

RUSSIA'S GREAT DRINK REFORM

If the manufacture, sale and consumption of whiskey and all "hard" liquor were suddenly stopped in the United States—if the country's 2300 distilleries were put out of business by a stroke of the pen and the government's income of \$163,879,342 yearly from this source absolutely cut off—we should have a condition of things approximately resembling that brought about in Russia by the abolition of the vodka traffic. Yet even this parallel does not fully represent the revolution in Russia's drinking habits whereby 150,000,000 persons are affected at an annual cost to the government of \$500,000,000 in revenue.

Doubtless no more heroic reform measure was ever introduced by any government. It has remained for the absolute monarchy whose name is synonymous with oppression, but which yet anticipated our own free nation in liberating the serf, to give force to what is altogether the most remarkable temperance movement in the world's history.

Fully as remarkable as the reform itself is the agency by which it was accomplished.

It is mainly to the personal efforts of a man of peasant birth, a house painter by trade and now a millionaire humanitarian, Micheal Dimitrovich Tchelisheff, that Russia is relieved of the "curse of vodka". As village councillor, mayor, member of the дума, and at last by personal appeal to the czar, he has steadfastly fought for the great end he has now achieved. The history of reform records no more romantic career than that of the man who almost single-handed and alone has converted one of the modern world's greatest people to temperance.—New York World.

