

ST. JOHN STAR, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1906.

## SKETCHES FROM MY RUSSIAN NOTE BOOK.

Introductory Paper by Rabbi Rabinowitz--Russia Always  
in State of Siege--The Bear and the Fly.

(Written for the Sun and Star).

Following is the first of the series of papers written for the Sun and Star by Dr. Samuel Rabinowitz. It will be seen that this is in the nature of an introduction and deals with conditions in Russia in a more general manner than will be the case in later papers.

These sketches will appear twice a week, on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

A couple of years ago I visited the famous Central Park zoo at New York, where my notice was at once attracted to a huge Polar bear, who walked furiously up and down his cage, jumped up every now and then like a wild cat and uttered deep grunts as if of defiance. I went up close to the cage, to find out the cause of his restlessness, and I was surprised to discover that his tormentor was none more formidable than a fly. Now the little insect settled down on the tip of his nose. Bruin shook his grizzly mane violently, at the same time punching his nose with his paw, but to no purpose. The tiny mischief is now perching on the point of his left ear. Dashi went the left side of his head, but the fly is not hurt. He is now sitting comfortably on his upper lip, humming a tune to the air of Catch Me if You Can.

This little insignificant incident is now being repeated on a large scale in the far east. Russia, the great, the powerful, the terror of nations, is an arena of about eight and a half million square miles, with a population of one hundred and forty millions, with which is large enough to be a kingdom in itself, is engaged in a death struggle with a pigmy, a nation of Lilliputians, a country that is smaller than the smallest of Russian provinces, and what is still more astonishing, the pigmy is at the top, and the giant is writing in agony, beating the air, and howling with impotent rage.

How can this strange phenomenon be explained? "Oh, there is nothing to be astonished at," says Mr. Smith. "Such are the fortunes of war. Was not Alexander the Great defeated by an army of women? (sic). Quite right, Mr. Smith. Your argument would perhaps hold good on the eastern situation, but why is it that this vast empire, with one square mile for every fifteen persons, every one of whom is a Russian, is being overrun by a few hundred thousand of the smallest of civilized countries, with its numerous universities and technical schools, and its battleships from the United States, and its factory machines from England? Mr. Smith is silent. He says he gives it up. I will endeavor in this article to give you a brief answer in his place.

A powerful giant is the Russian people, but there is a bear coiled around its neck choking it and taking its breath away. That viper is the czar's government. A vivid description of the venereal effect of this most powerful political monster the world has ever seen will be found in the articles, which will appear in the Star regularly twice a week, and which I hope will prove both a useful and enjoyable source of information to our readers of this valuable paper. In this article I shall merely give a brief outline of the workings of this octopus.

### DENSE IGNORANCE.

It is to the interest of every despotic government to keep the people in their swaddling clothes. The light must not be admitted into darkest Russia lest the people open their eyes and see what a monster of a political system they are carrying on their shoulders. In ignorance, and ignorance alone, lies the safety of the Russian political regime.

I suppose most of you have heard or read of the great famine of 1891-2, of which the Bible says that it contained more than six score thousand persons who could not tell between their right and left hands. And when you read that story you must have greatly marvelled at such a strange population. Possibly you interpreted it to mean famine. Well, if you had been in Russia you would have seen a practical illustration of that story. A foreign military attack was some time ago permitted to witness a drill of new recruits in the province of Podolia, Russia, when he was surprised to notice that the feet of a large number of soldiers had small bundles of hay and straw tied up to them, a bundle of hay to one leg, and a bundle of straw to the other. He asked a bystander for an explanation of this strange custom. "Ah," said the Russian with a smile. "The thing is very simple. There is a large number of new soldiers from the country who cannot tell their right legs from the left, so the officers have invented this scheme, they tie a bundle of hay to the right foot and a bundle of straw to the left. When they want them to lift up the right foot they say 'lift up the hay,' while for the left they say 'lift up the straw.'"

The horizon of the average Russian is bounded by his native town, beyond it is terra incognita to him. A Russian peasant told me once in St. Petersburg that he does not at all believe there is such a personage as a czar in existence. He was of the opinion that the story of a czar was invented by the police of his town to overawe the people.

### RUSSIA ALWAYS IN A STATE OF SIEGE.

In Russia free speech is a crime, punishable by imprisonment or exile to Siberia. Every newspaper must be read through from beginning to end, advertisements and all, by the government censor before going to press (with the exception of a couple of government organs, which are allowed to go).

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to press unexamined, subject of course to suppression after publication. Even a book that is published abroad must pass through the hands of the censor before being admitted to Russia. I have known a German history forbidden to enter Russia because it stated in one of its paragraphs that Peter the Great had a mole on his chin. Every book that I ever imported into Russia had several pages blackened by the censor. (When the censor wishes to suppress a certain paragraph in a book, otherwise unobjectionable, he makes an ugly blotch on the objectionable passage, with a brush dipped in printer's ink). No public meeting of any nature can be called without the sanction of the chief of police. Every tenth man you meet in the street is sure to be a government spy. No man can leave the limits of his native town without a passport and if arrested anywhere without such a document, he is sent to his native town on foot with a military escort. Any common policeman may arrest a citizen without a warrant and keep him in custody ad libitum.

I see in the faces of my readers that they can hardly credit such things. Are there no law-books in Russia? Are there no courts of justice there? Yes, there are both, and plenty of them. Why then cannot a citizen who has been unjustly incarcerated appeal to one of these courts? To solve this puzzle to my reader's satisfaction, I must state that it is the easiest thing in the world to sue for justice in Russia, but it is the hardest thing to obtain it. If you sue in one of the Russian courts for false imprisonment today, the 30th of January, 1905, your grand children will perhaps receive a verdict on Jan. 30, 1915.

### RAPID TRANSIT OF JUSTICE IN RUSSIA.

I will give my readers a brief episode which took place in my native town shortly before I left Russia, and which will give you an idea of how swift justice travels in Russia. There was a poor blacksmith in the town of Ostrozhka whom I will call Joshua Hammersmith. He made a scanty living by his handicraft and had nothing what ever to do with public affairs. In fact I believe he never saw the inside of a court house in his life. On one fair morning the constable, who was called to his house, and informed him that he received an order from his superior to arrest said Mr. Hammersmith at once and to bring him to the head of the province before the governor. This bit of unexpected news fell on the poor blacksmith like a thunderbolt. He cried and begged the constable to let him off, but it was of no avail. At last it flashed upon the blacksmith's mind that there is a certain skeleton key which extends to the head of every Russian official. That key is gold, and bears a Russian double eagle on its face. The blacksmith fumbled around in his pockets, produced that precious article, and gave it on the spot to the constable, who pocketed it quickly, touched his cap and went away. A couple of weeks later the same constable made his appearance again, and repeated the same story as if nothing had happened. The blacksmith applied the same remedy again, and the effect was not as instantaneous as before. The constable complained that his orders were being disobeyed, and he was very angry. However, at last he accepted the golden eagle and went his way. But it did not take a month and the poor blacksmith had another visit from the same constable, and this time he was so persistent that even the golden eagle could not move him. You must go with me at once," he said, "or I will see you in court."

There was no alternative and the poor blacksmith bade a tearful good-bye to his wife and children and allowed himself to be transported to the provincial capital.

After a long journey, which was effected by many relays of military horse-footed and half dead to the seat of the provincial government, and a few days afterward he was taken to the governor.

"Are you Mr. Joseph Hammersmith, of the village of Ostrozhka?" inquired the governor sternly.

"Yes, your excellency," answered the poor blacksmith, trembling.

"I have received a document," continued the governor, "from the private secretary of his imperial majesty which I am ordered to read in your presence. You will therefore rise from your seat, remove your cap, and listen attentively."

The document ran to the following effect: "In the year 1845 (about 35 years before the document reached the governor) His Imperial Majesty Czar Nicholas I. happened to say that he was going to travel by coach through the village of Ostrozhka, at which place an accident happened to the imperial carriage; one of the wheels was broken, and the carriage was overturned. At that time there lived a blacksmith at that village by name Hammersmith, who repaired the damage so that his imperial majesty was enabled to continue his journey" (that blacksmith was the grandfather of the blacksmith who was now trembling in the presence of the governor).

The document went on to say that in order to show that his majesty is kind and generous, and never forgets the services even of his most humble subjects, he has caused his sincere thanks to be expressed in this document, and to be read in the presence of said Mr. Hammersmith by the governor of his province.

### LEGALIZED CORRUPTION.

It is self-evident that in a country where no human liberty is legally al-

lowed, a system of bribery and corruption cannot fail to develop. This is true to a superlative degree. Russia Official corruption is not at all viewed as a crime in Russia, in fact it is carried on with the full knowledge and tacit acquiescence of the highest officials as of a necessary requisite of official service.

A story has reached the Russian public lately which may serve as an illustration of Russian corruption. The Russian very palace of the czar. When hostilities broke out with Japan the czar became very anxious to consult with his own private fortune. In order to make his contributions as large as possible he made up his mind to cut down his household expenses to a considerable extent. To this end he summoned the court steward and demanded an immediate account of the czar's household expenses for the last year. The steward brought in the account and the czar was amazed to find in it a certain item which stated that the czar's establishment used up no less than half a ton of gold every week. And this considering that gold does not at all enter into the royal household. An investigation was immediately set on foot and the following facts were brought to light:

In the youthful days of Czar Nicholas the czar once spent an entire day during a hunting expedition, in the treatment of which his surgeon ordered him to rub the limb well with gold dust. The czar, however, did not do this, but he did let his steward have a can of fresh gold delivered to the palace every day until further notice. The czar did his wholesome work and the czar's leg was restored to health in a few days. But alas! the czar forgot to countermand his order about the gold dust, and the steward, not knowing the use of the article, kept on ordering one can of gold every day. This would not have been so bad, if it was not for the fact that in his bill to the royal exchequer he was careful to put down a hundred weight of the article every week. That steward died a few years ago, and his office to someone else. Now, there is always room for improvement. His successor kept on ordering the daily can of gold, but his bill stated for three hundred weight a week. And so the gold continued growing at a rapid pace until the reign of the present czar, when it reached the enormous sum of half a ton weekly. There is no more gold brought to the royal palace now, but the new steward is making up his income on the imperial exchequer.

The foregoing is only a brief summing up of the evils which virtue-like feed upon the vitals of the Russian people. In the forthcoming articles of this series of articles the reader will have an opportunity to view these evils at full length in all their hideous reality.

### C. T. BECKWITH DEAD.

His Death May Weaken Cases of Forgery Charged Against Mrs. Chadwick.

#### Chadwick.

OBERLIN, O., Feb. 5.—C. T. Beckwith, president of the defunct Citizens' National Bank of this city, died at 10:45 o'clock tonight, after a long illness. He was 65 years of age. The cause of his death was a heart attack. He had been ill for some time, and his death was expected at any moment. Only the family surrounded the death of the banker.

Mr. Beckwith was about 65 years of age. On December 14 last the federal grand jury in Cleveland returned five indictments against Beckwith on charges of violating the national banking laws in connection with the loans made to Mrs. Cassie L. Chadwick by the late John A. Chadwick, of which deceased was president.

From the day of his arrest Beckwith's health failed rapidly as a result of worry of the debate and court proceedings. He was very ill, and he frequently declared during his illness that he wanted to die. For several days prior to his death he refused to take food in any form.

Death resulted directly from heart trouble.

The death of President Beckwith may materially weaken the cases of forgery and conspiracy to misappropriate funds now charged against Mrs. Chadwick.

It was expected that Beckwith would be the star witness in both the federal and common pleas courts.

There is no way to perpetuate Beckwith's testimony. The setting of the United States says an accused person must be confronted in court by her accuser. A deposition or affidavit can be used only in the case of a witness who is unable to appear in person.

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### OTTAWA LETTER.

The Opposition Does Not Trust Mr. Prefontaine.

OTTAWA, Feb. 2.—Two cabinet ministers faced the fire of question and criticism from the opposition benches yesterday, and through the whole afternoon and on through the evening.

The first to go through the ordeal was Hon. Mr. Prefontaine, minister of justice, who was asked a number of questions by the opposition. The opposition does not trust Mr. Prefontaine and hesitates noticeably about accepting his statements except when backed by official documents. The opposition does not trust Mr. Prefontaine and hesitates noticeably about accepting his statements except when backed by official documents.

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### ST. JOHN MAN DROWNED.

Body of Andrew Wilson, Fireman on Steamer St. Croix, Found in Boston Harbor.

BOSTON, Feb. 5.—Two drownings through the ice in the harbor were reported by the police. The body of one of the victims, Andrew Wilson of St. John, N. B., a fireman on the str. St. Croix, was found late this afternoon wedged in the ice just back of Hodges' Iron Works, East Boston.

The ice surrounding the place where he was found was broken as though he had repeatedly struggled to clamber upon the surface, while his lacerated hands and face gave evidence that he had made a desperate struggle for life. It is thought that he fell through while crossing the ice to reach a nearby steamer.

The other supposed victim was an unknown boy 17 years of age, who is said to have drowned in Cow Pasture Bay, Dorchester.

The boy, identified the engineer of the pumping station near by that while three of them were crossing the ice it suddenly broke and their companion fell in. The police, however, pointed out the hole through which their companion had fallen.

The boy disappeared and the engineer without ascertaining the names of any of them notified the police, who searched unsuccessfully for the body.

The agents of the Eastern S. S. Co. here know nothing about the man Andrew Wilson mentioned above.

### UNDERTAKERS BROKE THE ROADS.

And Now Funerals Can Reach the New Catholic Cemetery

Heavens are now able to get to the new Catholic cemetery. Since the storm of ten days ago the roads have been impassable for anything but light rigs, and undertakers have been in the habit of transferring caskets to single sleds at Kane's corner. Mourners also had to use small open sleighs and on these chilly days this resulted in a great deal of suffering from the cold. There are only a few farmers living out in the direction of the new Catholic cemetery who come to town and as they have not been coming in lately the road was in a bad condition. But yesterday morning undertakers Fitzpatrick, Powers and O'Neill borrowed one of the walkway ploughs from the city, hired four horses and got the assistance of a number of lively stable keepers. They spent all the forenoon and part of the afternoon in breaking the road from the junction of the Loch Lomond road to the new cemetery, a distance of about a mile, and traffic is now possible. Those who did the work think that they should be rewarded for their expense, and will present their bill to the council.

### RICHARD KNIGHT DEAD.

Richard N. Knight, for fifty years a druggist in Carleton, and one of the best known citizens of St. John, died Saturday morning at his home, 6 German street, after a protracted illness. Some three years ago Mr. Knight was stricken with paralysis and shortly afterwards retired from business, coming to the city to live. Since that time he has gradually been becoming more feeble, and he was removed for treatment to the General Public Hospital, in which institution he died. Mr. Knight was the son of the late Rev. Dr. Knight, who was married to Miss Harrison, who survives, and he also leaves a family of three children, Miss Mary and Bessie at home, and Frank in Denver. A brother, W. B. Knight of Moncton, and one sister, Mrs. (Rev.) Jost, also survive. Lovell Harrison of this city is a nephew.

Mr. Knight was for many years an active member of the Carleton Methodist Church.

### MOTHER-IN-LAW WANTED.

Mrs. Homer-I wonder where Mrs. Weeds will make her home now that of her daughters are married-with her son-in-law in New York or with her son-in-law in St. Louis?

Homer-I don't know, I'm sure. They both wanted? What dutiful sons-in-law!

Homer-Oh, not necessarily. The one in New York wants her in St. Louis and the one in St. Louis wants her in New York.

### SIMILAR BUT DIFFERENT.

"There is a vast difference between men and women," remarked the moralizer. "Men, for instance, will rush to see a fight, while women won't go near it."

"Oh, I don't know," rejoined the demoralizer. "It is almost impossible to keep women away from a wedding, which amounts to much the same thing."

### CURVED FRONTS.

"Did it ever occur to you," queried the minor of fool remarks, "that the majority of politicians are fat men?"

"It never did," rejoined the rapid-fire thinker. "But you have mentioned it, I begin to understand why so few of them are straight-forward."

### SUFFICIENT.

"Yes, we are proud to say that we are a British family," boasted the retired pork packer.

"But you were born in Chicago," protested the reporter.

"Oh, what's the difference? Our bulldog and our butler came from London."

### NOT QUITE SURE.

Tomkins--So all your children are married and settled, are they?

Smikins--Well, they are all married, but I'm not so sure about their being settled. None of them is settled.

C. P. C.

## Let your newspaper Do things for you.

When this newspaper has given to you the last word about the events of the day--when it has acted as a sort of Central office in "connecting" you with "all of creation"--it has done much for you, of course.

But it can do more than that. It can help you run your store, your office, your factory, or your house. It can carry your "little worries" for you--and never turn a hair. You do not fully use your paper if you simply read it.

You don't really KNOW your newspaper until you have used its want advertising columns. It can dispose of things for you--It can secure things for you--It can find lost things for you, find any kind of help you need, find buyers for your house, your lot, your horse, your furniture, your shop or store, leasehold or interest or equity. In short, any day, every day, this newspaper stands ready and able to DO THINGS FOR YOU.

### AMUSEMENTS.

#### OPERA HOUSE,

Monday, February 6

FOR NINE NIGHTS AND SATURDAY MATINEE ONLY.

The Bandmann-Dallas Opera Co.

Under the personal direction of MAURICE E. BANDMANN, will present the following latest London Successes for the first time in St. John.

Monday, February 6th--The Record Gaiety Theatre Success, "The Orchid," now entering in its second year at the Gaiety Theatre, London.

Tuesday, Feb. 7th--The furor of the present London season, "The Cingales," now being played to crowded houses at Daly's Theatre, London.

Wednesday, Feb. 8th--The record Napoleonic musical play, "The Duchess of Dantzig," as played over 500 nights to the capacity of the Lyric Theatre, London.

Thursday, Feb. 9th--The brilliant musical comedy, "Three Little Maids," from the Apollo and Prince of Wales Theatres, London.

Friday, Feb. 10th--The rage of London and Paris, "Veronique," from the Apollo Theatre, London.

Saturday, Feb. 11th--The screamingly funny musical comedy, "The Earl and the Girl," nightly crowding the Adelphi Theatre, London.

Monday, Feb. 12th--The latest vaudeville success, "The Catch of the Season."

Tuesday, Feb. 14th--Benefit of Mr. Harry Cole. The side-splitting London success, "Sergeant Brue," as now being played at the Prince of Wales Theatre, London.

Wednesday, Feb. 15th--Farewell Performance. The great Gaiety Burlesque, "Faust Up-to-Date."

Prices of admission, 75 cts, 50 cts, and 25 cts.

### "READY, GO."

Get ready to go to the

F. M. A. Sports

MONDAY, FEB. 6.

QUEEN'S RINK, - Charlotte St.

### EVENTS:

220 yards (open). 440 yards (open).

1 mile (open). Small boys' 1/4 mile boys'.

Police Race. Firemen's Race. Conductors' Race. Men's Race.

Shoveler Race. Backward Race. Letter Carriers' Race. Relay Race, (open to societies).

The largest and best field of amateur skaters in America.

Admission, 25 Cents.

### Champions of the World!

ROBSON, of Toronto,

vs. JAS. PRICE

ONE MILE RACE

from opposite sides rink,

TUESDAY, Feb. 7,

Victoria Rink.

BAND and SKATING

before and after Race.

Admission, 15 and 25c.

To cure Headache in ten minutes use

Keweenaw Headache Powders, 10 cents.