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COULDN'T FORGET THE GREEN

Mrs. Flannigan's Neat Expression of Loyalty to Her Native and Her Adopted Land.

Mrs. Flannigan for years has proudly exhibited from her front window a row of geraniums, in pots wrapped in bright, Irish green crepe paper, says the Indianapolis News. But the other day when her neighbor, whose son was in France for several months, pulled back her window curtain and revealed her flower pots, decorated in red, white and blue paper, Mrs. Flannigan was visibly troubled. She worried and worried. It is quite hard to be loyal to two countries at the same time, yet Mrs. Flannigan desired to be so.

Then one morning her wide Irish smile came back to her face. And passers-by saw in the Flannigan front window a row of flower pots brave in red, white and blue coverings and every covering was tied to the pot with a wide band of green ribbon.

She Had It Buried.

In illustration of the extent to which gold and silver are being hoarded in China, the far eastern division of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce gives currency to an incident reported of an old woman paying for her purchase of a cotton mill with \$500,000 worth of gold bars, which she had dug out of its hiding place. It is estimated that, due to the disturbed political conditions and lack of adequate banking facilities throughout China, at least a billion dollars' worth of silver is similarly hoarded, which may partially account for the present exchange situation.

Naturally.

"Why are you lashing yourself into such a state of excitement?"
"Because I want to get off the beaten track."

Adam also got his eyes open after his marriage.

PERU'S DRIFTING SAND DUNES

Plateau Shelf Has Strange Crescent-Shaped Formations That Are Packed Hard.

As one makes the ascent of the Andes from the Pacific port of Mollendo, Peru, following the line of the Southern of Peru Railway, the climb to the divide is broken by two great steps or widespread shelves of desert or pampa.

On the first of these steps, about two hours' steep climb from the sea, and at an altitude of from four thousand to five thousand feet, are located the famous drifting sand hills of Peru. The plateau is here about twenty miles wide, the air thin and dry and no trace of vegetation to be seen, only these gigantic crescent-shaped sand dunes dotting the pampa as far as the eye can see.

Composed of fine gray crystal sand, they gleam white against the brown of the desert, and their horns point toward the prevailing south wind of this region. They are from fifteen to twenty feet in breadth across the thick part of the crescent and sometimes one hundred feet from horn to horn. So tightly is the sand packed that the feet of the horses or mules make little impression on it.

A War Lesson.

"Sponeigh borrowed \$20 from me this morning, but I didn't mind letting him have the money."

"Why not?"
"I noticed that he jotted down the amount on a scrap of paper."

"I thought it generally understood that a scrap of paper signifies an obligation that won't be met."

Natural Result.

"Your friend seems buried in thought."
"Yes; he is in a grave reverie."

Laws of health are simple. They consist in not enjoying anything a great deal.

PROBLEMS FACING STRICKEN WORLD

Shall Chaos or Reconstruction in Europe Follow the Great World War?

LAND QUESTION IN RUSSIA

Natural Desire of Peasants to Participate in Ownership of Soil
They Till is Root of the Revolution.

Article XVII

By FRANK COMERFORD.

In talking with people about Russia, I have discovered that most people in America have only a faint, uncertain, vague idea of the country. Czar Nicholas, the last of the self-proclaimed autocrats, was monarch of 8,000,000 square miles, one-sixth of the entire land surface of the earth. The great Russian empire is spread over part of two continents, Europe and Asia. It is almost entirely confined to the cold and temperate zones.

Three seas bound it on the north—White, Barents and Kara of the arctic; the seas of Bering, Okhotsk and Japan of the northern Pacific bound it on the east. The Baltic sea, the gulfs of Bothnia and Finland limit it on the northwest; two sinuous lines of land front separate it respectively from Sweden and Norway on the northwest, and from Prussia, Austria and Roumania on the west. On the south and east the frontier has changed frequently, according to the expansion and contraction of the empire under the pressure of political exigency and expediency. The Black sea is the principal demarcating feature on the south of European Russia. On the west side of that sea the south frontier touches the Danube for some 120 miles; on the east side of the same sea it zigzags from the Black sea to the Caspian, utilizing the river Aras for part of the distance. As the Caspian is virtually a Russian sea, Persia may be said to form the next link in the southern boundary of the Russian empire, followed by Afghanistan. On the Pamirs, Russia has since 1885 been co-terminous with British India, but the boundary then swings away north round Chinese Turkestan, and the north side of Mongolia, and since 1905 it has skirted the north of Manchuria, being separated from it by the river Amur.

The total length of the frontier line of the Russian empire by land is 2,500 miles in Europe and nearly 10,000 miles in Asia, and by sea, over 11,000 miles in Europe and between 19,000 and 20,000 miles in Asia—a frontier of 68,000 miles.

Empire's Vast Population.

The population of the empire, according to the 1915 census, was estimated at 182,182,600. According to the same census this population was distributed as follows: In European Russia, 131,796,800; in Poland, 12,125,000; in Caucasus, 13,125,000; in Siberia, 12,387,900; in the central Asian provinces, 11,125,000; Finland, 3,125,000.

Over 80 per cent of the people of Russia are peasants. The land is their problem. It means home to them—work, life. Their one dream has been to own the land. Land ownership is their definition of freedom, their idea of happiness.

The Russian peasant has been a stranger in his own country. The man who tills the soil and lives on the land and yet never owns an acre of it is a foreigner, even though his forebears may have been native to the country for centuries. The Russians have felt this; they are simple, home-loving people. From the conversations I have had with Russians of the peasant class I believe that they have suffered more because they never had a chance to own their own homes, their own farms, than from the denial to them of political freedom. The land question is a heart question, a heart question to them.

Crime in Land Distribution.

Some idea of the land crime in Russia is told in the startling figures showing the actual distribution of arable land, forests and meadows in European Russia. The following table is only one count in the indictment:

European Russia.		
	Acres	Percent
Arable land	37,435,000	25
Meadows and pastures	18,498,000	16
Forests	452,183,000	89
Uncultivated	220,279,000	19
	1,159,394,000	100

This land in European Russia was divided among the different classes of owners as follows:

European Russia.		
	Acres	Percent
State and imperial family	490,516,000	35
Peasants	448,527,000	38 1/2
Private owners, towns, etc.	246,325,000	21
Unit for cultivation	66,066,000	5 1/2
	1,159,394,000	100

The condition of the peasants prior to the revolution, according to official documents, appears to be as follows: "In the 12 central governments they grow, on the average, sufficient rye for bread for only 200 days in the year, often for only 180 and 100 days."

One-quarter of the people have received allotments of only 2.9 acres per male, one-half of them less than 8.5 to 11.4 acres—the normal size of the allotment necessary to feed and maintain a family being estimated at 28

to 42 acres. Therefore the peasants were compelled to rent land from the landlords at fabulous prices. The aggregate value of the redemption and land taxes often reached 185 to 250 per cent of the normal value of the allotment, not to speak of the taxes for recruiting, the churches, roads and local administration, chiefly levied from the peasants. The peasants have sunk deeper into debt every year. The scheme was a quagmire—the harder they worked and struggled the deeper into debt they fell. Increasing arrears have driven one-fifth of the inhabitants from their homes. Every year more than half the adult males (in some districts three-quarters of the men and one-third of the women) are forced to quit their homes and wander throughout Russia in search of work. In the governments of the black earth region the state of matters is hardly better.

The phrase "class distinction" was more than rhetoric in Russia—it was part of the chains, it handcuffed destiny, bolted the door of opportunity. The great mass of the people, 81.8 per cent peasants; 1.0 per cent made up the nobility; 9 per cent the clergy; 9.3 per cent the burghers and merchants; 6.1 per cent the military; thus 147,000,000 of the Russians were peasants.

The slavery in Russia consecrated by law in 1809 was partly abolished in 1861. The Act only pretended to liberate the serfs. Even under the best landlords conditions continued to be terrible. Household servants or dependents attached to the personal service of their masters were released. They joined the town proletariat. The peasants were given allotments of arable land. These allotments were not given to the individuals, they were given over to the rural commune called the Mir, which was made responsible as a whole for the payment of allotments. It was a sort of land communism, except that the title did not pass even to the Mir. The enormous charge against the land made them tenant serfs. The Mir was a mortgaged community. The redemption charge was not calculated on the value of the land, but was considered as payment for the loss of the compulsory labor of the serfs. The enslavement of the peasant was recognized in the Act which pretended emancipation.

Peasants Systematically Cheated.

Many proprietors of land saw to it that the allotments did not give the peasants the needed pasture lands around their homes. This craftily calculated scheme compelled the peasants to rent pasture land from the landlords at any price. The landlords held them up.

It was only as late as 1904 that the landlord was forbidden, by law to inflict corporal punishment on the peasant. Even this law was winked at and the practice of treating human slaves as brutes treated three domestic animals, continued. The peasant was a chattel and the cheapest farm fixture. There were plenty of peasants. Notwithstanding the barbaric life in Russia, the population continued to grow.

The peasants' only participation in government was in the assembly called the Mir. With its quaint customs, it is of immemorial antiquity. The assembly of the Mir consisted of all the peasant householders of the village. These elected a head man and collector of local taxes. It was the nearest Russian peasants ever got to freedom. It was the clearing house for the troubles, a socialism of sorrows, a touch of local self government which gave no rights; it simply provided a means of co-operating in burden bearing.

HARD AT WORK IN BELGIUM

Coal Mining and Other Industries Are Being Rapidly Put on a Normal Basis.

The Belgian coal mines are now turning out about 80 per cent of the normal production. They supply nearly all the coal needed for the Belgian industries, while some 350,000 tons of coal a month are exported to France. Then the great glass industry of the country, which before the war gave work to many thousands, is rapidly regaining its former prosperity, and only quite recently the French ministry of reconstruction gave an order to a single Belgian firm for 2,000,000 square meters of window panes, to be utilized in the devastated regions. The result of all this is that whereas, at the time of the signing of the armistice, the French franc was worth 1.10 or even 1.15 francs in Belgium, it is now worth 95 centimes. Belgium, moreover, is very far from confining her efforts to France. Great Britain is already a considerable importer of Belgian goods, while the United States recently placed an order in Belgium for more than 300,000,000 francs' worth of glassware.

Large-Hearted Doughboys.

The children played a large part in the American army's Christmas in France. At the artillery camp at Mailly, for example, it was a top sergeant who said, ten days or so before the day:

"Say, fellows, these poor little village kids haven't had much Christmas in their lives, have they, now? What do you say, we take up a collection and see what we can do?"

The idea took in a flash. And they did so well, giving as they always gave, with both hands, that the total sum was amazing.

"Why," some one hazarded, "I reckon we could hand those little shavers pretty near anything they want, with all this war to spend."

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DEW HAS VITALIZING EFFECT

Abundant Proof That it Possesses Invigorating Action That Affects Growth of Plants.

Dew is vitalizing, not entirely because it is water but because it possesses an invigorating action due partly at any rate to the fact that it is saturated with oxygen, and it has been stated that during its formation peroxide of hydrogen and some ozone are developed. It is not improbable that the peculiarly attractive and refreshing quality that marks the early-morning air has its origin in this way. The difficulty of inducing grass to flourish under a tree in full leaf is well known and is generally explained by saying that the tree absorbs the nourishing constituents of the soil or that it keeps the sunlight away from the grass and protects it from rain. It is doubtful whether any of these explanations is true, the real reason most probably being that the vitalizing dew cannot form upon the grass under a tree, whereas as a rule both rain and light can reach it.

Honey Yield Higher.

The average yield of surplus honey in 1919 was 50 pounds to a colony of honey bees, as estimated by the bureau of crop estimates, United States department of agriculture. This is considerably above average of 45 pounds in 1918, and of 41 6-10 pounds for the five years 1913-1917. The relative proportions in which the honey of the last two years was marketed are indicated by 59 for extracted honey, 31 for comb honey and 10 for bulk honey. About one-third of the product goes to "outside" markets.

He Knows Best.

Hostess—You can't dance? Nonsense! I saw you dancing with Miss Jones the other night.
The Guest—Yes, and she hasn't spoken to me since.—London Tit-Bits.

It is easier to start a rumor than it is to head it off.

MORALE AIDED BY MUSIC

Fact Brought Out by the War Bound to Have Great Effect on Future Generations.

"Music makes morale," and so promptly music was enlisted in the war. Song leaders were appointed at all the training camps and immediately the glory of real music was spread before the millions of men as a reinforcement and aid to the idealism which had brought them into the war.

From then on the soldiers had music individually, in masses, in groups. They made it themselves, it was made for them by our finest artists. They had phonographs. They had records by the million. The process of musical education was swift, and the pupils were apt. Now they have returned to us men who know good music as a large part of their life and entertainment, have become reasonably apt performers themselves in a great many cases. What must this mean to the country? It must mean that the people as a whole are readier than ever before to listen to it as well as to be taught it.

Unexplored Libya.

Italian Libya now comprises the two provinces of Tripolitana and Cirenaica and lies, along the northern coast of Africa, between Tunis (French) on the west and Egypt on the east, in longitude from about 9 to 23 degrees east. The extremely northerly part of Libya is at about the parallel of latitude 33 degrees north; the southernmost point is unknown, as the territory runs south into the unmapped Sahara indefinitely.

To Be Washed Out.

Hogg—Wrote a ballad on my cuff the other day. What would you advise me to do with it?
Blogg—Send it to the laundry.—London Tit-Bits.

Some men's ideas of reciprocity are rather one-sided.

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