

ST. JOHN STAR, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1905.

THE COURIER OF THE CZAR

By Jules Verne

CHAPTER I.

"SIRE, a fresh dispatch." "Where?" "From Tomsk." "Is the wire cut between that city?" "Yes, sire, since yesterday."

"Telegraph hourly to Tomsk, general, and let me be kept informed of all that occurs." "Sire, it shall be done," answered General Kisloff.

These words were exchanged about two hours after midnight, at the moment when the fete given at the New palace was at the height of its splendor.

An hour later General Kisloff, who had just returned, quickly approached his majesty.

"Well," asked the latter abruptly, as he had done the former time.

"Telegrams reach Tomsk no longer, sire."

"A courier this moment!" And, leaving the hall, his majesty entered a large antechamber adjoining.

The czar had no suddenly left the ballroom of the New palace when the fete he was giving to the civil and military authorities and principal people of Moscow was at the height of its brilliancy without ample cause, for he had just received information that serious events were taking place beyond the frontiers of the Ural.

It was this wire, extending from Ekaterinburg to Nikolaevsk, which had been cut, first beyond Tomsk and then between Tomsk and Kalyan.

"Where was Ivan Ogareff last heard of?" "In the province of Perm."

"What was he doing?" "He appeared unoccupied, and there was nothing suspicious in his conduct."

"Then he was not under the surveillance of the secret police?" "No, sire."

"When did he leave Perm?" "About the month of March."

"To go?" "Where is unknown."

"And since that time it is not known what has become of him?" "No, sire, it is not known."

"Well, then, I myself know," answered the czar. "I have received anonymous communications which did not pass through the police department, and in the face of events now taking place beyond the frontier I have every reason to believe that they are correct."

"Do you mean, sire, that Ivan Ogareff has a hand in this Tartar rebellion?" "Indeed I do, and I will now tell you something which you are ignorant of."

After leaving Perm Ivan Ogareff crossed the Ural mountains, entered Siberia and penetrated the Kirghis steppes and there endeavored, not without success, to foment rebellion among their nomadic population.

CHAPTER II.

THE door of the imperial cabinet was again opened, and General Kisloff was announced.

"The weather," inquired the czar eagerly. "He is here, sire," replied General Kisloff.

"Have you found a fitting man?" "I will answer for him to your majesty."

"Has he been in the service of the palace?" "Yes, sire."

"You know him?" "Personally. At various times he has fulfilled difficult missions with success."

"Abroad?" "In Siberia itself."

"Where does he come from?" "From Omsk. He is a Siberian."

"Has he coolness, intelligence, courage?" "Yes, sire; he has all the qualities necessary to succeed even where others might possibly fail."

"His age?" "Thirty."

"Is he strong and vigorous?" "Sire, he can bear cold, hunger, thirst, fatigue, to the very last extremity."

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PISTOL PRACTICE.

Testing the Efficiency of New York Police.

No one can visit the Ninth Regiment armory where the revolver practice of the police goes on daily without realizing the general deficiency of the force in this respect.

Each fired fifteen shots, at a distance of fifteen yards, at a target two and one half feet square.

"You never saw such ignorance of their weapons as many of the men exhibited," Sergeant Jones said.

"In quite a number of cases revolvers have been replaced by cheap concerns."

"Well, I looked at it, and, sure enough, the cartridges had been in the cylinder so long they were rusted fast."

"One of the chief troubles I have in due to the number of cartridges of Chinese make which are carried by the men."

Japanese troops of the first line are armed with the rifle of Col. Arisaka, and those of the second line with that of Mouri, an engineer.

WHAT, INDEED? "I think Belle acted rather shabbily in breaking her engagement to Jack Huggard."

UNCLE SAM'S ARMY.

Immense Number of Employees in the Civil Service.

The government of the United States requires an immense army to do its routine work, and neither in salary nor prospects of betterment does our civil service offer much to the ambitious young person of either sex.

What is denominated as the executive civil service is constructed to comprise all persons in the employ of the executive department of the federal government, except enlisted men in the military and naval branches, and the total number is given at 271,163.

This civil service has been ever employed in actual war except during the period of the rebellion. In treating of the civil service the census bureau divides this force into two parts.

Of the total above stated, 55,535 have held their places one year or less, while only 5,575 have held theirs for twenty years or more.

Continuing the analysis of salaries, we find that 72.7 per cent. of all the classified employees on salaries receive \$1,000 or less.

Only 15 per cent. of the civil service are employed in the form of wood, iron, and steel.

The leading forms are known as crepe, thin crepe, striped crepe, scaly crepe, crimped crepe, network, crepe, relief figures, pushed, undulated, etc.

There are 120 establishments in Japan at present engaged in this industry, several of the largest sending export exhibits to the St. Louis Exposition, where they received several gold medals.

THE CURSE OF MONEY. A negro was arrested for stealing. He had been caught helping himself to the contents of the cash drawer in the store of Mr. Appleton.

HARD LUCK. "Just my luck," she exclaimed, stamping her little foot angrily.

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Rescue of Blind Horse.

Nobs Swam Under a Pier Following His Master's Voice

(New York Sun.) An old black dray horse, blind as a bat, stood in a stable near the North river yesterday and held a public reception.

Nobs, the old black, stood with his head drooping and his eyes half closed, in no condition to appreciate these public tributes. He had just left his team mate on the bottom of the river and a driver in the hospital and he himself had been drowned and frozen and hanged and dead drunk in the course of two hours. He had a license to look tired.

Thomas Gorman drove up yesterday morning to Pier 47, where the bureau of snow removal dwells, with a load of street ice. At that stage of the tide the surface of the water was perhaps 12 feet below the pier and carried a two foot coating of hard ice from the dumpings of the early morning.

Gorman had a rather wild young buckskin horse on the office of his team and old, steady, intelligent Nobs, sleek and stout, but totally blind, on the high side. As he pulled in close behind the pier edge the buckskin began to shy. His forefeet struck an icy step.

It looked easy, but in fact, what with the clinging ice and the slippery floor, Drury was ten minutes getting that line tied. When he made the fastening he was blue and stiff with cold.

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Send no Money. To anyone who will sell only 20 packages of our SWEET PEA SEEDS.