

# PEASANTS IN BAD CONDITION

## The Rains Have Come Too Late to Save Crops

### In Pliable Condition The Starving People are Compelled to Forage

—The Agrarian Law

ST. PETERSBURG, July 8.—The first paragraph of the proposed Agrarian law, viz: the augmentation of the lands of the peasants by the expropriation of all state and crown domains, and church and monastery lands, has been accepted by the commission of the lower house with practical unanimity. The commissioners have now looked horns over the mode of expropriation and the method of disposal of private estates and the end is not yet in sight. The determination of the state church lands, which, in distinction to the great estates owned by the monasteries is scattered in small tracts throughout the country and support the local clergy, will cause complications. Such action would deprive the parish priests of the principal part of their scanty emoluments, and necessitate an equivalent from some other source.

A correspondent of the Associated Press has just completed a tour of the provinces of Samara and Saratov. He reports that the drought is finally broken, but the rains have come too late to save the crop and help the peasants, who are in a pitiable condition. Their cattle have either been sold or are starving in the fields. The government relief granaries were completely emptied during last year's famine. The present agrarian disorders, which can be expected steadily to grow worse are due largely to the necessity of the peasants selling food and forage to preserve their lives and save from starvation the remainder of their estate. These disorders have reached the highest pitch in the province of Voronezh, where the troops and Cossacks, although in considerable force, are practically helpless and on the defensive. Many peasants have been killed or wounded in desperate attacks on the military patrols and the rural guards.

According to a telegram received from Tambov, peasants on the estate of Princess Barantinsky attacked a commissary and a posse of rural police. The commissary and four policemen were seriously wounded. In another section of the province of Tambov a body of peasants armed with pitchforks and spades, resisted a squadron of dragoons. Because of this resistance the troops fired, killing three peasants and wounding many others. At Kediaby, southeast of Tiflis, a hand-to-hand fight has occurred between Cossacks and an armed band of peasants, with the result that several men were killed on both sides. There has been a fatal encounter at Krasnopolok in the province of Podolia, between rich peasants and poor peasants. The poor men were incensed because the rich men sent a telegram to the lower house protesting against the proposed distribution of land. An encounter resulted and in the fighting one of the wealthy peasants killed four and seriously wounded several of the poorer men.

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# THE UNDESIRABLE DEVELOPMENT OF EGYPT UNDER BRITISH RULE

(Correspondent of London Telegraph.)

It is my belief that whenever the history of Egypt during the British occupation is written by an impartial historian, the commencement of an era of material prosperity, hitherto unknown in the Valley of the Nile, will be dated from the year 1882. In that year an agreement was come to between the Egyptian government and a British syndicate, by which the latter engaged to construct the Assouan Dam. Even if this great work had proved a signal failure instead, as the result has shown, of a brilliant success, the bare fact that British capitalists had made up their minds to risk an immense sum of money on an enterprise calculated to render the water supply of the Nile regular instead of intermittent was regarded throughout Egypt as conclusively evidence that the British intended to make her occupation permanent instead of temporary. No doubt shrewd observers had long before this date arrived at a like conclusion. But the Egyptian people, though shrewd enough about their own affairs and interests, are utterly incapable of understanding the complex considerations which govern the action and the policy of any British government, no matter what may be the party in office.

It was not therefore till the construction of the Assouan Dam was undertaken by British capitalists, with the avowed approval of Great Britain, and with the warm support of the British authorities in Egypt, that the Egyptian public realised that, whatever may have been her profession or her promises, England had "come to stay." How far this discovery was welcome in itself may be open to discussion, but there can be no question that it gave the agricultural population of Egypt a sense of security which they had never possessed so long as they imagined the British occupation might prove as evanescent as it had been unexpected. Whatever the like or dislike of the natives may have been to the system of administration we had introduced, they were not without a certain respect for the rule they need have no fear about disclosing any means they might possess. The enormous majority of the Egyptian population are either landowners or live in one form or another upon the lands of the landowners. The small and large landowners down to the humble fellah, who tills from dawn to night in raising water by hand-drawn buckets to irrigate his little patch of land, every nation is strictly "that if the authority of Great Britain was to be permanent he need entertain no fear of showing himself richer than he was thought to be by his neighbors. All over the country the sense of security which had been concealed for years, if not for generations, was suddenly brought to light, while the ruling passion of every Egyptian, from the highest to the lowest, was to possess more land than he had.

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This has only been due to the very high price of the cotton crop; and if there should be any serious fall in this price the fellahen, I am convinced, will, as a body, make demands for payment, the banks and financial institutions will forthwith call in their overdrafts, and there will be a "very bad quarter of an hour" for the borrowers, I am assured, however, by persons who speak with authority on these subjects, that any serious fall in the price of cotton is very improbable, and that even if it should occur, and if the banks should call in their overdrafts, the Government would be compelled to take steps to hinder any wholesale eviction of the small landowners. I am not myself fully satisfied with these assurances; but I am bound to say that the local authorities do not anticipate any sudden fall in the present prices of land in Egypt. Moreover, there is this to be borne in mind. Even if a sudden "slump" should arise in the value of agricultural land in Egypt, the fact would be to ruin a very large number of small holders who have borrowed money they could not afford to repay, and would thus become dispossessed of their lands; but the value of these lands would remain the same, and pay the same land-tax as at present, so that the country as a whole would not be affected by any changes in the proprietorship.

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## Dock Laborer of London Had Terrible Experience

### Without Any Food — Suffered Acutely From Want of Water and Thought Death Was Inevitable

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As the vessel was being unloaded at the dock at Dundee, Stewart was found half-drowned up among the bales. He was in a very exhausted condition and was at once given some food and drink.

He gave an account of his extraordinary experiences.

"I am a seagoing fireman," he said, "and when I found I was imprisoned in the hold I realized it was no use exhausting myself shouting or even knocking, even if I had been able. "Knowing the vessel would reach the Tay in thirty hours, I prepared to wait, but in my cramped position I suffered considerable torture. "I spent the time trying to sleep, and when feeling pangs of hunger, nibbled at ends of jute. "I reckoned we were about due by the time we had taken, and by the engines slowing down; but when I heard the foghorn going for all they were worth I began to fear, and as the time lengthened, I thought all would be over with me. "I must have lain back exhausted, for I remember so more till I heard the vessel had reached port. "After a short rest Stewart started to assist in the discharging operations of the vessel.

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# NUMBER OF CHARGES IN FINAL TEXT

Main Feature of New Treaty Revised by Red Cross Convention

GENEVA, July 7.—The final text of the revised Red Cross convention, whereby practically all the nations of the civilized world agree upon rules in the matter of the treatment of the sick, wounded and dead, members of the hospital corps and nurses in time of war, shows a number of changes from the antiquated convention of 1864.

The main features of the new treaty are as follows:

Chapter 1 is devoted to the wounded and sick. Each belligerent is required to respect and care for sick and wounded officers, soldiers and others attached officially to the enemy's army who falls into its hands. Should one belligerent be compelled to abandon sick and wounded on the field and leave members of the hospital corps and material for their care, such sick and wounded become prisoners of the enemy, subject to the stipulations made by the belligerents for the exchange of prisoners after each engagement. The final occupant of the field shall adopt measures to find all wounded or dead and to protect them against pillage before the final disposal of the bodies by burial or incineration. The occupant of the field is charged with a scrupulous examination of the bodies of the enemy. There shall be a reciprocal exchange of information relative to the dead and all letters, personal objects and valuables found on the field of battle shall be gathered and transmitted to the other side.

Chapter 3 details the protection to be accorded the various branches of the hospital corps, the members of which are exempted from the treatment given prisoners of war. Other chapters provide for the protection of hospital material and the immunity of convoys conducting evacuations and require that the various governments adopt repressive laws against the commercial use of the Red Cross emblem.

The provision relative to arbitration by the permanent tribunal of The Hague is limited to an interpretation of the terms of the new convention in times of peace.

In addition to the leading nations of

# MAN OVER FORTY IS GROWING YET

## Strange Disease of Long Standing Causes Enormous Development of the Bones

MANCHESTER, July 8.—Among the out-patients of the Manchester Royal Infirmary is a man who after attaining normal development cannot stop growing. He is suffering from a disease known as acromegaly, which means an enlargement of the bones of the skull, hands and feet.

It is an exceedingly rare disease, and the case is particularly interesting to the medical men, and the patient has been the subject of a clinical lecture at the hospital.

The man is 42 years of age, and the disease was diagnosed about seven years ago, during which time he has developed enormously. In appearance he is not a pleasant sight. His figure is becoming somewhat curved and his bones, his jaws are becoming in character. The lower jaw has assumed vast proportions, the lower teeth spreading out and projecting far in front of those of the upper jaw. His nose is shaped somewhat like an egg with the large end downward.

The nose has broadened considerably and the ears are nearly as big as an ordinary person's hand, and apparently the cartilages of the larynx have thickened, as at times it is difficult to distinguish his speech. The eyes, too, are growing bigger. He has also developed a peculiar species of blindness known as hemianopia.

He has enormous hands in comparison with an ordinary man. The fingers are not growing in length, but thickening, and the palm is getting wider. He cannot well spread out his fingers, and the tendency is to cause the hand to resemble a rounded spade. The upper parts of the arms are thickened, as are the upper parts of his legs. So thick have his feet become that walking is a difficulty.

# NEW ARRANGEMENT WILL SAVE TIME

## MONTREAL, July 8.—As a result of a conference between the Canadian Pacific and Allan line steamship lines, and the post office authorities, it has been arranged that the steamships carrying the Canadian mails will sail from Montreal on Friday mornings and from Liverpool on Friday afternoons, the call at Moville for mails being cut out. It is expected that this will result in a considerable saving of time.

# NEW GLASGOW, July 7.—The fast express for Sydney ran off the track at Lourdes this afternoon. The train was running at full speed when the engine and four cars left the track. Fortunately no one was hurt, though the cars were much damaged. The cause of the accident is not known.

# NUMBER OF CHARGES IN FINAL TEXT

Main Feature of New Treaty Revised by Red Cross Convention

GENEVA, July 7.—The final text of the revised Red Cross convention, whereby practically all the nations of the civilized world agree upon rules in the matter of the treatment of the sick, wounded and dead, members of the hospital corps and nurses in time of war, shows a number of changes from the antiquated convention of 1864.

The main features of the new treaty are as follows:

Chapter 1 is devoted to the wounded and sick. Each belligerent is required to respect and care for sick and wounded officers, soldiers and others attached officially to the enemy's army who falls into its hands. Should one belligerent be compelled to abandon sick and wounded on the field and leave members of the hospital corps and material for their care, such sick and wounded become prisoners of the enemy, subject to the stipulations made by the belligerents for the exchange of prisoners after each engagement. The final occupant of the field shall adopt measures to find