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"THE BLACK PANTHER'S CUB"

Direct from its New York and Boston premiere, comes this giant drama with its sensational scenes, its brilliant splendor, and its enthralling drama, to this city, presenting the screen's greatest emotional actress.
ALSO A COMEDY

OIL WELLS TO CEASE SOON

Once Richest in the World,
Baku Wells are Expected
to be Idle in Six Months.

BAKU, Azerbaijan, Nov. 25.—Within six months the oil fields, lying within a few miles of this city and once counted among the richest petroleum wells in the world, will have ceased to produce, according to expert opinion, unless new machinery and better and more workmen are obtained.

This condition is neatly realized by the local Azerbaijan government which is controlled by Moscow. "If the oil is not forthcoming, this will mean the stopping of the oil-burning steamers of the Caspian Sea, several hundred in number, the 1,000 or more tugboats and steamers of the Volga still in repair and the oil-burning locomotives of the entire railway system of greater Russia."

Efforts are being made to obtain machinery, possibly from the United States, by M. Serabrovsky, a trained engineer, and now general director of the oil fields, and also to induce workmen to work.

The pre-war production averaged annually about eighteen billion pounds of crude petroleum, and this year it will run about five billion at best. There have been but a few new wells this year and the old ones function slowly. The opening up of the pipe line to Batum for foreign export is out of the question, as there is not enough oil and Russia consumes much of the present supply herself.

The general cause given for this condition is described by competent oil engineers, long on the fields, as the "gaucherie" of Soviet control. "Whatever the Communista touch seems to go to rot," declared one engineer. "It seems like a fatality and the worst of it is that no amount of new machinery here will remedy the situation. New machinery would be broken up by incompetent, underfed workmen just as the old machinery has been."

This is a rather gloomy view taken by anti-Bolsheviks. The oil fields began to slow down four years ago. The present Moscow rule has severely suffered from the aims of its predecessors here.

It is feared there will be much difficulty in buying new machinery this winter, though the Azerbaijan government has a commercial mission at Constantinople that may go to the United States to get capital or credits for the machinery.

The labor situation is much more clear. Russia is dunned of her best thinkers, imperialists and Communists, and likewise of her trained workers. In the oil fields where are needed 50,000 men, there are now possibly half that number, and few of them trained, and employers say even these are disciplined to work.

Before the war there were 125 private companies here, and each with a managing director, and now the work of all these directors falls on the shoulders of a few men. The workmen get one and a half pounds of black bread per day and soup, with neither butter nor meat and a pay of 2,000 rubles (five to 10 cents) per month, which is just the price of a pound of bread.

New workmen are being brought in from among the troops of General Wrangel in Constantinople and also from the famine zones, but with it all there seems no way to keep the men satisfied, or properly fed.

"Black Town," as is called the oil refining and delivery district, presents a sad sight as compared to the old days. The buildings of the Nobel refinery, the most important of the companies represented, are going to ruin. Makeshifts are the rule everywhere.

When the Moscow Soviet took over the Azerbaijan republic a year and a half ago by buying up its officials and sending in the 11th Red army, it expected to get oil for nothing.

RAIL KING'S WIDOW DIES.
ST. PAUL, Nov. 25.—Mrs. James J. Hill, widow of the late James J. Hill, Great Northern president for many years, died yesterday following an extended illness. She was 75 years of age and had been in poor health since the death of her husband in 1916.

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WINTER SEEDING NEARLY DONE

Wheat and Rye Yield in
Europe Increased Over
that of a Year Ago.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—The seeding of winter grains is now practically completed throughout the Northern Hemisphere, according to reports received by the Bureau of Markets and Crop Estimates, United States Department of Agriculture. The seeding of all winter cereals has been hindered by drought throughout western Europe and Great Britain, and irregular stands and growth reported. The moisture supply has been plentiful throughout central Europe, and the present outlook for all winter grains is good. The drought in North Africa still prevails, according to latest reports, and rain is greatly needed to facilitate seeding and germination. The seeding of winter wheat is progressing under favorable conditions in British India, and the crop is germinating well. A good acreage is expected.

Weather and soil conditions have generally been favorable for the seeding and germination of wheat in Canada, and the crop should enter the winter in good condition. The condition of fall wheat is favorable in the United States, except in the lower plains region, where the crop has been injured and some late seedings have failed to germinate. Conditions in the far western states have been improved by recent rains.

The condition of wheat in Argentina continues to improve, due to the abundant rains since September 15, which have broken the long drought. As conditions were very unfavorable during the normal seeding period, much of the grain has been sown unusually late, and the prospects of grain sown as late as this are generally poor. If present favorable conditions continue, however, a normal crop or better may be expected. The acreage as given by the Argentina Government for the year 1921-22 is 11,927,000 acres, compared with 14,957,000 in 1920-21.

Plentiful rain continues to be reported from the various grain-growing districts of Australia, and the crop outlook is quite favorable and equal to that of last year. A preliminary estimate places the Australian wheat crop for 1921-22 at 145,000,000 bushels, compared with 145,921,000 bushels in 1920-21. Good rains have been reported in South Africa, especially from those sections of the Cape where the bulk of the wheat is grown.

Final threshing returns of the cereal crops of the Northern Hemisphere confirm previous reports of the yield, and the outstanding feature is the decided increase of wheat and rye in nearly every European country compared with the yield of 1920. Excluding Russia and the Soviet-Caucasus States and a few minor producing countries for which estimates have not been received by the department, the production of wheat in Europe shows an increase of 27 per cent over last year and that of rye an increase of 39 per cent.

The rice area of India for 1921-22 as reported by that government's first regular forecast shows an area of 74,132,000 acres, or 2 per cent increase over last year. The first forecast usually covers all but a relatively small part of the total rice area. The final report will probably cover an acreage somewhat larger than that quoted above. The condition of the crop is good. The Indian government has made, as yet, no official forecast of production, but unofficial estimates by rice dealers place the probable crop at 71,880,000,000 pounds, or a 10 per cent increase over last year. The prospects for a normal rice crop in Japan are reported to be very good.

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