

**TURKESTAN BANS POLYGAMY AND SALE OF INFANT GIRLS**

Reforms Brought About as Result of Murder of Woman Who Fought Against Evils.

Poltoratsk (Formerly Askhabad), Turkestan.—As a sequel to the murder of the young Communist worker, Anna Dechkan, for which five of her relatives were executed, the Turkestan government issued a decree prohibiting polygamy, the exploitation of women and the sale of infant girls in marriage.

These were the things against which Anna fought and which aroused her relatives to warn her and finally to descend in a body and stab her to death in the presence of her husband and infant child. Fifty-two wounds were inflicted on her body.

Under this decree the marriageable age for girls is fixed at sixteen and for boys eighteen. The professional marriage brokers who thrived on the sale of women are suppressed. It will no longer be necessary for a man to pay a price for a wife, and those forced to do so may later recover in court.

It was revealed at the Dechkan trial that young girls were often sold into marriage without their consent, frequently becoming the third or fourth wife of an old man they had never seen before.

Also that parents who sold their immature daughters into marriage encouraged divorce, so the girls could be sold a second time. Some girls were resold as many as five times.

The trial further brought out that under the peculiar conceptions of honor prevailing among Turcomans, it was considered a disgrace and an insult to the husband if a divorce were secured on the wife's initiative.

Such "insults" were avenged by the husband killing the wife or her newly acquired spouse, and these affairs frequently led to blood feuds among whole families and even entire villages.

All five of the murderers went to their death unrepentant for the crime, which was one of the strangest and most sensational in Russian annals. They insisted that Anna had dishonored the proud family name and also had dishonored God and their country by renouncing their religion and parental teachings and embracing Communism.

**Crosses Ocean Alone at 94 to Visit Family**

New York.—After a lifetime passed in the little town of Kovno, Lithuania, from which her children long ago migrated to the new world, a little old woman has thought of little else in the nine years since her husband's death but of coming to America to see her son and daughters again. At the age of ninety-four, she arrived on a liner, having made the trip alone.

She is Mrs. Rachel Dwojra Gaberowitz.

A nut brown transformation with not a suggestion of a gray hair, diamond earrings, and old-fashioned rings on her small hands added a quaintness to the little old figure which was by no means lacking in dignity.

She had hoped to dance on the way over, but the sea proved a little too much for her. She had not heard about the Charleston.

She was met at the pier by her two daughters, Mrs. Esther Garrelitt, Rochester, and Mrs. R. Rosen, Jersey City, to whom she was turned over by the immigration authorities.

**Woman at 83 Pieces Quilts to Support 3**

Philadelphia.—Wholly unaware that she is doing anything to inspire her adopted city's admiration and wonder, a woman whose years are thirteen more than the allotted three score and ten pieces quilts to support herself and two grandchildren.

Mrs. Anna Henningsen has always been independent of others for her support. Since the death of her husband, 40 years ago, she has made her own living, asking no assistance from the world on the ground that she was a "widow with dependents."

It was in her native Denmark, the land whence came Mille Gade Corson, when she was still a child that she first became self-supporting. At the age of seventeen she migrated to America because she learned there was work for all in the new land.

**Dainty Colored Cigarettes Make Hit With Male Paris**

Paris.—Cigarettes of dainty color, for years an affection of feminine smokers who shop in Fifth avenue, Bond street and Rue de la Paix, have captivated the male of the species in France.

Not long ago, as an experiment, the state tobacco monopoly began wrapping its higher-priced cigarettes in paper of various hues—coral, amethyst and emerald. They have proven so popular that the monopoly intends to adopt other colors, and even to issue one assorted package under the name of "rainbow."

The ordinary cheaper French cigarette will remain what it has always been—neither a thing of beauty nor joy.

**TINY DIATOMS HOLD SECRET OF SEA LIFE**

**Study Plants No Bigger Than Grain of Dust.**

Washington.—Millions of plants no larger than a grain of finest dust and invisible to the naked eye have been brought to the Smithsonian Institution by Dr. Albert Mann, custodian of diatoms of the National museum, as a result of summer field work at Wood's Hole, Mass., and at the Carnegie Marine Biological laboratory on the Florida keys.

These diatoms are the grass of the sea. They transform within themselves inorganic matter into food material for the smaller animal life of the sea, which in turn forms the food of other larger animals and finally man. Therefore, in spite of their microscopic size, their importance is immense. Doctor Mann illustrates this very graphically in the case of a young hake whose stomach contents he once examined. The hake was filled with very small herring, these in turn were gorged with copepods or water fleas and the copepods were full of diatoms.

Backed by Carnegie Institutions.

So great is the economic importance of these microscopic creatures that the Carnegie institution began to support Doctor Mann's work on them ten years ago, and he is now co-operating with the United States bureau of fisheries, the Canadian fish commissioner and the national research council.

Diatoms exist all over the earth, in salt water, fresh and brackish water. About 8,000 different kinds have already been described and this figure is steadily growing. What the diatoms lack in size they make up in numbers, some water containing as many as 35,000 of them to a quart. Doctor Mann's program involves a survey of living diatoms on the American seaboard and in its inland waters; a representative collection of these and of all fossil diatom earths so far discovered. In this way he is building up in the Smithsonian institution a diatom collection of practical usefulness which will have no peer. With the aid of this basic material such practical problems as maintaining the diatom food supply for the support of food fishes can be better understood and investigated.

Require Delicate Instruments.

Mounting specimens of such minute plants requires the most delicate instruments and touch. Doctor Mann has developed a glass needle attachment to a microscope with which he can pick up, turn over and otherwise arrange the infinitesimal diatom. This permits him to mount a single specimen on a slide.

Under the microscope the diatom is seen to be one of the most intricately formed and beautiful objects in nature, following every conceivable geometric pattern. Each little cell builds for itself a case of silica, which is capable of enduring for millions of years. This quality has produced results of great economic importance, for during past ages these shells have been laid down on ocean floors in immense deposits which in turn have been raised as the result of geological convulsions and are now available to man. They occur in all lands. At Lompoc, Calif., is a huge deposit of fossil diatoms covering an area of 12 square miles and 1,400 feet thick.

This diatomaceous earth is mined and used as a polish, is combined with nitroglycerin to make dynamite and as a filter for certain serums and especially for thick liquids like sirups, oils and varnishes. It has even been used as an adulterant for cheap candy and also as a base for tooth paste. Finally the diatom is the standard test for microscopes and microscopic investigations.

**RADIO INVENTOR**



An amazing radio development, hailed as the one evolution of naval communications which will put the United States navy above any danger of enemy interference with its signals and which may prove of wide value in commerce, was announced by Maj. Francis E. Pierce, radio officer of the United States marine corps. Complete and conclusive tests have demonstrated that the invention of Major Pierce is capable of transmitting radio signals in such a manner that they can be ricocheted over intervening objects between the sender and receiver of the signal.

**Winter Threatens Death to 100,000 Homeless in Armenian Earthquake.**

The disastrous earthquake in Armenia will be a matter of life and death to the 100,000 homeless peasants within a few weeks. The country is located nearly a mile above sea level, and the winters are therefore very severe. Within another month, the savagery of winter will overwhelm the entire area which has been devastated by the quake. Early in November snow buries the villages and piles against the peasant cottages until the edges of the roofs seem to be only cracks in the sides of snow drifts.

Leninakan, center of the seismic disturbance, is in the center of a district which has been frequently visited by earthquakes in the past, although none of the tremors have been of any serious consequence since that of 1840, which shook off a segment of the 17,000-foot-high cone of old Mount Ararat, burying the village and monastery of Arghuri and snuffing out the lives of the 600 villagers. Both village and monastery were covered more than 200 feet deep by the debris from the mountain landslide and no trace of either buildings or people has ever been discovered.

Mount Ararat, with its beautiful twin peaks, rises straight into the sky from the plateau on which Leninakan is situated. It is an extinct volcano, whose active period is prehistoric. But the peasantry for many miles about have always been fearful of a renewal of its activity, and the occasional slight earthquake tremors therefore cause invariable panic and anxiety in the countryside.

Ararat, which the Persians call the "Mountain of Noah," is placed by Armenian tradition as the site of the Garden of Eden. Relics of Noah's Ark, displaced in one of the Armenian monasteries, were destroyed by lightning many generations ago, but the site of the old monastery is still revered by many of the faithful. The traditional burial place of Noah's wife and the place where Noah is supposed to have planted the first vineyard, are still pointed out.

Prior to the dividing point between Russia, Turkey and Persia, part of the mountain being in each of these three countries. Under the present boundaries, the mountain is almost wholly in Turkey, the American orphanages at Leninakan standing al-

most on the frontier of Russia. It was long believed by the Armenian church that no human being would ever be permitted to reach the peak of Ararat, but it was climbed successfully in 1829 by a German explorer, Dr. Parrot, and it has since been conquered by several climbers, including three Americans, one of whom lost his life as a result of his efforts. One of the most noted conquerors of Ararat was James Bryce, who climbed it in 1876, many years before he entered the diplomatic service of Great Britain and became British Ambassador to the United States.

None of the volcanic peaks in Armenia have been active since prehistoric times, but the entire country is subject to occasional seismic disturbances, and the district is spoken of by scientists as a "volcanic amphitheater," being entirely buried under vol-

canic deposits of remote periods. Many of the small lakes are located in volcanic craters and are of such depth that measurements have never been made.

The capital of Armenia, Erivan, which also suffered in the earthquake, has a population of about 40,000. It also has been the scene of important American reconstruction projects, carried out by the Near East Relief. It is the center of a chain of irrigation projects which have recently been completed after more than three years of refugee labor undertaken under American supervision for the reclamation of 250,000 acres of farm land.

The American orphanage schools at Leninakan include an agricultural school with 1500 students who cultivate more than 15,000 acres of land; a hospital of 800 beds; a nurses training school for 300 girls; a trachoma

hospital for the cure of eye diseases, caring for 5,000 patients; industrial schools teaching 40 trades to 6500 children, and several other important educational and reconstructive enterprises.

**Marriage Licenses.**

Edgar Charles McGuire, of Philipsburg, and Lillian Lopensky, of Clearfield.

Gordon D. Barto, of Ludley, and Sara E. Ghaner, of Port Matilda.

Fred R. Scandrol Jr. and Ruth A. Mulbarger, both of Milesburg.

Jacob I. Gentzel and Alice V. Bigelow, both of Milroy.

William R. Quick and Sara May Ricker, both of Lock Haven.

Nicholas Wachalla, of Sonman, and Stella Waxmonsky, of Clarence.

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