

"Travelling Light" Russia



“CAN you leave for Moscow to-morrow, via China?” was the somewhat startling message to me over the long-distance telephone one night in April, 1910. Being accustomed, however, to taking long journeys at short notice, I said “Certainly,” and began to pack up.

In the pages which follow I have given an account of that portion of my travels which embraced Russia in Europe.

How we wandered about in Japan, South China, along the China coast, in North China, Korea, Manchuria and Siberia, is all recorded elsewhere. In these pages I have not wandered from the original notes in my diary.

Much has happened since 1910, which to one who has been in Russia is of interest. The mutiny in the Black Sea fleet, the tragic death of Count Tolstoy, and the attitude adopted with regard to the passports of Americans of the Jewish persuasion, particularly come to mind.

I have heard many people speak of, and have read the remarks of others, as to the trials and tribulations of a traveller in Russia on entering and leaving the country.

I can say that entering from Asia, and leaving via Germany, no where *en route* was a bit of my baggage searched or opened up by customs officers or others, nor was there anything but the greatest civility shown by the police in town, village and hamlet throughout that great domain.

I am tempted to say this because of the apparently rooted idea in the minds of many of us that Russia is a fearsome country to visit. It isn't.

C. S. WILKIE.

ALGONQUIN PARK,

24th March, 1913.

C. S. WILKIE.
22/6/11.

SEA

CAIRN
TIE

TURKEY
CONSTITUTION