

# SIBERIA'S AWAKENING.

What Russia is Doing to Develop Her Vast Asiatic Possession.

CHARACTERISTIC SCENES IN TOWN AND COUNTRY.

REMARKABLE as the statement may seem, ever since the day when the first section of the Siberian railway was opened, from Cheliabinsk to Kurgan, immigration has been flowing into the country in a constantly increasing stream. Now that the great rivers and steppes are crossed by through trains all the way from Moscow to Irkutsk, the movement is even more rapid, and already the vast areas of Siberia are less lone-

through Siberia is simple but adequate. Most of the peasants bring with them as much food as possible of the sort they relish, in order to avoid the necessity of buying on the way. Ponderous loaves of black bread, slabs of dried fish and a supply of tea are the chief essentials in this commissary department. Each family carries a teapot in addition to cups and simple dishes, and the individual traveler must do likewise if he wishes to be sure of comfort. As every one knows, tea is the staple article among the Russians and is consumed in

rates but little higher than those of the steamers and very much less than the regular third-class rates. For 1000 versts, for instance, the third-class fare is eight rubles and forty



MOSQUE OF THE TARTARS AT OMSK, SIBERIA.

kopecks, or approximately \$4.35, for 665 mile. The emigrant rate for the same distance is only three rubles, or about \$3.55. It goes without saying that the accommodations provided at this rate are not luxurious, but they are quite as good as could be expected for the price, far more comfortable than the former method of travel into Siberia by long and trying marches and probably in most instances relatively better than the homes the people have had.

The cars themselves in which the emigrants travel to the land of their hopes are the ordinary fourth-class cars of the sort one sees all over Russia, inscribed after the invariable fashion, "for eight horses or forty men." They are what we call box cars in the United States, painted the familiar red, with sliding doors opening in either side.

The most characteristic feature of Siberian farm life is that the farmers live not scattered all over the country, remote from neighbors, but in villages as near as possible to the land they are cultivating. Each village, then, is a cluster of houses, in which live not villagers in the usual sense, as townspeople in a small settlement, but the farmers of the region round about.

Life in these villages of Siberia is rude enough, with none of the qualities we consider necessary to comfort. The lands are fertile, yielding ample crops of grain even with the crude methods of cultivation in effect. The plowing is shallow because the plows are poor. There is little cultivation after planting. The grain is harvested with hand sickles and scythes. It is thrashed by horses in the open field, the grain trampled out of the straw by three or four Siberian ponies trotting around in a small circle. It is



A SIBERIAN FARMER'S FAMILY AND HOME.

some than they were a few years ago, writes Trumbull White, in the Chicago Record. The Russian peasant is displaying the same sort of restlessness that induced the settlement of our own Western States and Territories from the more thickly populated regions of the East. Indeed, the Russian peasant always has shown a willingness to support the "expansion" policy of his Government by moving on into the newly annexed lands and subduing them to his own civilization and manner of development, crude though that might be. It is time to dismiss the idea that the Russian peasant is altogether a clod. He has shared too well the labors of the Russian advance across Asia.

great quantities. The Government provides for the necessity in excellent fashion. At every station of the first class, which means about every seventy-five or eighty miles, there is erected at one end of the platform a little house of logs, which is arranged solely for the convenience of the people who want water. A big tank, holding two or three barrels of water, is arranged with a charcoal furnace to keep its contents at the boiling point. In another corner of the house is a tank of cold water. Each of these is fitted with several faucets so that the



HORSES TRAMPING OUT THE GRAIN ON A SIBERIAN FARM.

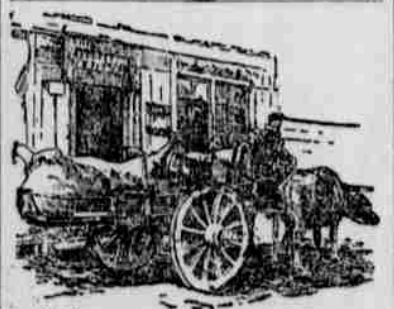


HOUSE WHERE HOT WATER IS FURNISHED TRAVELERS ON SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

an important observation. "If we exclude the more recent peasant immigrants," he says, "the original Russian population of Siberia may be said to comprise the following three classes: The Cossacks, who first conquered the country; exiles, political and criminal; dissenters from the Greek church, who were either banished to Siberia or went there of their own accord. That is to say, the original Russian population of Siberia consists of men and women who were in some way intellectually or physically more active or more earnest than their fellow country men and women who remained in European Russia. The result is that to-day the average Siberian is a more vigorous and intelligent man than the average Russian. He picks up a thing more quickly; his life is richer, brighter."

passengers may serve themselves rapidly when they come. Near this house is an open shed facing the track, which shelters a rough counter and some shelves. This is at the service of the peasant women of the village, who bring all sorts of eatables to this primitive buffet at train time.

When the train arrives there is a hasty exodus from the cars. One representative of each family or traveling



BULLOCK SKINS FILLED WITH WINE IN FRONT OF A SHOP.

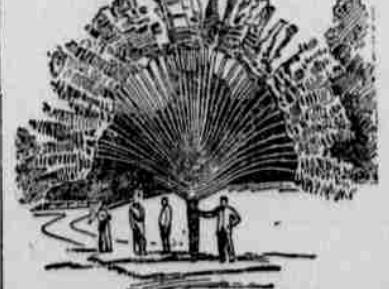
party hurries to the house where the hot water is waiting and draws from the tank into his teapot as much as he likes of the essential liquid. Others rush to the buffet shed, to find bread, fish, meat, cakes, hot soup, berries, kvass and kumys, all of which are sold at astonishing low prices. Then they return to the train to prepare

winnowed by hand and ground in windmills. With all the crudity of the processes, the yield of wheat, for instance, is from twenty to thirty fold, and as high as twenty-five and even thirty bushels to the acre.

Some of the landed proprietors have begun to introduce modern methods of viticulture, but the peasants are slow to adopt them. The grapes are robbed of their juices in the simplest of presses, and the wine is still carted and stored in bullock hides. A wine cellar is a strange sight, with its rows of distorted skins, bulging with the liquors.

The barbaric style of architecture such as the Tartars were fond of is frequently seen in the larger Siberian towns. Omsk has many mosques of this kind. One of the accompanying large pictures shows a business street in Omsk.

An Odd Tree From Madagascar.



From Vick's Magazine we get this picture of the travelers' tree, an odd-looking growth indigenous in Madagascar. Botanically it is known as the Ravenala Madagascariensis, but its popular name has been given it from the belief that water from rain and dew collects in its leaf stems in sufficient quantity to quench a traveler's thirst. The water does collect as stated, but as the plant grows beside water courses it can hardly be of special benefit to the traveler, who could slack his thirst much easier at the adjacent stream.

As the Sheriff Would Run It. "Next week we will begin running this paper as Captain Kidd would have run it. Delinquent subscribers may expect a call from us with their accounts stuck in the muzzle of a six-shooter. Otherwise this paper will be running as the Sheriff would run it." —Bowersville Clarion.

Drawbacks of Refinement. Between dyspepsia and table manners, there is no fun in eating any more. —Detroit Journal.

## PORTABLE SCHOOL HOUSE.

How the Educational Demands Are Met in St. Louis.

St. Louis is congratulating itself just now upon having successfully solved a difficult problem, and upon the carrying out of a unique and interesting idea. In fact, she has wrought out a new version of the old story of Mahomet and the mountain and a new application. Like the mountain, it has been found necessary that when scholars will not come to the school, the school must, of a necessity, go to the scholars. This, on the face of it, might seem a matter of extreme difficulty. As it is, however, the problem has been solved.

St. Louis has found much difficulty in providing room for all its school children. Rented rooms were experimented with in many parts of the city with more or less success, but the general result would hardly be called a satisfactory one. In districts where the population was scattered the plan seemed scarcely applicable. After much consideration and many experiments, it was suggested that a schoolhouse or schoolhouses of such a nature that they could be readily moved from



PORTABLE SCHOOLHOUSE, ST. LOUIS, MO.

place to place, set up wherever required, and when no longer needed, taken down and removed to some other field of action, would fill the bill. Therefore, a consultation of local carpenters was called and a school building, such as desired, was the result.

These buildings have been constructed in such a manner that when no longer required at one site they can quickly be taken apart and, if need be, moved to another. They are twenty-four by thirty-six feet, inside measurement. The floors are constructed in eight sections, the sides in six sections, the ends in four sections and the roof in sixteen sections. Each section is strongly put together on frames, and these are bolted in such a manner as to make a perfectly tight and secure room. The joints between the sections are covered both inside and out by movable pieces, which are held in place by screws. The heating and ventilating are furnished by an indirect furnace with double casing. The fresh air is taken directly from the outside, and the supply cannot, in any manner, be cut off or reduced beyond a proper limit.

For Healthful Sleep. Every one knows that it is bad to sleep on your back, but it is even worse if the bed is such that your stomach is as high as your head and your feet are lower than both, as must be the case on too heavily wadded mattresses. On the other hand, if the spring is too yielding you will find that the heavy parts of the body make you lie in a kind of hollow whether you sleep on your back or on your side. It is most unhealthful to have the feet so high as they are in this kind of bed, when you sleep on your

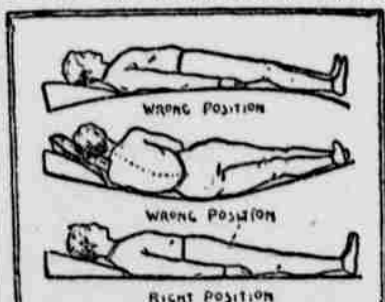


DIAGRAM SHOWING RIGHT AND WRONG POSITIONS.

back, and if you try to sleep on your side the spine is curved most uncomfortably and unhealthful.

What then is to be done about it? The spring of the bed must either be made in several pieces, or be made up of spiral springs, so that all parts are independent of one another, and the springs at the center are stronger than those at the head and foot, because they have more weight to support. In this way it becomes possible for the tired man or woman to obtain the greatest possible amount of benefit from the hours devoted to sleep. If they will use a moderately hard mattress, of cotton or hair, never of feathers, and not too high a pillow, seeing that when they are in bed the body is not all curled up in a knot by the poor springs and that the feet and back are in almost a straight line, the repose gained while lying either on the right or left side will prove refreshing and healthful.

Boy Non-Plused the Conjuror. "At a country fair a conjuror was performing the old trick of producing eggs from a hat, when he remarked to a little boy: "Your mother can't get eggs without hens, can she?" "O course she can!" replied the lad. "Why, how is that?" asked the conjuror. "She keeps ducks," replied the boy, amid roars of laughter. —Tit-Bits.

Value of the Victoria Cross. The Victoria Cross, the intrinsic value of which is one penny and one farthing, or two and a half cents, cannot be accepted as a pledge by a pawnbroker anywhere in Great Britain under penalty of a heavy fine. The cross is made from cannon captured from the enemy, and weighs just three and a half grains less than one ounce.

## THE EDICTS OF FASHION.

New York City (Special).—The novelties of the moment include what the English call "a patriotic khaki shirt for ladies," it being made of that

the jacket lined and faced with white satin and buttoned down the front with a double row of silver buttons. These are not burnished like the plate upon your dinner table, but have the dull look of unburnished metal. The buttons are not too small and look solid.



KHAKI SHIRT WAIST.

material and, so far as possible, following the shirt pattern worn by the British soldier in South Africa. As shown by the cut, this model, save for its pockets, is not unlike that used for the regulation shirt waist for women in America. It has the same slightly full front, and the same perfectly plain fan back. Down the front is a broad stitched band with buttons, the two breast pockets, the plaits and

Up-to-Date Underlinen. Now that our dresses are made to fit so tightly around the hips, well-fitting underclothing is a necessity. The latest Parisian idea is to have chemise and petticoat made in one. The upper part is cut to fit the figure without the least vestige of fullness, and then below the hips it widens out into an ordinary skirt. These garments have simply a strip of lace or ribbon to support them on the shoulders and fasten down the centre of the front to just below the waist.

New Round Skirts. The newest round skirt from Paris is either gathered, tucked or gathered at the waist and over the hips; consequently the wearer of it should be slight, and the cloth must not be too thick. Other skirts are tucked at the top and then accordion plaited. This kilted cloth is chic and has the advantage of novelty, but unless carefully manipulated it will develop into an unwieldy garment.

Concerning the Parasol. Golf parasols are something new. A golf stick of suitable size is used for the handle and the decidedly large frame is covered with an intense emerald green. The correct thing to wear with this sunshade is a white-brimmed manila straw hat. The manila straw is as light as air and very



TAILOR-MADE COSTUME, APPLIQUE TRIMMED.

flaps of which recall those worn by the London policemen, being buttoned also. The shirt sleeve ends in a narrow cuff at the wrist and the shoulder seams are strapped and finished with buttons. A high straight collar with a small butterfly bow in black or white finishes the garment at the throat.

Vogue of Appliques. Appliques are a prominent feature of the handsomest and smartest of the spring tailor-mades. It is, however, really an underletting, for, instead of the appliques being of lace or silk set on, the material of which the gown is composed is stamped out into a pattern, and silk set under it. Our large picture shows an exceedingly stylish spring costume of pastel gray broadcloth, made with the prescribed Eton jacket with revers and collars covered with applique. The skirt has a circular ruffle around the front and sides, with a band of applique at the top.

With the box-plaited back skirt de rigueur this spring, the back is allowed to have its full graceful swoop its entire length. Any side and front decoration stops on either side of the back, as the figure of our illustration shows. In this costume the applique band is put near the bottom edge of the skirt, as it has no ruffles. This is much liked, too, as well as the ruffled effect of the other, particularly for short women who do not care to risk the becomingness of breaking the length of their skirt.

A Fetching Combination. White and ecru is a combination extensively employed. A lovely summer gown is made of white Swiss embroidered with a small ecru dot. There is a double skirt to this gown, and both top and bottom skirts are trimmed with three plaited frills of Swiss, two plain with an ecru one between them. The same style of trimming is used on the bodice, the plaits being put on with a fishu effect. An ecru linen has bands of white linen stitched on, while a white linen is run with ecru lines and has vest, cuffs and bands on the skirt of ecru linen, edged with a heavy ecru linen lace.

Unburnished Silver Buttons. A fashionable gown of "cherbat au lait" (a warm pinky-brown), has the skirt almost covered with a complicated system of tucks. The released fullness escapes about the ankle. The distinguishing feature is

pretty. It comes in a deep tan and should be decorated by a twist of white veiling and several big pompons of silk floss in Irish green caught almost in the front of the hat.

Sleeves For Thin Frocks. Elbow sleeves are very fashionable for thin frocks, and they are completed with cuff turned back, from which falls a frill of lace or chiffon wider at the back than it is in the front.

Substitute For Watch Chains. Serpents of oxidized steel which have a life-like flexibility are used for watch chains. They come in different lengths.

A Smart Golf Costume.



Here is a golf costume with a new blouse front coat of hunter's green cheviot, trimmed with straps of white cloth and black velvet. The skirt is in tan double-faced cloth, cut with narrow breadths, strapped and finished at the foot with the plaid which forms the lining.



A BUSINESS STREET IN OMSK, SIBERIA, SHOWING THE TOWER OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Englishmen instead of Americans. Already evidences have appeared that "Siberia for the Siberians" is not an unknown sentiment.

Provision for the sustenance of the immigrants on their railway journey. their meals and at their leisure eat and drink. Emigrants from provinces not tributary to the Volga River are carried on special trains or in emigrant cars attached to the slower regular trains, at