

Wismar is to be Redeemed June 26th After Being in Pawn One Hundred years

View of Wismar from the Water

Birdseye view of Wismar

Ancient Water Tower

"The Old Swede"

ON June 26 the strange pledge that a pawnbroker ever took in the world will have to be returned to its owner if that owner can pay the loan.

The pledge is a big one. It is the City of Wismar, on the German coast of the Baltic Sea, and once a powerful member of the great Hanseatic League. The owner who pawned it is Sweden and the pawnbroker is the Duke of Mecklenburg.

That a big city on German territory, not 50 miles away from the great imperial naval port of Kiel, really belongs, without question, to another nation in one of the romances of everyday history which are forever cropping out all over the world.

The pledging of Wismar, while it happened only 100 years ago, really was directly due to the changing fortunes of the Thirty Years' War. If there should be any diplomatic squabbles over the matter now, treaties and protocols of surrenders and armistices dating back to the years between 1618 and 1648 would have to be dragged in court. Another exhibit would be the story of the jilting by a King of the daughter of a Duke.

The fact that Wismar really is a Swedish possession explains what has been a mystery for many years—the neglect of the German Empire to fortify this port, which is considered as being the finest harbor site of the entire Baltic Coast.

Wismar was pawned to the Duke of Mecklenburg on June 26, 1623, as security for a loan of 1,553,000 reichsthaler. With Wismar, Sweden also pledged the govern-

ment districts of Poel and Neukloster, both in German territory.

Under a treaty between Sweden and Denmark, it had been provided that Wismar should not be fortified, and when the Duke of Mecklenburg took over the city it had to obey the provisions made with Sweden. Hence Mecklenburg was bound to build no fortifications to make Wismar a great port as it once had been, and also to permit no great power to utilize it for any war purpose.

If it had not been for this fact, Germany would, no doubt, have made a mighty naval station out of Wismar long ago.

Under the conditions of the loan, the City of Wismar and the two government districts were to remain in pledge for 100 years.

At the end of the 100 years Sweden could claim and obtain the pledged city and land by paying back the original loan, with 3 per cent compound interest. A further provision, however, of the loan is that, should Sweden fail to take any notice whatever of the expiration of the time, the contract would become renewed automatically for another 100 years.

The sum which Sweden would have to pay on June 26, if she wished to claim Wismar and the two government districts, is figured as amounting to \$2,000,000, and this alone, quite apart from considerations of policy, is expected to operate as a bar against the assertion of her right.

Still it is going to be Germany's part to make sure that there is no renewal of the pact through Sweden's simple expedient of keeping silent. And already Germany is sending out her emissaries regarding the value to Sweden of Germany's friendship in the face of the growing approaches on Swedish territory by Russia, as evidenced by the re-

cent destruction of Finnish autonomy and independence.

The immediate story of how Wismar was pawned dates back to the beginning of the eighteenth century, when Denmark, the most powerful enemy of Sweden after the destruction of the old Hanseatic

League, became weary of being threatened with this powerful Swedish stronghold, and took it after fierce fighting. Almost as soon as it was conquered the Danes razed the mighty fortifications, and subsequently, when peace was declared and Wismar reverted to Sweden,

a clause in the peace protocol was forced by the Danes prohibiting the Swedes from erecting new fortifications.

This converted Wismar from an element of strength into one of weakness for the Swedes. Robbed of its usefulness as a bulwark and a base of military operations, Wismar at once became a source of expense instead of the source of rich income that it had been.

In fine port became valueless to the Swedes. In addition, the continuous fights for its possession and the wars which had made it a center of battles had ruined its great sea trade. Its waters were thronged no more with ships from the Orient, from the Mediterranean or from the golden Americas. Even its inland trade was destroyed, for the

Duchy of Mecklenburg erected the barriers of prohibitive inland duties against it.

Under these circumstances, it was not surprising that the Swedes tired at last of their white elephant of a possession in the land of the enemy. So, in the reign of the incompetent and extravagant Gustavus IV, with territory lost to the French in one war, with Finland lost to Russia, with defeat in a war against Norway, the Swedes seized an opportunity to release themselves of the burden of possession.

The direct opportunity was given by the cancellation of Gustavus's engagement to the daughter of Duke Frederick Franz I. That person not unreasonably resented the insult and threatened dire things. Finally his threats crystallized into a demand for an enormous indemnity. The money had to be raised at once.

The Duke of Mecklenburg advanced 1,553,000 reichsthaler and took Wismar, Neukloster and the island of Poel in pledge for 100 years.

"Wismar the Useful" was what the city was called in the old days of its world-glory when Lubeck and the chief of the Hanseatic League and Bremen, Hamburg, Lubeck and Wismar formed the mighty Bund that not only fitted out fleets and armies on its own account, but often dictated terms to the whole of Europe.

From Wismar the Hanseatic war fleet sailed to its triumphant battles. It was Wismar that first defied the might of the fact that the world's mightiest fleet of Mecklenburg and Schwerin.

A defiant town it was from the beginning of its documentary history, and if the legends have any basis, a defiant town it was when Christ was born in Galilee, according to one tradition it was then 300 years old and a stronghold of the north.

Other legends say that it was built early in the fourth century by Wismarus, King of the Vandals. At any rate, it is a very ancient town, for it is mentioned as a great city in documents dated 1238, when

it first began to threaten the supremacy of the hereditary rulers. And from that time on, when Wismar was not engaged in battles of its own account, it was the scene of fights between others.

One of Europe's most beautiful buildings, the Puerchen (Princess's Court), dating back to the 15th century, stands in Wismar, a memorial to the independence of the city.

Early in the 13th century Duke John of Mecklenburg, who loved the city, thought to do Wismar a great favor by moving his residence from Mecklenburg to Wismar, and he built himself a strong castle just outside of the city. The inhabitants of Wismar, however, as an old chronicle puts it, were not delighted that the "hawk should be an eagle's preserver."

When Duke John's successor, Henry, undertook a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1273, he advised Wismar to build a big wall for defense around the town. The good folk of Wismar did it. But the Duke got a shock when he returned, because the wall had been built carefully to leave the castle outside.

The ensuing dispute, accompanied with considerable physical argument, was settled amicably at last by the raising of the castle, in return for which the city of Wismar gave the Duke a site inside the town, where he erected his new palace, but it was not a fortified one. The Wismar citizens took care of that.

In 1319 Wismar did not like the lady whom Duke Henry II, "the Lion," was going to marry, so they calmly told him he could not marry her in his palace within their city. The Duke decided to punish Wismar, but it was too powerful for him alone. He called on his brother-in-law, the King of Denmark, to help him. During the war, Wismar razed the palace, and although the town was defeated finally, it managed to make an advantageous peace. The Duke built a new fortified castle, but Wismar bought it from his successor.

Wismar took vehement part in the wars and intrigues that followed the Reformation and the revolt. And when the Thirty Years' War began Wismar was, to say the least, not unaccustomed to the clash of arms. It was to behold and hear and join in often in the dark strife that lasted through the life of many a human being born in that century.

When Sweden's victorious armies burst into Germany to give battle to the troops of Tilly and Wallenstein, Wismar was taken by them first of all. And from that moment it became the key to many a campaign for the Swedes. It was a stronghold to which he might retreat. And whoever had Wismar at his back as an enemy was likely to be at a disadvantage.

Again and again Wismar was taken and retaken by Swedes, Danes, Wallons, Bohemians and Austrians. In the end, Sweden held it against all comers.

After the war, when the joys of home were maintained by constant quarreling and fighting between Denmark and Sweden, the Danes at last conquered Wismar, but had given it back to Sweden, which was concluded early in the 18th century.

Among the beautiful buildings that date back to the 15th century, the most notable is the archdeacon's house, erected in 1498, and the old schoolhouse dating back to about 1200. Its St. George's Church was begun in 1300 and is not finished yet. The old water tower was built in 1624.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN: AN INEVITABLE CONFLICT By an American Now in the Orient

THAT a conflict between Japan and Russia is inevitable and not far off is evident to even a casual observer of political conditions in the Orient.

The basis of the coming difficulty is neither sentimental nor insignificant, and, moreover, it is one that diplomacy cannot alter or avert.

Japan has the largest shipping and carrying trade in Manchuria, having had 27 ships, with a tonnage of 45,000 tons, entering the port of Niu Chwang in 1902, and a much larger proportion for the year 1903 up to the present time. Her imports at this port amounted to 2,150,520 tons, and the exports from this port for the year 1902 amounted to 8,746,468 tons. Russian shipping amounted to one steamer, and her imports and exports were none. Japan's exports to Korea in 1901 were 11,572,550 yen, and her imports from Korea were 10,052,438 yen, while Russian imports and exports were merely nominal. Japan's exports to all of China amounted in 1901 to 4,928,870 yen, having doubled in four years, and her imports from China were 27,254,956 yen. The principal exports from Manchuria and Korea to Japan are food products and fertilizers. On account of the light and shallow soil of Japan, fertilizers are absolutely essential to the existence of her 40,000,000 of people, and most of this she secures in the form of bean cake from Manchuria, at the Port of Niu Chwang. The largest part of the 10,000,000 yen of imports from Korea to Japan is food essential to life. The 44,000,000 yen of exports from Japan to Korea and China are almost exclusively made up of manufactured articles.

The Situation in a Nutshell.

If Russia secures absolute political control over Manchuria and Korea, as present appearances seem to indicate, she would destroy Japanese shipping and the market for Japanese goods, shut off her supply of fertilizers and food products, and have Japan completely at her mercy. Japan, therefore, in her brave efforts to prevent Russia from overrunning and absorbing Manchuria and Korea, is fighting for her very existence. Russia's political control there not only stops the expansion of Japan, but takes the food out of her mouth, destroys her shipping and robs her of the best market she has for her manufactured goods.

The question that is put to Japan by Russia's aggressiveness is, fight or die? Those familiar with Japanese skill and courage in war do not hesitate to decide what course Japan will choose.

The present attitude of Russia in Manchuria and Korea is arousing the war feeling in Japan again, and should Russia become engaged in war with Turkey

there is little doubt that Japan would attack her in Manchuria.

Russia's failure to surrender the port of Niu Chwang and to evacuate Manchuria, in accordance with the Manchuria convention of the 8th of April, her further movements of equipping and arming several thousand Chinese brigades, under Russian officers, and sending them to the vicinity of the Yalu River, are indications to Japan that her life is in danger.

Russia has made good progress in extending her power on the Pacific, and the recent additions to her fleet of battleships gives her a naval force said to be equal to that of Japan.

Her recent advance into Manchuria, her building of the splendid commercial city of Dairen, her advent into the shipping trade, with a large and permanent fleet of good steamers for the coasting trade of China and Japan, together with her European fleet, are notices to Japan and Great Britain that Russia is here for business, as well as for the extension of her political authority.

Russia's land conquests at Tien Tsin and Hankow, her political interests in the Belgian syndicate that is building the railway from Peking to Hankow; the construction of a line of railway from the Siberian railway line near lake Balkal, to Peking, now just begun, together with her absorption of Manchuria, which is now complete, regardless of the so-called evacuation, all indicate beyond a question the active intention of Russia to dominate all of China, and to enter at once into control of North China.

The 12 Hungh Chang, whose great riches are said to have come through Russian associations, was a severe blow to Russian power at court for a time. Her well-known methods soon made for her a great friend in Yusei, who became the power behind the throne after the death of Li Hung Chang. This man, who became very wealthy and all powerful, has recently died, leaving a fortune of many million taels, five millions of which are reported to be in the Russo-Chinese Bank, and Russian influence at the court of Peking is supposed at this moment to be again very much weakened.

Possible Chinese-Japanese Coalition.

Japan is no doubt making every effort to arouse China to the point of joining her in the united effort to push Russia out of Manchuria. Yuan Shih-Kai, the present Viceroy of Pechili and Shantung, who has the organization and control of the Chinese army of the North, is supposed to be friendly with Japan, and anxious to resist the onward movement of Russia.

The natural feeling of the merchants and masses of the Chinese in Manchuria and North China is intensely antagonistic to the Russians and friendly with the Japanese. If this union of forces between China and Japan could be cemented

into an active, aggressive movement against Russia, a line of Russian advance would be fixed somewhere, and remain there as long as the union lasted.

This movement, supported by Great Britain and the United States, is the only course that will preserve the integrity of China.

The wonderful progress of Japan, shown best perhaps in the volume of her imports and exports, that have risen from 25,218,544 yen in 1900 to 508,106,197 yen in 1901, is the greatest marvel in the world's history.

Whatever we may think of her shortcomings, we are bound to respect her progress, her national pride, and her ambition, and sympathize with her in her present danger of destruction, by the southern movement of the great Russian power.

America's Substantial Interests.

Besides a sentimental interest of sympathy, the United States has a more substantial and practical interest in the welfare of Japan.

In 1901, our imports from Japan were 22,426,404 yen, and in 1901 they were 72,309,310 yen.

In 1901 our exports to Japan were 27,699,327 yen; in 1902 they were 52,761,194 yen, and in 1903 42,708,429 yen.

Our exports to Japan are growing with wonderful strides, having increased 100 per cent in ten years, and amounting to over one-fourth of all her imports; hence we have a 25 per cent interest in her future welfare. Our exports to Japan are somewhat in excess of our exports to China, and measured by this standard of interest we have as much at stake in the future of Japan as we have in that of China.

Japan's ability to purchase from our country is dependent very largely upon her being able to hold her own in Korea and China. If she loses her hold on these markets, if her shipping and commercial interests in these countries are dominated by the political control of Russia, the expansion of Japan will not only be checked but her present life in trade will be sadly injured.

If we expect to become a world's power, if we expect our influence and trade in the Orient to grow we must aid, encourage and protect Japan.

The coming conflict in the Orient is not the contention and competition of industrial forces for supremacy; but the battle is to determine whether the rest of the world shall have equal industrial and competitive opportunities in the trade of China, or whether the army of Russia shall drive Great Britain, Japan and the United States out of the trade and commerce of that country.

Conflict Unavoidable.

This conflict cannot be avoided, delay on the part of our country will not prevent our becoming involved in the difficulty. Delay and inaction now means a

greater loss of blood and treasure in the future.

Japan, Great Britain and the United States are inevitably bound together in the question of the "Open door in China."

The United States has a direct trade interest in Manchuria of over \$500,000 a year, and this is endangered by the Russian domination of Manchuria.

In addition to our present trade in Manchuria and our indirect interest in the trade of Japan in Korea and North China, the greater problem of the integrity of China is at stake.

But no other nations of Chinese control of the entire empire of China is absolutely essential to our commercial life in the Orient. Such expansion as we have had in Japan, and hoped for the great empire of China, can have no realization with Russia, France and Germany dominating Chinese politics and dividing the country to their respective interests.

The substantial objections to the further expansion of Russia in the Orient are two, first her policy is exclusive to all other people, and second her type of government is opposed to the education and enlightenment of the masses.

Russia's Demands.

The question that meets the most immediate antagonism of the people of the United States is her policy of exclusiveness best shown in the following demands made upon China:

The Chinese government should promise Russia to have Manchuria ports thoroughly opened as treaty ports for Russians, but no other nations can trade there and appoint consuls.

All mines and railways of Manchuria the Chinese government should conduct together with the Russians, but no other nation is allowed to be interested in them.

The organization of troops of Manchuria should be regulated by the Russians. Other nationalities are not allowed to interfere. All official Yamen and regulation there of in Manchuria the Chinese government should leave as they are fixed by Russia, no alterations can be made.

The land of Manchuria should never be given to any other country.

The tax of land and duties of every kind that are collected from Manchuria should be deposited in the Russo-Chinese Bank.

The Chinese should let Russia put a wire along the telegraphic poles throughout Manchuria, to be directed by the Russians only.

Russia should have the sole power to conduct all affairs in the vicinity of Niu Chwang, no inquiries can be made by Consuls of any other nations.

At Harbin, Moukden and all the places where the railway stations have been established throughout Manchuria, Russia has already possessed herself of all the land for several miles about each depot and refuses to permit any nationalities but hers to own lands. She established her

own police regulations and laws covering these places and refuses response to any one, except by special permission, governed entirely by Russian law.

This has been done without any agreement either with China or the powers holding rights equal to hers in that trade is concerned. By this means she forces an open door for herself in Manchuria, and shuts the door in the face of other nations.

Some Comparisons.

Russians can go to any spot in the American and British possessions and have all the privileges of owners in mining, manufacturing and trade; but see now what Russia asks in Manchuria, that no treaty ports of foreign trade centers be permitted. She demands exclusive Consular, exclusive troops, the exclusive right to appoint officials, the exclusive right of army administration and treaty making, and finally, that the exclusive right for both railways and mines shall rest with Russians and Chinese, and under existing conditions that simply means Russians.

It is important for our statesmen as well as for our people generally to comprehend the wide difference between our protective policy of government and this illiberal exclusive and dominating policy of Russia over all the territory she controls.

Our policy is protective, for the wise purpose of building and maintaining a high standard of civilization, while hers is prohibitive for the purpose of adding power and glory to the Tsar and his official army, and keeping the masses in ignorance and poverty. Already Russia dominates one-sixth of the earth's surface, commanding the greatest quantity of undeveloped wealth of the world. If the policy of Russia were as broad and liberal as that of Great Britain, our country would gladly welcome her as a neighbor on the Pacific and offer no opposition to her expansion in China; if her methods were like those of Japan, protective to her industries and people, but progressive and liberal in her relations with the rest of the world, our treatment of her would be most kindly generous.

With such prohibitive methods, with her clearly defined purpose of exclusiveness in her expansion in China, we can have no sympathy; but, on the other hand, must develop a gradual and determined policy of opposition.

The development of the United States into the greatest manufacturing country in the world, the great increase of the exports of our manufactured goods, are influences beyond our control, impelling us by our internal expansive force into world's politics.

The short time between the present and the future day of necessity requiring the open door to the Oriental markets behoves our attention to see to it that all the rights and privileges we now have shall be maintained, that the markets now open to us shall not be closed by

the mere force of arms, that militarism shall not stop the expansion of industrialism.

Menace of Slavery.

The second serious danger to our country by this extravagant expansion of territory and political dictatorship of Russia lies in the great mass of humanity that she will hold in poverty, ignorance and practically industrial and political slavery.

The dearest lesson in the history of our country was the one that taught us that our Nation could not exist half slave and half free. Perhaps the most severe experience we shall meet in the field of world's politics, that we are just entering, will be the one that will establish the fact that the world cannot live half slave and half free.

If Russia is allowed to add to her present vast millions of ignorance and low-lived people, the many millions of the same class in China, we will soon have upon the Pacific shores an industrial conflict that will shake our commerce, our trade and our high civilization to its very center.

Coal, iron, lime and minerals of all kinds are to be found in China in unlimited quantities, combined with cheap labor, cheap food, cheap transportation and a type of humanity easily held in subjection by such a power as Russia. Combine all this with machinery, science, organizing power and Russianism, and you will have a condition of industrial competition that will force free man into competition with slavery in the markets of the world.

While it is no part of our country's purpose or duty to interfere with the industrial growth of any other part of the world, it will ere long become a part of our policy and political action to protect her laborers against the competition of slave labor wherever found. There is no way by which this can be better accomplished to meet the most imminent danger to our country today than by using every power at our command to maintain the "open door in China," including Manchuria.

Japan has 4,000,000 of people whose standard of living for her working classes is below ours, and yet instead of being a menace, under the wisdom of her statesmanship her advancement is a profit to us, and she is buying more and more of the things we have to sell as her civilization advances; and China under the same growth and liberty would increase our trade and commerce and add to the wealth of both.

Under the exclusive, illiberal and dominating militarism of Russia, however, she will bring to us not only a loss of the markets we now possess, but will destroy our future prospects, and erect as our near neighbor an industrial and political system that menaces our own splendid civilization.

It is a serious misfortune that the hand of Russia cannot now be stayed for ten years, when the growth of our interest

in the world's affairs will have reached such proportions, and our power in the world's politics become so powerful, that a note from our Secretary of State will command not merely respect but thoughtful consideration.

I would not desire to be understood as asserting that Russia and her policy is at all bad, that she has done nothing to advance the welfare of the world, and as a power she should be suppressed. In the first place, she has done and still is doing much to add to the betterment of the world, and many of her expansions have brought freedom and betterment of human conditions; especially is this true of her advance in Central Asia, and it is also true in much of her expansion on the Pacific Coast. After the Siberian Railway is one of the greatest blessings the world has known, and the cities she is building on the Pacific are some day to be aids to commerce and trade that will add much to the world's wealth and comfort.

It is not the progress of Russia that offers such strenuous objections, nor yet her extension of domination over China, but it is the exclusiveness towards other nations, the illiberal and dominating systems she introduces, the slamming shut in our faces doors already open to us, and having voices within growing constantly louder, begging us to enter. It is her militarism and lack of liberty, enlightenment and humanity toward the masses to which we object.

Under the free play of industrial forces in the creation and distribution of wealth, under a political policy that would assure a "protection to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," we would welcome her on the shores of the Pacific with open arms, for we remember her great kindness to us in our hours of distress, and the fact that she is strong kind holds upon the heartstrings of our country.

Our feelings lean us toward her with heartfelt friendship, but our reason, our judgment, our aspirations for the future, and our great faith in enlightenment and human liberty, and our strong determination to maintain the "open door" in China are irresistibly driving us into the field with her enemies.

All Eggs Not Alike.

An Italian authority finds that when hens are fed on food containing a large percentage of iron the eggs also reveal the presence of iron in the very digestible form of the albuminate. Such eggs exert a tonic effect on persons who eat them. The case illustrates the fact that all eggs are not alike by any means, and that, according to the food fed, they may vary greatly in dietetic value and effect.

The pugilist speaks of "knockout" blows over the solar plexus, but it is the stomach that receives the shock, and from it the nervous disturbance originates.