

RUSSIA LAPSING INTO SAVAGERY?



The Skilled Workman Makes 60 Cents a Day
Long Reign of Terror Said to Have Blunted Nation's Sensibilities



Massacre of Jews at Odessa

WHAT could be more deplorable than for a nation, once having tasted the pleasure of high civilized development, to retrograde into a condition of dire savagery?
Can you imagine the United States, for instance, meeting such a fate?
True, the annals of antiquity recite some such instances, but few people would concede that they could be duplicated in this advanced age.

The whole world was surprised, a few years ago, when an educated African clergyman voluntarily renounced his culture, the Christian religion and the company of civilized people, went back to interior Africa, married a native wife and worshiped fire and idols.

How infinitely more wonderful the statement that a nation of 140,000,000 souls—a nation which civilized Europe has for centuries respected and dreaded—is on the verge of taking such a backward step in the scale of evolution.

No less an authority than Dr. Bilinski, who has traveled all over Russia, makes the startling statement that that nation is entering into decadence. Moreover, he brings testimony from his own observation to prove it. Other observers in Russia have arrived at the same conclusions.

Thousands of peasants have already been taken to the forests, relinquished their religion, moral laws, domestic methods, their love for the living and reverence for the dead. The only implement of civilization kept by them is the ax, and the possession of an ax is the greatest distinction that a man can gain.

From indications at present, wild nomads will at no far distant day charge over the snowy wastes where Cossacks now scatter terror and death.

Why this degeneracy? The answer may be found in a review of the massacres, the unchecked disease epidemics, the censorship, prevention of free speech and right of peaceful congregation—these and the many other indignities which have been heaped upon a long-suffering people.

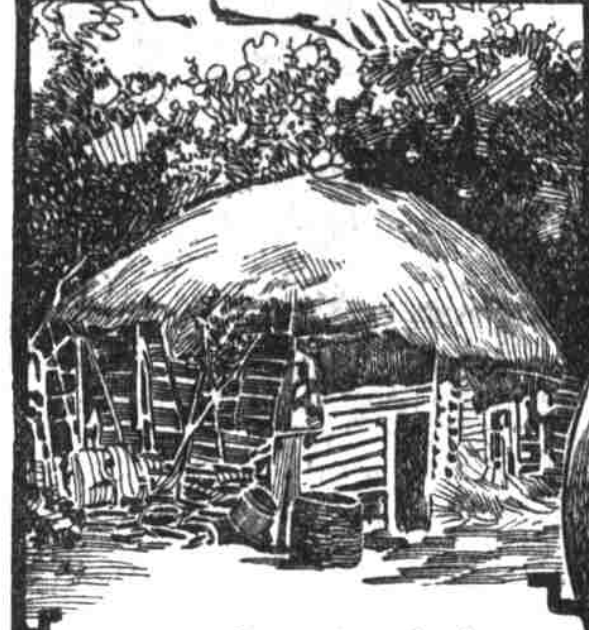
IGNORANCE IS GENERAL

It is not difficult to conceive of a law applying to nations; reason would sanction it even were not such examples as Bodom and Gomorrah to bear it out.
In order to realize how such a condition could come to pass in Russia, just consider that there are 112,000,000 of Russia's 140,000,000 inhabitants who cannot read or write. Ignorance is the chief cause of decadence. But there are other reasons almost as serious.
Dr. Bilinski says that in many of the parts where he traveled all appearances of material culture have disappeared from the homes of the peasants. In people retained the basic fundamentals for civilization which they would at least cling to the implements by which they might force from the soil a living.
The Russians, observers say, are deliberately desert-

ing their farm machinery, as well as household utensils and means of making clothing.
They were perhaps driven to it by the tax system. The tax collectors come around and gather in for the government everything of any value. Why work like slaves when they could have nothing left for themselves? This question the peasants answered by deserting their fields.
Some of them still reside in the old homes, but do not till the soil or make any improvements, and when the tax collectors come they flee to the woods like wild people. And such they are.
Maintaining huts just formidable enough to keep out the winter cold, they have no stoves, and do their baking—what little they do—over a fire on the floor.
Weeds and bark of trees are used in making bread, for wheat is scarcely cultivated in some sections. Often there is but a single sheepskin in a whole family for clothing, and the members take turns wearing it. Deaths from cold are frequent.
No effort at all is made to keep alive the little children that come into those fearful environments. If they happen to live very well, but not even an ordinary savage's parental feeling for them is manifest. Political despotism has killed all that.
After a child reaches the age of 7, then it is seriously regarded as an integral part of the community. Before that age they die off like flies.

BODIES THROWN TO BEASTS

Their bodies are buried without coffins; sometimes not buried at all, but are carried out a short distance from the settlements and thrown on the ground to make food for wolves and bears.
From this practice diseases arise which threaten to decimate the population.
No longer do many villages elect headmen and watchmen, and they pay no direct tax to the government. Marriage among them is obsolete.
In fact, the sensibilities of the people seem to be blunted by famine, oppression and reigns of terror.
It was stated some time ago that there were 20,000,000 people starving in Russia, so that it is little wonder that they go a step farther to savagery.
Is the government responsible, or are the people themselves to blame?
Just what share the Cossacks, representing the government, have had in the degrading work is seen in such instances as the destroying of the Georgians, a highly intellectual and noble race whose civilization dates back 1500 years.
For twelve centuries these people held the frontier of Christendom against the heathen Islam.
But Russia suspected them of being backed by England and Japan, and they were doomed. It was the cry of old Cato over again, "Carthage must be destroyed!"



Is this home conducive to Patriotism

Only in this instance it was Baku that must be destroyed.
"We are going to ruin you, to ruin you utterly," was the cheerful warning of the Russian officer to the heads of a Georgian village.
And they did.
This was just in line with Russia's policy to wipe out the Georgians. Is it any wonder that these people have been ebbing toward aboriginalism?
For months the people who were not massacred were compelled to stay in the forests, and since their return they have been living in any hut or shelter that they could find or build among the ruins of their erstwhile homes.
How far the methods of civilization have been shorn from the government is seen in the fact that within seven months there were 100 men and women hanged or shot under sentence of the military courts, and mostly within forty-eight hours of arrest.
No jury trial, no chance for appeal, not even time to make peace for the soul!
And during the same period 1242 government officials and members of the police and soldiery were assassinated by revolutionists.
The manner of executing men and women sentenced by summary proceedings has been such as to suggest a return to the primitive.
The executions never took place in the prisons or fortresses, owing to the disorder likely to be caused among the prisoners.
At midnight the doomed men were taken out to an

isolated railway station and, one after another, hanged to a tree. Those awaiting their turns must witness the agonies of their comrades.
When one will sell one's children to avert starvation, savagery doesn't seem a great way off.
That is what the peasantry in the district of Kazan were compelled to do in the recent famine. The ages of the girls sold ranged from 12 to 17, and the prices paid were from \$50 to \$75.
The fact that the soldiers and government officials are accountable, not to the people or the courts, but to their superior officers, largely explains the discouragement that has overtaken the peasantry.
Some time ago an officer commanded a soldier to murder a man; he did it. The facts were known and the murderer was arrested at any moment, but nothing was done—he was accountable only to the man who had given him the order.
For weeks after the dissolution of the first Duma, the people's legislative body, there was a carnival of crime, assassination and violence such as had never been witnessed before even in bloody Russia.
The seizing of the fortresses at Cronstadt and Helingsfors, attended as they were with awful slaughters; the



How the Government Inculcates Loyalty

when Senaide Konopliankovo was hanged for assassinating General Min. She died with a prayer on her lips for Russia.
Then there was the martyrdom of the Red Widow of the Russian Revolution, Frau Linda, who was the first to die when the governor at Reval gave his troops the order to fire on the striking army.
When universities are closed, as in St. Petersburg last year, because the student body was feared by the government, what is left but illiteracy and degradation?
Social life was completely interfered with by order of the police, one of which was that people must not congregate to play cards. These card parties were regarded as hatching grounds for conspiracy, so the police were instructed to break up the games.
There was an instance of a girl who happened to be standing peacefully by a window of a jail when a Cossack fired a bullet through her head.
"Murderer, you have killed a woman!" shouted one of her fellow-prisoners on a political charge.
"What was she standing there for?" brutally asked the soldier.
For this act the soldier was especially rewarded with a sum of money by the government.
Totally heartless have the peasants been driven by the indignities they have been forced to suffer. To show how heartless they became, one incident will suffice:
When a society was formed some time ago to kill off enemies, it was customary to pin to the lips of each corpse a paper setting forth the exact nature of the crime for which he was killed.
Is it any wonder that Russia is thought by many to be sinking into savagery?

Staggering Figures Furnished by Railways

NO MORE staggering figures can be imagined than those in connection with the world's railways, which have increased in the last few decades with almost incomprehensible rapidity.
Possibly the next great engineering marvel will be the linking of America and Asia by means of a railway and tunnel from Alaska, via Behring Straits, to Siberia.
The preceding generation might have considered the cost prohibitive—it is estimated at \$500,000,000. Not so the present generation of builders. For that amount represents no more than the cost of the Trans-Siberian Railway, to build which \$400,000,000 was expended, with another \$100,000,000 added almost immediately for improvement. It has 5842 miles of track, and during the war 95 locomotives and 45,000 freight cars were constantly employed on it.
Almost as long will be the Cape-to-Cairo line, which is now nearing completion. It will be 5700 miles between terminals. Already it carries 7966 miles of telegraph, comprising 30,720 miles of wire, and the total expenditure to date is \$128,513,020.
The highest bridge in the world links up this railway over the Zambesi Falls. It contains 1900 tons of steel and is 420 feet high, or 50 feet higher than St. Paul's, London. The whole of St. Paul's could be dumped into the chasm which it spans.
The world's longest passenger train is constructed on the railroad, representing a total value in hard cash of forty-three billion dollars. This estimate covers 150,000 locomotives, 225,000 passenger coaches, and 3,000,000 trucks for freight.

WORLD'S LARGEST STATION

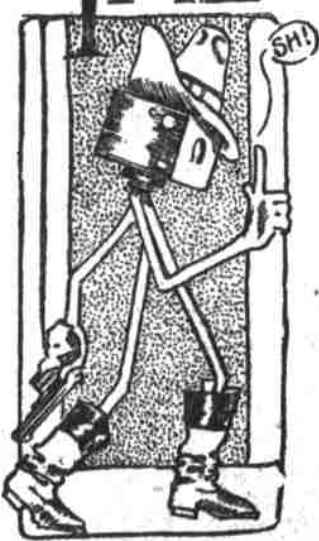
The largest station is now being built in Leipzig at a cost of \$10,000,000. It will be nearly 100 feet, and its thirteen platforms each over 1000 feet long. Its gigantic steel arches, each 140 feet wide, will span the platforms.
The longest tunnel is the Simpson, which crosses the Alps. It is 12 1/2 miles long and cost \$20,000,000. More than 100 lives were lost in its construction, which began in 1888. The highest railway ascends the Sierras, Peru. It tunnels the glaciers at a height of 15,945 feet—an elevation reached in the short distance of seventy-eight miles. In its building 8000 workmen were engaged at one time, and nearly 8000 died or were killed during the six years of its construction.
A railway up Mont Blanc will probably be the next great enterprise of this description. The French government has sanctioned a scheme to hold the passenger wheel will skirt the mountain's glaciers, crevasses, and precipices till it reaches the top—a height of 15,781 feet.
Probably the most luxurious train in the world belongs to the Kaiser. It cost \$1,000,000 and took three years to build. Its gorgeous saloons contain two nursery coaches—a gymnasium, a music-room and a treasure room. Oil paintings and statuary decorate the drawing room. The treasure room is constructed on the safe-deposit principle with two large burglar-proof safes. The crew of the train comprises several secretaries, six waiters, the household physician, many body servants and the imperial barber, valet and chef.
The fastest time ever made by train was attained on the Marienfeld-Dahlwitz Electric Railway, near Berlin. An electric motor-car, over 100 feet in length and weighing 95 tons, traveled at the rate of 130 miles an hour over a twenty-three-mile track. The only discomfort experienced by the passengers was the terrific noise, which resembled the clanging of 10,000 blacksmith hammers.
The world's long-distance record for speed is held by E. H. Harriman, who crossed the continent from the Pacific to the Atlantic, a distance of 3300 miles, within three days, thirty-three minutes, attaining a speed of eighty-three miles an hour over one track of 137 miles, and an average speed of sixty-six miles an hour.
The London suburban train is the fastest passenger record. They carry every year over 400,000,000 passengers. There are 531 stations in London, and there will be 600 when the new tubes are completed. The Central London tube alone carries 250,000,000 passengers a year. Between 9 A. M. and 10 A. M. every day 127,543 persons enter London by train.

He Saw the Fossils

AN AMUSING story is told by the London Express as follows:
A few years ago a young curate of rather an archeological turn of mind was visiting one of our fine cathedrals. On being told by a friend that there was a fine collection of old fossils to be seen in the Chapter House, he set off there without delay. Finding open the door, he found a venerable dean sitting in council.
In his surprise, he blurted out that he had been told that he would find there a fine collection of old fossils. The dean, appreciating this unintentional reference to himself and his colleagues, roared with laughter, and the curate retired much discomfited.

THE CAMERA AS A DETECTIVE

FOR thirty years there has been going on in Russia an economic decay which seemed to reach a climax when little Japan trounced the great but demoralized Bear.
That this decay extended to the social side of the empire was not so well known—or admitted.
Now, this condition has obtained a hold upon hundreds of settlements, which have totally lost their heritage of modernity and relaxed into one of the murky, unenlightened past.
America, after it had killed off a sufficient number of Indians, went to work with a will and civilized those that remained.
Russia had its Indians, too—the nomad Samoyeds who people the frozen plains within the Arctic Circle. Their borderland was the same as that which, in the pioneer days of this country, separated the civilized nation builders from their savage foe.
But the difference is that Russia, instead of civilizing the nomads, is permitting them to savage her—that is, according to the stories that come from the domain of the Bear.
There is a theory among evolutionists that if a man becomes unworthy of the plane of development upon which he has been placed he will be punished by being sent back—by having to start all over and work out his destiny anew.



LOOK UP FOR THE CAMERA MAN!

Should you ever anticipate committing a crime; should you ever feel an impulse to pay a visit to your friend while he is asleep at night; should you feel a desire to let your hand wander into the pocket of an acquaintance; should you cold-bloodedly prepare to sever the head from the body of an enemy, you had better pause and look about you.
Be sure that no one is about with a black, marocco-covered box. Otherwise, you may be haled into court and convicted.
RECENTLY a woman brought suit against her husband for divorce in a large city. She asked for big alimony, but produced little evidence about the misdemeanors of her spouse. However, she produced a photograph in court. The woman pictured there was not his wife. The wife won her case.
The camera has been used by Scotland Yard detectives in England for more than ten years. In this country, however, detectives have been rather slow to recognize the advantage of the irrefutable evidence of the sensitized plate. But within the last two years detectives have taken to the use of the camera and have accomplished remarkable results.
Have you ever seen the little pocket cameras which resemble a rather large cigar case? Well, if you should go home tonight, Mr. Business Man, and be indiscreet enough to kiss Betty, the French maid, don't forget that lurking nearby may be a detective in the employ of your suspicious wife who is waiting to "snap" you.
Wherever one goes he is likely to meet a man with a camera. The kodak fiend is ubiquitous. Therefore the detective who wishes to carry a camera will not likely arouse suspicion.
The camera has not been extensively used by the first-class detectives in America," said a prominent detective recently, "but it has been widely used by the bunco steers and blackmailers of the business. It has been used more than any one suspects."
There are innumerable cases where private detectives have tracked men and snapped them when they were in embarrassing positions and places. Sometimes such a picture is used in a divorce case by one of the parties. Again, it is employed to mace a man of money.
ROGUES AND THE CAMERA
"I know so-called detectives who make a business of snatching persons and getting pictures for this purpose. Bona fide detectives frown upon this, however, and use the camera only in the righteous cause of bringing criminals to justice."
A jury sometimes cannot be convinced by oral testimony or circumstantial evidence. But when one has a picture to produce, there can be no defense. A man cannot deny that.
Nothing has been a greater deterrent to crime than the "rogue" galleries. Here the camera has played an invaluable part in securing the capture of criminals and the decrease of crime.
When a man is arrested, his first trial is before the camera, and after that he is a marked man. His picture goes to almost every city in the country. Detectives

Workmen at Dinner, a typical Condition

sending to Siberia of 30,000 revolutionists as a result of opposition to the czar's forces; the robbing of national banks by revolutionaries—went a long way toward setting the people back into a savage state.
The frequent and terrible massacres of the Jews is known to every one. That these have demoralized the nation fearfully is granted everywhere.
The government's method of caring for the insane is to let them wander the streets clad in rags. Is it any wonder that this has had a demoralizing effect?
With men often chained and compelled to work beneath the earth's surface, thus dragging out a living death, the part that Siberia plays in a nation's fall is large.
It is said that a single minister of the interior during a short stay consigned 2000 people to that worst of torture places. Those who escape have nothing left but the life of the forest—brothers to the wild beasts.
What of a country which hangs young girls for participating in a revolution?
Such a hanging took place last year at St. Petersburg