

# MC2465 POOR DOCUMENT

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### Siberia, A Future Rival Of Canada.

Russia's dramatic coup in the Far East by which she has deprived the Chinese Empire of the vast province of Outer Mongolia, will not only add a million square miles of territory and some 3,000,000 people to the Russian sphere of influence, but also means another step forward in the great scheme of Siberian expansion which has occupied the Government incessantly since the war with Japan.

Siberia, Russia's vast hinterland, stretching from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, has long recognized as a land of immense potentialities. Once it was the land of the exile. Now it is the land of the emigrant, where the Russian peasant under his own flag may find a new home and new opportunities.

The policy of peopling Siberia received a set back from the war, but immediately peace was declared the Government again turned its attention eastward, and since then the tide of emigration to the east has been constantly increasing in volume.

Today the population of the 4,187,678 square miles comprising Siberia is 8,230,000, or under two people to the sq. miles. When it is pointed out that in European Russia the population averages sixty two persons to the sq. mile it will be understood what vast solitude there remain to be filled.

### Riches of Siberia.

In the popular imagination, especially the imagination fed by melo-drama and sensational fiction, Siberia is a desert waste, icebound and snow covered, with salt mines dotted here and there, in which victims of Russian tyranny grind out their lives in daily misery. As a matter of fact it is a country with wide stretches of rich black earth, waiting only for the farmer to become fruitful, with vast hidden stores of coal, iron, silver, and even gold, and with magnificent forests, rivalling in their lumber possibilities the great woolen harvests of the American Continent.

Whether it be soon or late, it is a country destined to play a large part in the production of the world's food supply, and even today, when its development has but begun, it is producing 170,000,000 pounds, a pool equalling 261 pounds of cereals a year, while great flocks of sheep are being reared on its great prairies or steppes.

Despite the evidences on all hands, however, of the possibilities of the country, comparatively little has been done. Its cultivated area is but a patch on the vast tracts of virgin soil, its immense coal deposits have only been scratched; while its timber, in the Amur and Maritime Provinces alone there are 509,000,000 ac-

res of forest land, is still uncut.

Many schemes for the creation of new industries and the exploitation of the vast mineral and agricultural wealth of the country have been put forward, but difficulties in the way have militated against success. The greatest want of Siberia is railways, and now that the Government is realizing this the new era for the country is beginning to open up.

### A Matter of Millions.

The first great achievement in this direction was the construction of the Siberian Railway, in which over \$700,000,000 was sunk before it was completed. It stretches from Moscow to Vladivostok, a distance of 5,327 miles, every inch, except the last strip across Manchuria, being in Russian territory.

This great achievement was but the foundation, as it were, of the Russian Government's plans for the development of its great eastern possession. Other immense railway schemes have since been projected, and in some cases decided on, involving the expenditure of further vast sums of money.

The great commercial possibilities of Siberia are already being recognized, in Europe, especially in Germany. Since the war the Russian objection to foreign consuls has been withdrawn, and the German government, ever wake to the interests of its trading community, has established consuls in all the important towns along the Siberian railway, while German commercial travellers are already to be found busily selling their wares from one end of Siberia to the other. A few British consuls are also to be found there, but so far the possibilities of the country have been recognized in but a half hearted manner both by the British government and British merchants. Ex.

### British Columbia Women Want Laws Amended.

The Local Councils of Women in Vancouver and New Westminster are co-operating to bring before the Legislature of British Columbia amendments to certain of the laws which they feel to be unreasonable and unjust. Among the laws to which they are endeavoring to secure amendments are those which make it legal for a man to will his property and children away from his wife. They also propose an amendment to the laws with reference to the marriage of minors. At present a girl of twelve years of age and a boy of fourteen years of age may be married, with the consent of the father, and in the event of the father's death, he may appoint a guardian in his will who has the power to consent to the marriage of a girl and a youth of those respective ages. The consent of the mother is not required, and it is this section which the Local Council of Women will seek to amend. They will also endeavor to make it illegal to solemnize a marriage of minors under the age of sixteen, except in exceptional cases. Another phase of the laws is that in the case of desertion, the mother is responsible for the maintenance of the children, yet it is impossible for the father to come and take the earnings of the children if they are employed. Another amendment they will also try to secure is to the inheritance act, so that in the event of no issue, the whole of the husband's property will go to the widow. These are laws with which few people are familiar, and the Council workers do not expect any difficulty in securing these amendments, at least the most of them.

**OHIO WOMEN AFTER THE BALLOT.**  
Columbus, O., Jan. 31.—Following the State mass convention of the anti-alcohol forces yesterday, the advocates of woman suffrage had their innings here to-day. The purpose of the demonstration was to impress upon the members of the Constitutional convention now in session the strength of the popular demand for equal suffrage. Delegates from all over Ohio attended the meeting and applauded the speeches urging the incorporation in the new Constitution of a clause giving woman the franchise.

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### Electric Power From Grand Lake Coal.

A new Development That is Regarded as Probable.

One of the schemes in connection with the Queens county coal areas which there is reason to believe will materialize very soon, is the supplying of electric power and light. It is figured that the railroads would take all of the screened coal available. Coke ovens will, it is said, be built in which the slack coal will be made into coke. The gas, which is a by-product of the coke ovens, would be utilized for gas engines to drive the necessary dynamos. It is claimed that this system of generating power is cheaper than the hydraulic. It is further pointed out that the Queens county coal areas are within a radical distance of sixty miles of every centre of population in the province. Electric power is now being transmitted twice that distance in Ontario. With this source of cheap power available and a large iron smelting works in St. John the proposition of steel shipbuilding as well as many other important subsidiary industries becomes more feasible.—Globe.

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### MOTHER ON BENCH, CHILDREN IN SCHOOL.

**CINCINNATI, O., Jan. 25.**—The only woman judge on the continent, Mrs. Mabel Van Dyke Bell, to-day, for the first time exercised her judicial functions as a United States Commissioner.

Before going to the Federal Building Mrs. Bell spruced up her two children at home and got them off to school.

Judge Bell wore a white shirt waist, a brown tailor-made skirt and No. 2 shoes. She was bare-headed.

"Your honor," said Attorney Lungefsick, addressing Mrs. Bell in opening the case. She courted and looked very solemn.

Frank Steine was the defendant. He was accused of having seduced the United States mails. Mrs. Commissioner Bell promptly but politely held him in \$500 bond for the Grand Jury. He looked pained as politely as he could.

**THE DOMINION GRANGE**, at its annual meeting in Toronto last week, discussed many matters of great interest to Canadian farmers, manufacturers and consumers generally. The great discrepancies between the prices which the farmer gets for what he has to sell and what the consumer pays to the retailer for these articles were keenly debated, and the retiring President's suggestions for more and better organization among the farmers, and co-operation in the sale of farm products, so as to avoid giving the middleman a big rake-off, were favorably received. That the members of the Grange are as staunchly loyal to reciprocity and the general lowering of tariffs was evident throughout all the sessions. The Grange movement is evidently taking on a new lease of life and activity.—Ex.

**THE LAYMEN'S MISSIONARY MOVEMENT** knows no such term as "marking time." Its forces have been marshalled, and on Sunday nearly fifty laymen occupied pulpits in and near Toronto, while in hundreds of other places they also were the preachers for the day. Conferences and congresses are being arranged, and as never before in the history of the churches the laymen are taking up the work of seeing that at home and abroad the mission field is adequately covered.

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