

THE GREAT SIBERIA.

Possibilities of This Vast Country Not Yet Realized by the World.

East Becoming Dotted with Thriving Villages—Rich, Productive Soil and Immense Mineral Wealth Yet to Be Developed.

Siberia of to-day is a land filled with thriving villages, and is giving promise of wealth. Consul Smith, at Moscow, has written to the state department an interesting report on that country. He says:

Ten years ago the name Siberia conjured up a picture of wastes of snow and ice, boundless steppes and deserts white with icebergs. To-day this same Siberia is a land filled with thriving villages of peasant farmers, producing grain and vegetables in plenty, and giving promise of mineral wealth which will astonish the world.

The world has now to deal with a new factor, and a factor heretofore unconsidered, as is evidenced by the ignorance of the Russians themselves regarding the affairs and conditions beyond their northern border land.

The lack of exploitation of such abundant mineral wealth as is to be found in Siberia is unparalleled in other parts of the civilized world. Of these resources gold is by far the most important, and it is, curiously enough, the least developed.

Cities of from 10,000 to 50,000 inhabitants are now numerous in Siberia. Hotels supplied with comfortable rooms, restaurants which may be truly said in many cases to be palatial, electric lights and telephone connections are not difficult to find.

One may now traverse Siberia with his hands folded if he so wishes, as the elegant weekly vestibule, supplied with bath, piano, dining salon, drawing-room, leather sofas, chairs, and observation cars, the whole fitted with electric lights and call bells, runs from Moscow to Irkutsk. The journey of this remarkable journey, 3,200 miles including sleeper, is but \$44, same class.

To the majority of the inhabitants of St. Petersburg and Moscow Siberia is as unknown as it is to the people of the mountain district of Tennessee. When men of affairs at Moscow were asked what clothes to take to Siberia they replied that furs were always necessary on account of the intense cold.

Actual experience in the city of Krasnoyarsk showed that the thermometer registered 110 degrees for days together in the month of August and that any clothes but those made of silk and linen were absolutely unendurable.

But let Siberia speak for herself; let the globe-trotter get away from the traveling agencies for a month and a new world, where elements of strength and virility soon to be felt in the struggle for existence are but waiting to develop under the touch of western enterprise.

KILL AND EAT THE TRADER.

An Account of Savagery in South Sea Islands—Narrow Escape of Boat Crew—Canibals Punished.

The schooner Mascotte, which has arrived here from the South Seas, brings tales of cannibalism and the massacre of blacks on the savage islands. For the past two years the Mascotte has been trading between the Solomon Islands, New Guinea and New Ireland. Her deck, rails and sails bear the marks of cannibals' spears and bullets.

The schooner arrived at Kernal, in the Admiralty group, just after the murder of Herman Matzke, the trading agent there. This was on August 29. The Mascotte dropped anchor in the harbor, three canoes shot out from the land. Capt. Macco and a boat's crew went ashore and found that the copra house had been looted and that the trader's home was a wreck. In the yard of the latter a big pot was still sizzling over the dying embers of a fire and in the pot were found some of the bones of the trader.

The cannibals had not gone far. They had found in the agent's house 15 guns, and with these they returned for Capt. Macco and his crew. A hasty retreat was made to the schooner and the cannibals potted them with their stolen guns. Once aboard the Mascotte the captain turned loose all the available arms. The bullets from the savage islanders found marks in the rails and decks and riddled the foremast. Capt. Macco brought into play a small gun and the noise, more than the effectiveness of it, scared the cannibals off.

The schooner, which is an auxiliary schooner, then steamed to Kusal, in the Caroline, and notified the German sloop of war Zedler of the murder. Both schooner and warship returned to Kernal and the native villages were shelled. Eighty villages were destroyed by fire, 16 natives were killed and 20 were taken prisoners.

—WOULD INCREASE NAVY.

West Virginia Congressman Thinks United States Should Have Navy Half Strength of That of England.

"I believe that the United States should have a navy whose strength should be at least half of that of England," said Representative Dayton, of West Virginia, a member of the house naval committee. "Other countries are increasing their navies repeatedly, and the United States cannot afford to be in the rear of the procession. We can afford to spend approximately as much on the navy as on our army, and with \$100,000,000 per annum to expend on the navy we should have one which should be a source of pride and gratification to every American."

"I am a believer in battleships. It is in the battleship the reliance of the country on the sea must be placed. I do not think we should undertake to force the construction of the navy beyond the capacity of the American ship yards, as all our ships should be constructed at home. In fact, spending money on the navy is a good way to put it in circulation, for all of it goes to American ship yards or foundries and to American workmen."

SUICIDES IN ARMY.

Statistics Prepared by Surgeon General Sternberg Show There is Not an Alarming Increase.

Surgeon General Sternberg has prepared statistics making a comparison of cases of suicides and homicides which occurred in the army during the years of 1898 and 1899 compared with the ten years between 1888 and 1897. It shows that there were relatively fewer homicides during those two years than during the previous decade. The average number of suicides per year in an army of 27,116 for the ten years was 17. The ratio per thousand was .63 per cent. The strength of the army in 1898 is given at 147,796, the average number of suicides, 28, and the percentage per thousand, .26. The strength of the army in 1899 is given at 105,546, and the number of suicides at 30; ratio per thousand, .28 per cent.

During the ten years from 1888 to 1897 the homicides are given at 5.5 per cent., and the ratio per thousand, .20 per cent. For 1898 the number of homicides at 19, and the ratio per thousand, .13 per cent.; for 1899 the number of homicides at 23 and the ratio per thousand, .22 per cent.

Big Job in Re-glazing. The Crystal palace in London has been re-glazed at immense cost and on a new principle, which does away with the usual wood frames and putty joints. In the new work the panes of glass are much larger in size and are held in lead frames, which are so arranged that the metal can be worked down on the glass in an absolutely water-tight joint. The cost of the work is estimated at \$100,000 and is now almost complete.

New Ground for Divorce. A Connecticut man has been given a divorce because his wife stayed at her lodge till midnight. Poor chap! says the Chicago Times-Herald. She probably made him sit up in order to call for her.

JHOW BIG INCREASE.

Exports for Ten Months of 1900 Break All Records.

For First Time in History of Our Commerce Our Exports Have Exceeded \$100,000,000 in Value Each Month of Year.

The ten months of 1900, ending with October, broke the records of exports for the corresponding period of preceding years and give assurance that the calendar year 1900 will show the largest exports in the history of our foreign commerce. The total for the ten months is \$1,194,775,205, or practically double that of the ten months ending with October, 1894. Exports exceeded imports during the ten months ending with October by practically \$500,000,000, while in the corresponding ten months of 1894 imports exceeded exports by \$96,662,369.

The year 1900 will for the first time in the history of our commerce show an export of more than \$100,000,000 value in every month of the year, while for the first time a single month—October, 1900—passes the \$150,000,000 line, being \$163,093,597, against the highest preceding record of \$134,157,223, which was made in March, 1890.

Agriculture, mining and manufactures have jointly contributed to this enormous increase in our export business. The details of the tenth month of the year, October, have not yet been completed, but those for the nine months ending with September show that agricultural exports are \$50,000,000 greater in 1900 than in 1899; manufactures, \$60,000,000 greater; products of the mine, \$7,000,000 in excess of the corresponding months of the preceding year; and products of the forest \$5,000,000 greater than in the nine months of 1899.

It is especially in raw cotton and manufactured iron and steel, however, that the greatest growth is shown. Exports of cotton in the single month of October amounted to over \$50,000,000, against \$28,000,000 in October, 1899; \$30,000,000 in October, 1898, and \$32,000,000 in October, 1897. Manufactures of iron and steel show for the nine months ending with September (October details not yet being available) \$97,313,060, against \$70,569,205 in the corresponding months of 1899, \$59,990,665 in the corresponding months of 1898, and \$45,693,364 in the corresponding months of 1897, having thus more than doubled in three years' time.

OFFERS SCHOOL A FORTUNE.

James Milliken Makes Proposition to Give Decatur College \$400,000.

James Milliken has made another proposition to the college commission of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, in which he in effect offers the commission and the proposed industrial school for Decatur, Ill., \$400,000. This is in addition to the offer of \$225,000 previously made to the Decatur school and \$50,000 to the Lincoln school. If all the plans now proposed are carried out the new school in Decatur, combined with Lincoln university, will have an endowment of over \$1,000,000. In the last proposition he stated that if the plans proposed for raising \$100,000 by the citizens of Decatur and \$100,000 by the Cumberland Presbyterian church were carried out he would place in trust for the benefit of the school property that would yield perpetually from \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year. This last offer is calculated to be worth \$400,000.

It will certainly be accepted, because the new school will be organized on the lines first proposed, which were that the citizens of Decatur should raise \$100,000 and the Cumberland Presbyterians should raise a like amount, and Lincoln university should be combined with the new school, both schools being maintained, but under one management. The people of Decatur have already raised their \$100,000 and there is little doubt that the church will raise its part.

INDIAN BRIDES IN DEMAND.

White Men flock to the Territory to Get Red Wives Who Possess Fortunes.

Thousands of white men have moved into the Indian Territory within the last three months in search of Indian wives who have large fortunes told about in the eastern newspapers. It is not uncommon for ten or fifteen men seeking these dusky brides to pass through Wichita, Kan., every day. Nearly all of the wife hunters make no effort to conceal the fact; in fact they are glad that they are on the right road to a rich wife, no matter as to color or manner. Reports from the various marriage license clerks in the Indian nation state that within the last three months over 2,000 marriage licenses have been issued, and that all of them are between white men and Indian women. All of the women are anxious to marry white men.

Chinese Rice Fields. In spring Chinese peasants build dikes of mud, three to six feet high, to keep the rainwater in the rice fields. Most of their time in summer is spent in pumping or bringing water into these fields.

Big Churches. There is room for 51,000 persons in St. Peter's church, Rome; for 37,000 in the Milan cathedral, and for 25,000 in St. Paul's, London.

HOUSED BY PRETTY GIRLS.

Census Director's Life Hardened by Pleas of Short-Time Clerks.

Two large, lusty, athletic men are on guard outside of the door leading to the private office of Census Director Merriam these days. Their duty is to see that no person whom the director is not willing to meet passes the threshold. Without these guards Mr. Merriam would find it exceedingly difficult to transact any business other than to assure the hundreds of temporary clerks in the big rooms below that he is powerless to give them permanent employment. There are 900 of these clerks, an overwhelming majority of whom are girls, and, unlike their sisters in the permanent departments, they are for the most part pretty and young. They hold their jobs through the influence of senators and representatives, democrats as well as republicans.

Director Merriam says that they were specifically told when appointed that they were entering upon temporary employment and need entertain no hope of being permanently employed. Nevertheless, each and every person among these 900 clerks has devoted much of her time to securing influence to keep her in the service. Director Merriam's life in consequence has become a burden. Handsome sisters, invalid fathers and members of congress are pursuing the director day and night. It is believed that when congress reconvenes the young women will endeavor to secure the passage of a bill lengthening their term of service at least two years.

ALL GUN TESTS SURPASSED.

Test at Indian Head of the Weapon Which Can Pierce Any Armor Made.

The tests of the new 12-inch naval gun have resulted in some remarkable performances, entitling the gun to rank ahead of any of the 12-inch guns thus far made. In this country the tests had been most successful, but it was not until Admiral O'Neill received from Lieut. Straus, commandant of the Indian Head proving ground, the detailed report of the tests that it was known that the monster weapon had eclipsed all former records for velocity and power.

With a charge of 360 pounds of smokeless powder, giving a pressure of 16 1/2 tons per square inch, the gun gave a muzzle velocity of 2,534 feet. Prof. Alger, the naval expert, says this is the highest ever attained by a 12-inch gun, the record thus far ranging from 2,500 to 2,600 feet. With an 80-pound steel-tipped projectile the big gun would pierce any armor ever made. It is the first of 40 guns which will go on the new battleships and armored cruisers.

BIG PORTRAIT FALLS.

Likeness of Abraham Lincoln Crashes to Floor in East Room of White House Late at Night.

Late the other night a noise was heard at the white house which sounded like an explosion. The president, who had not retired, inquired as to the cause, as the floor of the living apartments located on the second floor was jarred perceptibly. An investigation was made hastily and when the east room was entered by the ushers it was found that the portrait of Abraham Lincoln, by Cogswell, had fallen to the floor, damaging the frame considerably. The painting itself was not damaged, and it will only require the expenditure of a small amount to repair the frame.

The investigation developed that the heavy wire used in hanging the portrait had parted under the heavy weight of the painting, which has adorned the east wall of the east room for many years. If the accident had occurred before the election it might have been interpreted as an augury of the defeat of President McKinley, but happening after the election little has been said about it.

TO DESTROY A LANDMARK.

Indignation in London Over Project to Pull Down the Historic Marble Arch.

A matter which is interesting society people in particular and which is creating not a little indignation in general is the suggested removal of the historic and picturesque marble arch from Hyde park. Apart from merely sentimental considerations, it is a regular landmark in that part of London. People driving in the park love to look up at it and, black as it is, it is the admiration of foreign visitors. In the furthest parts of London you hear shouted every day: "Marble arch! Marble arch!"—the cry of bus conductors as they pass.

Londoners love their marble arch, yet some enterprising officials have taken it into their heads that it is in the way, and want to pull it down or move it. The public will have something to say before that is done.

Irish. In 1891 there were 4,704,750 people in Ireland. There are no figures showing the number of Irish in Great Britain. In peace about 15 per cent. of the British army is composed of Irish. In 1890 there were 1,871,569 natives of Ireland in the United States.

Justifies the Motto. Mrs. Eleanor Trye, of Texas, has just been married to her divorced husband. She seems, says the Denver Post, to be working upon the olden advice: "If at first you don't succeed, try Trye again."

TO CUT WAY TO POLE.

Russia to Use Powerful Iceship in Arctic Exploration.

Will Be Sent North Next Summer and Will Attempt to Break Passage Through the Immense Ice Fields There.

An entirely new departure in arctic exploration will be made next summer. Russia will send north her wonderful ice ship, the Yermak, with instructions to try to cut her way through to the pole. The performance of this vessel in cutting and tearing her way at three or four miles an hour through the immense ice fields of the Baltic sea and other Russian waters has excited amazement among all who have witnessed them. She is now being equipped and improved for the greatest of all tasks.

The Armstrongs at Elswick have just completed a new bow which is especially designed to encounter the field of ice in the Arctic sea, which is heavier and thicker than any which the Yermak has yet attacked. The original bow was easily capable of dealing with any of the enormous ice fields which Russia produces. She went to a high latitude on an experimental trip last summer and accomplished all that could be expected of her in her assaults upon the eternal ice which she then encountered. The alterations now being made were suggested by this experience.

Admiral Makaroff, who is superintending the changes, has the greatest confidence that his ship will cut her way without delay straight to the pole and will return safely in the same season. Every precaution has been taken to fit her out for a long stay in case of accident or blockade. Admiral Makaroff has refused to give out details of the plans or even to admit that the expedition will be undertaken, but there is no doubt on this point. No information is yet available as to the route to be taken or how the coal problem will be solved. There will be supplies at one or two points in Arctic Russia and probably a collier will carry an additional supply as far as the ice will permit.

FINDS BONES OF GIANT RACE.

Skeletons of Prehistoric Men, Ten Feet Tall, dug up in Missouri.

The fossils of three human beings, evidently prehistoric giants, were found near Montezuma, Mo., the other day by C. H. Beecher, a farmer, at the depth of 40 feet. The size of the skulls indicates that the bodies must have been at least ten feet high, and the bones, resembling those of a human skeleton, seem to bear out this theory. Beecher has quite a collection of fossils which he has found at various times in this vicinity, which is alive with them. He is confident that he has discovered the missing link, and intends to submit his find to the professors of Washington university in St. Louis to see if they sustain his theory.

Fossils of mastodons and animals extinct for centuries have been found in this vicinity by people who were plowing or digging wells. It seems to be a regular graveyard for 40 miles around for prehistoric animals which indicate the enormous size of the animals which once roamed the land.

TAKES ITS OWN PICTURE.

Train Which is Made to Press the Button While the Camera Faithfully Does the Rest.

After repeated failures to secure a satisfactory negative of a train in motion, Armand Green, an expert Chicago photographer, recently made the Burlington's Denver Flyer take its own picture. This he accomplished by an electric switch which when connected with the rail closes the circuit as soon as it is struck by the engine. The switch communicates with a set of dry cells, and thence to a shutter release.

When the successful test was made, the switch was put in place about six feet behind the spot where it was calculated that the front of the engine would appear when the shutter was released. When the engine struck the switch it closed the circuit, the high-speed shutter moved, and the picture was correctly registered on the center of the plate.

THEATERS IN RUSSIA.

Police at Kiev Determine the Pause Between Acts and the Amount of Applause Actors Shall Receive.

It is reported that the police of Kiev, Russia, have taken the theaters of that city in hand. They have not found it necessary to measure the length of the skirts of the members of the ballet. The evils which they desire to correct, and no doubt have already satisfactorily corrected, are of another character. There was some complaint that the pauses between the acts were too long, and the police decided that these waits must last over 15 minutes. The police also discovered that certain actors were being applauded for beyond their real merits. They therefore decided that in future no actor may be applauded more than three times during the same performance.

Cooperative Railways in Australia. Victoria, Australia, has built seven local railways on the cooperative principle. The railways were estimated for by contract at \$245,000, but by working the cooperative principle they were completed for \$251,211.

GROUNDS DIVORCE ON BIBLE.

Pennsylvania Judge Writes a Decision of Extraordinary Interest.

The written decision delivered by President Judge Arnold in common pleas court at Philadelphia the other day, annulling the marriage of William Wilhelm to Elizabeth Wilhelm, on May 17, 1883, is of more than ordinary interest.

The judge expresses in undeniable terms his sanction and approval of divorce as a remedy for intimated couples, supporting his views by Biblical references.

After reviewing the three marriages of the respondent the judge states, referring to the suspicion of collusion in the case:

"This is suspicion merely. Our divorce laws are wise and just. I do not agree with those persons who occasionally denounce them. The hatred, misery, sin and crime which so often flow from indissoluble marriage contractions require a remedy.

"Wife haters and deserters are quite as bad as adulterers and should be deprived of the opportunity of inflicting further misery on their partners. Divorce is a cause of divorce has as much warrant of Scriptures as adultery." Here the judge cites St. Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians, chapter 7, verse 15.

The judge says that if divorces were granted for Scriptural adultery only no woman could ever obtain a divorce and in support of his view refers to the cases of Abraham and Solomon.

EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES.

Peabody Museum, Yale University, Recently Important Collection of Relics Found at Abydos.

Peabody museum has received from London an important collection of Egyptian antiquities presented to Yale by the Connecticut members of the American Archaeological association. The relics were found in excavations made in Abydos, by the Egyptian Exploration Fund association, and have been on exhibition in London.

In the collection are a number of rare specimens, among them ornaments of shell and green glass, pendants of lapis lazuli and pieces of flint which date back to prehistoric times. There are six finely-preserved scarabs of the eighteenth dynasty, and a number of amulet cases of the same period in a very good state of preservation. There is also an inscription taken from a royal tomb belonging to a king of the first dynasty.

In the tombs that were excavated were found model tools, axes, hoes, chisels, a headless staturer, several jars, two gold earrings and some gold hair rings. A chair leg fitted with ivory legs also was obtained. These specimens have all been placed in the Peabody museum in a room that will later be used exclusively for Egyptian antiquities.

BOAST OF BABY ELEPHANT.

Birth of the Creature is Unusually Considered to Be Remarkable.

The only elephant ever born in America made its appearance in the Ringling Bros' menagerie at Harbors, Wis., the other morning. Circus men and the keepers of animals in zoological gardens have never heretofore been fortunate enough to secure the big animals except by importing them from Asia and Africa. It has always been asserted that elephants do not breed except in their native climate when domesticated. The mother of the new baby is Alice. She has been a member of the herd for six years. Before that she had traveled a number of years with a wagon show. Alice is about 35 years old. The father is Italy. He is more than 50 years old, and is said to be one of the largest elephants now in captivity.

The mother tried to trample upon her offspring. Quick and resolute action on the part of the keeper saved the young animal from being killed. A fresh milk cow was secured at once, and, though somewhat frightened, became wet nurse after a few hours. The new elephant weighs about 200 pounds, is strong and healthy in appearance, and bids fair to thrive.

SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT.

Driving of an Electric Motor 153 Miles from the Generator Accomplished at Seattle.

The Snoqualmie Falls Power company of Seattle, Wash., has performed a novel feat in the driving of an electric motor 153 miles distant from the generator. All the transmission lines of the company were connected up in one continuous circuit, commencing at Snoqualmie Falls, running to Seattle back to the falls, then to Tacoma, and back again to the falls. The regular transmission is 22 miles to Seattle and 44 miles to Tacoma.

The tests were conducted for experimental purposes only, and to show that electric transmission of power can be made commercially practical at much greater distances than has heretofore been contemplated.

Batched on Behalf of Millinery. Goldfinches are getting very scarce. The price of them has nearly doubled in England, where they are considered a thoroughly British institution. Perhaps the milliners are at the bottom of the mischief.

Short Skirts for Female Teachers. The school board of El Paso, Tex., has issued an order that as a sanitary measure female teachers shall wear short skirts while on duty.