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Drink the Curse of Russia

"The consumption of alcohol is growing by leaps and bounds in Russia," says the St. Petersburg correspondent of the N. Y. Post. "Famine-stricken provinces are flocking to buy vodka. The consumption per capita has increased tenfold in forty years. My province, Samara, has drunk six times as much vodka as it did all the land there and half the next province besides. The half-billion dollars spent for vodka and other drinks in Russia in half-bottles of vodka or its equivalent, is the same as the billion drunken, days a year, for the peasant drinks only to get drunk. No more for the schools, no teaching of better things. No more."

liberty, no gifts of land can lift the peasants out of the mire as long as the Russian state is dependent on the debasement of money. Every dollar spent for drink costs the country ten.

"Go into the fields and you will find at work; a prematurely aged man, a shriveled woman, children with hunched backs. The less the land, the more bodies can be found near the vodka

vice list, the expense of the imperial household, and the support for the orthodox church. The only other source of revenue is the ordinary expenses of the Imperial household excepting the army and navy and the

If the douma deputies will not vote for the first dissolution of the Douma after the first dissolution of the Douma, the government must be issuing a futile appeal to the

"We must consider the cattle that die of neglect, the tools and household stuff destroyed, the villages laid down by thousands by drunken carelessness, the aching day by day misery of the Russian household with its senseless brawls and brutality, the young men's empty defiance of parental restraint, the robberies, murders, the arson, and the mob law all over the empire—it is all a part of the liquor tax. A new name for Father and Mother has been coined in the villages. They are now 'old devils.'"

"If our laws have been broken by our worst enemy they could not have been better adapted to ruin us. Drink lost us the war with Japan. A drunken giant cannot fight a sober and agile man."

"The payment of direct taxes, of no importance, and to risk being shot by desertion in the army, the military service of Russia must be changed. The government would not be crippled until new taxes could have been devised. The wisecracks shook their heads when this was proposed, declaring the peasants could not do without vodka, but the peasants spoke against them. A number of years ago a temperance movement took deep root in some of the northern provinces until the government stopped the mouths of the Orthodox clergymen who started it."

Walter in New York Restaurant—
We do not serve half portions to two persons, sir. Patron—Yes.

When State Jewels Have Been Stolen

"The Sorrows of Ireland"

[illegible]

Germany Seeks Control of Wireless

The Shooting of Grouse

Many a young gun as he stands behind his punt takes it as a matter of course that the birds should come over him and gives little thought to all the skill involved in attaining this desired end. And yet, just as two-thirds of the success of the driver depends on his control of the dogs themselves, so at least as great a proportion of success in driving depends upon the drivers, or upon the wind, and is due to the care and knowledge with which the work is being conceived and carried out. The plan which worked admirably yesterday by a slight shift of the weather be disastrously bad one today.

Where grouse are wont to pack but little can be done by the driver in the season. On rough ground, however, was an astonishing study in equilibrium. Unable either to stop or steady himself, he was carried on his own momentum, clean across the bog and not until he was safely on the other side did he collapse, pitch forward, roll over, and was capsize on his back. We went on shooting without him and his dogs. The last thing we did when we left him there to cool was Donald still in the same position and still on his back, his eyes staring, his face and whining, under the evident impression that he was dead.

Although many more birds are killed by driving than over dogs, yet, as is well known, this system is greatly handicapped by the fact that it limits the number of grouse on moors where

and especially on the islands, grouse remain in family parties and will live in the same place all their lives. There are dogs and dogs, those that work carefully and close, accommodating their own movements to that of the grouse, and those that make the shooting easy for the guns, and those, on the other hand, who apparently play a game to suit themselves, and then any and every direction and entailing on their masters great and unnecessary exertion to keep down wind of them. There is an unfortunate tendency to be attracted by a plausible advertisement of "dogs and keepers provided" has found himself saddled with maddening examples both parties. One of such cases comes only too clearly to my recollection, that of Donald and his two wild dogs, on a certain island in the Scotch Highlands. Donald was an immensely powerful gillie, who was used with us one drenching wet and tempestuous day, unknown to us, and he was relieving himself from a whiskey bottle. He suddenly developed an attack of ungovernable excitement, began rocking about in the most enormous manner on the wide stretch of bog entirely covered with high hummocks of grass, separating the hummocks from one another. Nothing daunted Donald continued gaily on this perilous passage, and the way that man lurched and

it is practised, because the old birds, flying in front, are the first to find the best places for the young to take stock to take their place. The hummocks of vermin, and the more careful preservation of moors has also been a great factor in this.

And of nature's instruments for preserving the balance none is more effective, none more brilliant than the peregrine falcon. He is a creature of colossal speed and dash, the peregrine no more inclined than other birds to prey to work harder for its dinner than to get it. He is a creature in the pack that from some cause is a bit slower on the wing than the others, that bird falls to the peregrine on the spot, and is killed. One of these beautiful falcons came down a wounded grouse right in front of the guns. But alas! this prince of the air was shot by the wrong man, and he was a poor creature to shrift upon our moorlands. When he has worked hard through half the year to ensure a big head of grouse the next year, and then he is shot by a freebooter cutting down the birds, yet if some of those who visit the moors only to shoot would lay a little more stress on the birds, and with the field-glass simply to watch the peregrine falcon lying on the wing, or stooping at the wild fowl from the ground, they would find a bird for every day in the year, and think they would admit that the same

... from hummock to hummock was worth it.

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