus all development of the movement in these provinces which were Venizelist.

"Our military organization," continued M. Venizelos, "is so advanced that when the support decided upon at the Boulogne Conference is placed at our disposal we shall be able to have 60,000 men under arms, which would permit us not only to meet all the necessities of public order, but to send three divisions to the front, while maintaining in our depots more than 15,000 men to fill gaps and maintain our divisions at their full strength. In three months' time we shall be ready to mobilize the Cyclades division which we are at present organizing. It is not impossible that we shall be able to form a fifth division, when the reign of terror having ceased in Old Greece, a number of officers and subalterns will once more, as is most probable, join our ranks. This is all over and above the thousands of Greek workmen who have been provided for the Allies for various purposes. . . . If Germany were, by any chance, victorious, autocracy under King Constantine would be established in Greece and we should have to disappear. But if Germany is finally beaten, as I am certain she will be, everybody will understand that King Constantine, who has stepped from his constitutional throne to become a mere party leader, must suffer the consequences of the defeat of his policy, just as any political leader has to suffer from defeat."

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No need to ask if you want your little girl to be bonny, plump and rosy-cheeked. Of course you do! Yet little folks' appetites are "finicky" and sometimes turn from ordinary foods. That is just the time to use FRY'S Pure Cocoa. It makes a delicious food beverage that no child can resist and its rich nourishment is absorbed by the little body as eagerly as the flowers drink in the spring rains. All good grocers sell it, but, of course, remember

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PLOTTING AGAINST RUSSIA.

PETROGRAD, April 13.—An official statement issued Sunday deals with the efforts of German Socialists to negotiate with the Russians a separate peace. The statement reads:

"According to statements of an Austrian officer, the German Chancellor has sent German Socialists to Stockholm to meet Russian Socialists to negotiate a separate peace. In this connection it may be mentioned that the Germans have not published broadcast the news of the capture of the munitions depots of Toherwiese (Czerwiesze-Kovel front), and that the usual manifestations have been omitted."

"The German Social-Democrats, according to the same Austrian officer, are working solidly with the Government, considering themselves Germans before everything."

"Another Austrian deserter says that peace is being discussed less frequently than formerly in the Austrian army, and that everybody is hoping that internal disorders in Russia will help to bring about her destruction. All this proves that Germany is resorting to every possible ruse, and will do her best to create dissensions among her enemies."

OUR ECONOMIC HOUSE.

It May Be Rebuilt, as a Railway Station Is, While in Use.

Sometimes, when I think of the growth of our economic system, it seems to me as if, leaving our law just about where it was before any of the modern inventions or developments took place, we had simply at haphazard extended the family residence, added an office here and a workroom there, and a new set of sleeping rooms there, built up higher on our foundations and put out little lean-tos on the side until we had a structure that had no character whatever. Now the problem is to live in the house and yet change it.

Well, we are architects in our time, and our architects are also engineers. We don't have to stop using a railroad terminal because a new station is being built. We don't have to stop any of the processes of our lives because we are rearranging the structures in which we conduct these processes.

What we have to undertake is to systematize the foundations of the house, then to thread all the old parts of the structure with the steel which will be laced together in modern fashion, accommodated to all the modern knowledge of structural strength and elasticity, and then slowly change the par-

titions, relay the walls, let in the light through new apertures, improve the ventilation, until finally, a generation or two from now, the scaffolding will be taken away and there will be the family in a great building whose noble architecture will at last be disclosed, where men can live as a single community, co-operative as in a perfected, co-ordinated beehive, not afraid of any storm of nature, not afraid of any artificial storm, any imitation of thunder and lightning, knowing that the foundations go down to the bedrock of principle and knowing that whenever they please they can change that plan again and accommodate it as they please to the altering necessities of their lives.—"The New Freedom," by President Wilson.

Bolivia Joins Allies.

LA PAZ, Bolivia, April 16.—The note of the Bolivian Government to the German Minister announcing the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany denounces the attacks of German submarines neutral vessels as violations of international law and of The Hague Conventions. The German Minister was given his passports.

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