

RUSSIA'S STRONG GRASP OF THE PACIFIC

(Copyright, 1902, by Frank G. Carpenter.)
NAGASAKI, Japan, Jan. 20.—I want to tell you what the Russians are doing out here in the Pacific. They are the principal actors on the stage of western invasion. Germany, England and the United States are making a great noise about trade and development, but Russia is keeping her mouth shut and sawing wood. Her policy is to work quietly but steadily. She makes no backward footsteps. She has her fingers out in every direction, and is quietly gathering in the continent. She has already 1,000,000 square miles, more than one-third of all Asia, and the prospect is that the whole northern half of this continent will eventually be hers.

Russia in Asia.

Have you ever figured up the property that the Czar owns outside of Europe? His possessions in Asia embrace more than twice as much land as the United States proper. They are about as large as the whole of South Africa and almost twice as much as Europe. The Russian possessions in Central Asia alone, including the regions now being opened up by the Trans-Caspian Railroad, are half as large as the whole of our country, and the Czar is now claiming the right to all concessions in Chinese Turkestan, a territory twice as big as the empire of Germany. Siberia is 25 times as big as Germany and France. It is 1,000,000 square miles bigger than Europe, and bigger than the United States, Central America and Mexico combined. Manchuria, which is now practically annexed to Siberia, is bigger than any country in Europe, outside Russia and Mongolia, which will follow suit, is one-third the size of the United States.

How the Russians Work.

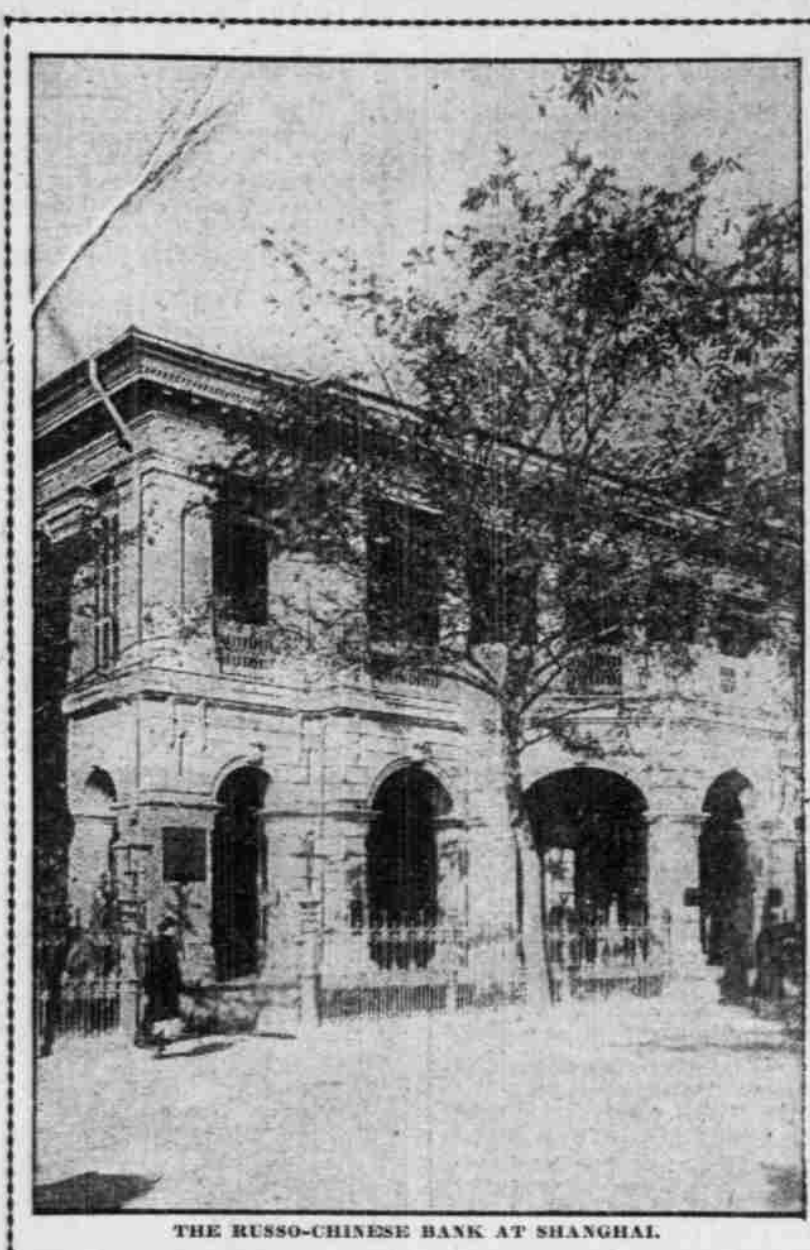
Over this vast territory the Czar is pushing his explorations. He is preparing to settle the several countries, and to Russify them. His Trans-Caspian road is carrying thousands of his peasants into Central Turkestan. His railroad already goes through Bokhara to beyond Samarkand, and a branch line extends down into Afghanistan. Other roads, of which I write later, are being projected to connect with these.

He is not only opening up the country, but he is developing it. He is settling out cotton plantations and introducing our American plants. His product of cotton is already enormous, and his crop is now of the same variety as our own. It loads down the railroad during the season, and you may see shiploads of it going up the Volga to be transferred to the factories and mills of Russia. Tobacco is also grown in large quantities, and in Trans-Caucasia tea plantations are being established. That region is now one of the great silk cocoons-raising plants of the world, and it exports hundreds of millions of pounds of cocoons annually, and Russia seems, in fact, to be reaching out toward a monopoly of productions of every variety for all the world.

Russian Versus American Wheat.
The Russians are already our chief competitors in the wheat markets of Europe, and they will be more so as time goes on. Russia is the granary of Europe—Siberia promises to be the granary of the world. A few years ago I traveled over the Black plain south of Moscow. It has some of the richest soil known to man, and it produces abundantly with the rudest cultivation. The people are now introducing our machinery, and their crops will be increased thereby. The wheat lands of Siberia are said to be as rich as those of the Red River Valley, and the climate is about the same.

Colonizing Siberia.

Russia is rapidly colonizing Siberia. The soil is being broken. Irrigation works on a large scale have been started, and development is going on upon the choice tracts along the new railroads. Since 1867, more than 1,000,000 peasants have emigrated to Siberia, and vast numbers are now being sent by sea from Odessa to Vladivostok. The Czar has built a fleet of emigrant steamers, which run regularly from the Black Sea, to the mouth of the Amur. I see them often in these waters. They carry peasants free from Russia to Siberia, and the government gives each family from 20 to 30 acres of land free of charge. It also loans them money to start farming and furnishes the agricultural implements at reduced rates. Within seven years almost 2,000,000 acres of state lands have been turned over to immigrants, and from now on, the settled country will be rapidly increased. I have no figures as to the numbers which are



THE RUSSO-CHINESE BANK AT SHANGHAI.

coming in by the Trans-Siberian Railroad, but they must be enormous, for the government has reduced the emigrant fares to a minimum and it is aiding immigration in every possible way.

The Czar in Manchuria.

The Czar has already begun to colonize Manchuria. The soldiers who guard the railroads have in many cases brought their families with them, and they are settling along the line as they build it. The Russians make no bones of saying they own Manchuria. General Gribsky, who has charge of the territory, recently sent out a proclamation that the Chinese would not be allowed to settle in certain sections, as the lands were to be used for Russian colonization. He forbade them to build in the town of Aigun, as it was reserved for quartering the Russian troops and for Russian warehouses. It was in Aigun that the Chinese fought the Russians. The town was destroyed, and the villages near it. General Gribsky has warned the Chinese that if one of them dares to shoot at or injure a Russian he will have his village or town burned to the ground. He closes his proclamation with the following:

"The Russian Czar loves those who obey him. Turn a deaf ear to the evil counselors who urge you to fight us! They are your enemies and will bring you to ruin and death! Woe be unto you if you do otherwise than as we command you!"

The Chinese know by bitter experience that the Russians will do what they say. They will treat the people well if they obey them, but if they do not they will not hesitate to annihilate them. Some of the towns along the Amur River were utterly destroyed during the late war. An Ohio man who crossed it saw 13 Chinese villages in flames at one time, and described the river in black with bodies for three days after the Russians took one of the Chinese cities upon its banks.

Russia's Manchurian Railroad.

The Czar is rapidly pushing his railroad to the northward to connect with the Trans-Siberian system. Short passages by rail to Europe are already advertised at

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Czar's Metropolis on the Yellow Sea.

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The provisions of the concession forbid China to collect a tariff on goods in transit. It, the Russian officials and Russian mails are to be carried free. Russia is to have charge of the postal system along the line, and with it goes the privilege of opening up and developing the mineral resources of Manchuria. Russian engineers and surveyors are now traveling over the country prospecting it. They have already found coal and iron and some rich mines of gold. There are large coal fields near Mukden, the capital of Manchuria, which will be tapped by the railroad. The coal there is said to be better than the Japanese and equal to the Cardiff and Pocahontas coals. It will have a good market at Port Arthur and Tientsin, and the mines will pay well. At present the most of the mining is done by the natives. The coal is gotten out by hand and carried to the markets in Chinese carts. It is both anthracite and bituminous.

Czar's Metropolis on the Yellow Sea.

The Czar has already chosen the site for his metropolis in this part of the world. It is to be at the terminus of the Manchurian railroad system, within a few miles of Port Arthur. This place will surpass Vladivostok, as it will have an open harbor the year round, and will be more easily accessible. The Russians are building it much as Peter the Great built St. Petersburg. They are laying out the city on a grand scale, expecting to bring in the people after it is completed. They are building immense breakwaters out from the shore and are dredging the harbor that it will admit the largest of the ocean steamers. They have already built warehouses and piers and are putting up other buildings suitable to the great city of the future.

The name of this town is to be Tientsin, and the present intention is to make it a free port. It will have wide streets crossing one another at right angles. It will have large public gardens and parks. I understand that they are already laying the sewers and building bazars, and that before any lots are sold. The city is to be a business one. The military fortifications will be at Port Arthur, which is also being improved.

Niu Chwang and Mukden.

It is a question as to what rights foreigners will have in Tientsin, or, indeed, in any of the Manchurian cities. The Russians believe in controlling things for their own people, and limitations will probably be placed on foreign settlements and foreign business, although at present the Russians say otherwise. There has already been some trouble as to the rights of Americans in Manchuria, and that especially in Niu Chwang. This is a town situated on the Liao River, 12 miles from its mouth. It has been an open port for some years, but the Russians have instituted a military station there, and they claim to control the town. They