

# VLADIVOSTOK NOW GREAT SLAV RUIN BOUND TO ARISE

### Seaport of East Siberia Is Focal Point of American-Asiatic Development to Come.

By Frederick McCormick (Copyright, 1921, by Frederick McCormick.) Vladivostok is the palm of the right hand of European civilization outstretched to America. It is thrust in the teeth of Asia, between Japan on the east and China on the west, ready to go broken into the maw of Asiatic life; and it is a mystery what can save it.

Vladivostok was intended as Russia's San Francisco. They were among the carbon points of our civilization lighting the way across the Pacific. Rolled on the tongue they matched in length and meter. Together they were nicknamed—"Frisco" and "Vlad." One did not excel the other for beauty of surroundings. Vlad rests near the end of a peninsula into which opens an arm of the ocean which Russia named the Golden Horn. Reaching back on either side to form the peninsula are Ussuri and Amur bays. In front spreads Peter the Great gulf, with America bay to the left and Posselt bay to the right. Behind rise protecting heights. Signal Hill overlooks this panorama; it can be called the center in the continental shore of the Sea of Japan. Nansen, who sailed across the Polar sea to East Siberia, and who traveled there and three years ago tried to feed starving Russians from the Baltic, stood here on the eve of the World war and said: "Perhaps in no distant future this may become the focus of great and important events." What happened must have astonished the prophet.

### A COLORFUL PLAN

When the New Englander wants to go to the center of things—"to see the animals"—he journeys to Boston. In East Siberia the native goes to Vladivostok, the only metropolis he can visit without making a 5000 or 6000-mile trip to Moscow or Petrograd, or crossing the Pacific. In extent it is compared with the District of Columbia. It is a city of strangers and of aliens. At the time of the foreign military occupation two years ago there were more foreign soldiers than Russians. There always are more Asiatics than civilians. And some of the guns were visible. The foreign hands—German, Japanese, American and, of course, British and French. Standing on Signal Hill the whole scene unfolds beneath. Toward the sea along both arms of the peninsula are the long lines of forts where for years some of the guns were visible. The mouth of the Golden Horn is guarded by fortified headlands and a fortified island. The minimum depth of the harbor is 35 feet and ships from the world's merchant fleets scatter themselves

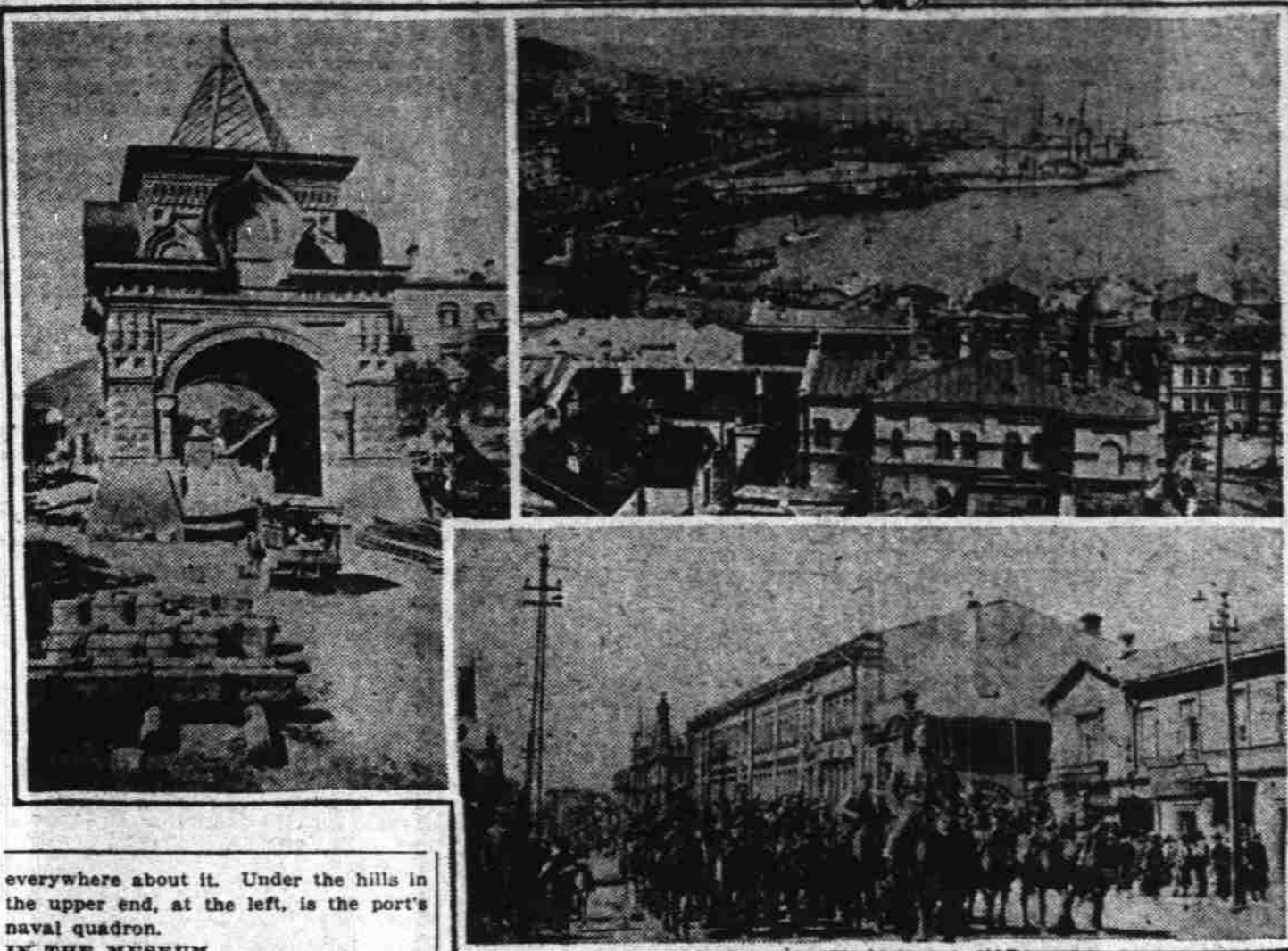
everywhere about it. Under the hills in the upper end, at the left, is the port's naval squadron.

### IN THE MUSEUM

There are two parks running along the waterfront. One near the naval port contains a monument to Nevelskoi, the Russian discoverer of the Straits of Tartary and the navigable entrance to the Amur river. Near the naval port is also a small museum. Among other things it contains one of the boundary stones of the empire of Genghis Khan, brought down from where it was erected by the Mongols at the watershed north of the Amur. I went to the museum and was told it was closed for repairs and no one could be allowed to go in. Tips open many doors in Russian lands and it opens this one which has been "closed for repairs" every time I have been here.

Vladivostok is the heir in turn of Okhotsk and Petropavlovsk, and of Nivolaivsk from which it received the admiralty in 1848. It is the heir of Port Arthur and Dainy. It is Russia's Pacific naval station. The year before the World war, improvements of the port were ordered involving three and one-half millions of dollars to be carried out beginning with an expenditure of \$850,000 the latter half of 1913. The docks were to be equipped with electric cranes and other cargo-handling apparatus costing two-thirds of this amount. When the war started Vladivostok had two dry-docks of 620 feet length each and was preparing to construct a quay 2121 feet

## RANDOM GLIMPSES OF VLADIVOSTOK



Scenes in Vladivostok. Left, monument commemorating visit of Nicholas II. Right, above, waterfront at Vladivostok. Below, troop parading the main street.

long, three jetties and a wharf, with timber, coal and fish depots to take care of these most important products of the East Siberian coast. There was a floating dock 400 feet long and three floating cranes of 50, 75, and 100 tons, and a floating dock in three sections, each 70 feet long, with a total lifting power of about 250 tons provided for.

### APPEARANCE DECEPTIVE

Four schools were maintained in Vladivostok—two one-grade schools for boys and two one-grade schools for girls. Vladivostokians speak of the "red" school and of the "green" school. They are two high schools which are kept going by the application of assessments on the families of the pupils. There is a Mennonite or Lutheran church and Vladivostok is the headquarters of a Russian Orthodox church mission whose missionaries work in about a dozen districts of the surrounding province among Korean Russians and natives.

There is an Oriental Institute here. For nearly 20 years I have been meeting its graduates in East Asia, young Russians who have learned Far Eastern

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## EX-TERRORIST NOW RULER OF TURKESTAN

(Continued From Page One)

signed every death warrant in those historical days which followed the assassination of Miesbach and the attempted assassination of Lenin.

There are various estimates about the number of executions which he ordered, but the soviet statistics gave 3000. That in itself is enough to send the shivers over one. Anyway, I could not locate him. He had dropped out of life at the Russian capital.

### FINDS PETERS

On my way south during a journey through the provinces I learned that he was in Tashkent, the capital of Turkestan. Arrived there, and established in a cold, miserable room at the only hotel. I inquired of the commandant about Peters. I found that Peters is virtually governor of Turkestan, with sweeping powers as a revolutionary official. I asked the commandant to call him on the telephone. He did not even try to disguise his astonishment. In another moment I was speaking to Peters. He said, "Well, well! How did you get to this part of the world? And did you come all alone? And what has become of Williams and Miss Beatty and Ramsey?"

He named all the old crowd of American reporters and added:

"I'll send a car right over; you come and take dinner with me and my wife."

### LEADER LOOKS OLDER

When the car arrived there were two young men from the extraordinary commission wearing the sinister-looking uniform of that institution. Everybody in the hotel came out to watch me being taken away, throwing me sympathetic glances, so I could tell they thought I was being arrested.

Peters lives in a very ordinary little

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cottage. A number of other officials were also living there. They all shared the dining room together, Peters and his wife having but one little bedroom to themselves.

When I got there several of them had already begun the meal, so we sat down at once. Peters had aged shockingly. I couldn't help but remark about his appearance and he explained that he had had typhus six months before and had never fully recovered. He cannot be over 30 and he looks 45.

### WIFE WAS TEACHER

Speaking of his health, he remarked: "Of course, I ought not to stay here; the climate is not good and there is too much work, but I am of that temperament that I do not like to begin anything that I am not able to finish. It will take another year at least to get Turkestan in running order."

He introduced me to Mrs. Peters. She is his second wife. The English wife divorced him about the time of the terror. The new Mrs. Peters was a bright, healthy looking person, with reddish hair and a quick smile. She had been a teacher in the old days.

He told me briefly what he had been doing since the graft. When things had settled down and the government had adopted a more conciliatory attitude it sent away most of the men who had made enemies because of their severity. Peters went to Siberia and then to the Caucasus.

### GRAFT EXPOSED

In fact, Lenin, who knew him since he was a boy and depended on him, sent him wherever work was difficult and where a firm hand was necessary, Peters said.

He was working that day on the data for a third great public trial. The first one had proved to be of great educational value. The trial of Tashkent is public and the whole population, so far as possible, attend. And those who do not attend at least discuss the affairs. The first case was concerning sabotage on the railways and the second was one about the bad management of a hospital. He explained:

"It wasn't so much the fact that we exposed the graft and the mismanagement; that was important, yes; but more so was the fact that the whole community discussed it and learned something about hygiene government and humanity."

## BOY AND GIRL GO ON TRIP TO SEE SIGHTS OF CITY

### Children of 11 and 13 Set Up Housekeeping in San Francisco; Romance Is Shattered.

By W. G. Cayce San Francisco, Cal., Aug. 20.—(I. N. S.)—Another youthful romance has been shattered.

Pretty 13-year-old Helen Davis is back in the olive orchard of her father's ranch at Oroville, and 11-year-old Lawrence Mahoney of the same town is telling his playmates about the "sights" he saw during his and Helen's brief five-day stay in "the city," which disappearance puzzled authorities throughout the state.

Helen and Lawrence have been friends for several years—went to school together, wandered together and manifested a high regard for each other. The lure to see the "wild things" (as they called them) of San Francisco caused them to carefully plan a visit to the city, unbeknown to their parents. They pooled their financial resources, totaling about \$20, and arrived here before they were missed from home.

Reaching San Francisco, Helen remembered some friends who lived at an elusive address, but she found they had either moved or she had the wrong street number, for they could not be located. Their only alternative was to take an apartment.

### STATEWIDE SEARCH

The absence of the children from their Oroville home was reported to the police of that city, and later the search spread over the state, and every police department had been notified of their disappearance. After five days of searching police officers here found them wandering about the Ferry building watching the boats come in.

The youngsters were taken to the Juvenile Detention Home and when questioned by the matron said they had left home "because we love each other." The matron also found by interrogation they had but 80 cents when found by the officer.

"It is not so much a case of love as it is of Helen being a 'big sister,'" said the matron at the Detention Home. "Helen has always treated Lawrence as her little brother, and, besides, Helen is a good cook."

### HAD GRAND TIME

"During their stay in San Francisco

### CARRIES PISTOL

Listening to Peters talk of these things and his enthusiasm for Lenin's plans of reconstruction, it seemed difficult to believe that he had ever been head of an organized terror.

Only once on my visit to Tashkent did I hear Peters say anything that suggested the days of the terror. He took up a pistol from the desk and, as he stuck it into his belt, he said to me:

"Did you ever use one of these?"

I replied, "I know how to shoot; but, of course, I never had to do it."

And he said:

"Well, I wish to God I never had!"

## Germany Trading With South America

(By United Press) Buenos Aires, Aug. 20.—The rapid increase in commerce between the Argentine and Germany is indicated by the fact that during the current month 13 vessels have cleared this port for Germany, with cargoes of wool, hides, corals and meats. It is learned that a majority of the new ships leaving Germany are destined for Buenos Aires to pick up cargoes of food products.

The children had a "grand" time, according to pretty Helen, who said they had been to two or three moving picture shows daily and otherwise enjoyed their time.

Lawrence was serious about his trip here and had tried to secure a "corner" and sell newspapers, but was told he was "too little."

Following their apprehension the parents of the children were notified and arrived in a short time to take them home.

When Helen's father arrived at the Detention Home with tears of gladness in her eyes she ran and threw her arms about his neck and declared she was "ready to go home to mother."

Germany Trading With South America



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