

REMARKABLE SECT

Russians in Manitoba Who Are Possessed of a Strange Craze.

Refuse to Use Lower Animals for Any Purpose and Place All the Burden of Labor Upon Their Men and Women.

Strange fancies sometimes take possession of religious sects, but the strangest of all is probably the distressing mania that has enthralled 5,000 Russian Doukhobors, who have located in western Manitoba, says a special to the New York Times from Yorktown, Manitoba. In the Swan river district the government is apprehensive for the remarkable craze that has taken possession of those colonists. A visit to the community showed that the sights, scenes and the horror depicted were almost beyond conception.

It is well known that the Doukhobors are adverse to shedding blood. This is the reason why they emigrated from Russia, and it is also the reason why the Canadian government exempted them from military duty as inducement for their location on the prairie lands of the west. As to what they should eat, this was purely a personal matter, but, as it appears, it was one of the features that was overlooked by the government that will cause immense trouble.

In this country a man may eat what he chooses, and if his religion dictates that he shall conform to a vegetable diet, such beliefs are respected. All night have been well had this state of affairs been confined to vegetarianism, but the Doukhobors religion does not appear to be a fabled product. It has been constantly undergoing changes. From the old that it was a sin to eat meat, it seems a long jump to reach the conclusion that it is wrong to eat animal products, but these people have gone on drinking milk, eating butter, cheese, eggs, etc., and the cows, geese and fowl are increasing and multiplying, and waxing fat, while the people are on the verge of starvation.

Having reached this absurd position, it was but a step to another and more ridiculous one. If it were wrong to eat the flesh of animals the same line of reasoning made it comparatively easy to condemn the use of leather harness made from the hides of God's creatures, and then followed the condemnation of wooden clothing, because wood grown on the bodies of sheep, which also belonged to the Lord. The next step was still more sweeping in its effect on their economic condition. It was to make servants of any of the lower animals, to use them for beasts of burden or for any other purpose.

They had the courage of their convictions, and at once turned out their horses, cattle and sheep, driving them to "God's Hill," to forage for themselves, placing all the burdens of farm life on their own shoulders. For all treading purposes, such as hauling heavy loads on wagons, men take the place of horses and oxen. Twelve or 14 men hitched to a plow suffice for this purpose, and it is the only method employed by them in the cultivation of the soil. Women, even, are employed in this manner, though when coming into town men only are seen hauling the wagons and luggies. Every day in the streets of Yorktown dozens of men may be seen drawing wagons, hauling what little produce they may have for sale, and carrying back to their farms flour and other necessities.

The Doukhobors are clad exclusively in cotton clothes and wear rubber boots or shoes knit or woven with bender twine, which they lay for the purpose. Their food consists of bread and water, and such vegetables as they grow, and wild berries and herbs which they gather. Their farms are neglected and their stock, of which they have much, is running wild in the hills, where it will all die during the winter, or be appropriated by those who are not of their religious faith, and who will at least give the stock shelter.

With the advent of cold weather starvation and disease must certainly follow, and they appear to know this for they have been in correspondence with authorities in southern California, Nevada, Arizona and Australia, with a view to emigration to a warmer climate where the conditions would enable them to subsist on the soil without trespassing on the possessions of the animal kingdom. It is needless to say that no one wants them, as they are still in Manitoba, an elephant on the hands of the government that brought them from Russia a few years ago to develop the prairie land of the west.

Feminine Ignorance.

"It's only a matter of time," remarked the shoe-clerk boarder, who reads the scientific page in a household magazine, "until all our engines and that sort of thing will be run by heat drawn from the sun."

"What will become of the poor farmers when that time arrives?" asked the girl with the lemon-colored hair, who presides over the ribbon counter between meals.

"The farmers?" queried the shoe after the manner of a person

PALACE CARS FOR HORSES.

Animals Traveling by Rail Have Fine Accommodations—"Double Deckers" for Sheep and Hogs.

American railroads have almost as many different kinds of cars for carrying animals as they have cars for passengers.

One kind of car that is used for shipping horses is known technically as a palace horse car, and, excepting for fine woodwork and brasswork, it is a palace car, giving horses fine accommodations.

Each horse has his own stateroom, so to speak, for the car is fitted with independent stalls. Each stall has manger and water trough, overhead racks for holding extra feed.

Sheep and hogs are often carried in cars with two stories. These are known as double-deckers, and the animals are shipped in both stories. They have room to lie down in and water is supplied to them from pipes.

Horses and cattle are sidetracked at intervals if the cars are making a long run, and the animals are led out and allowed to run around for exercise. Then they are driven back to their cars and resume their journey.

Sheep are often unloaded within a few miles of their destination and turned loose to rest and feed until they are in good flesh. This is not done merely from motives of humanity. It has been found that the sheep are so much improved by it that they bring higher prices when they reach the market.

GEMS IN UNITED STATES.

One Regard in Which Our Natural Resources Are Deficient—Fine Stones Scarce.

"It is a little strange," said Irving L. Russell to a Washington Post reporter, "that the United States, so far ahead in national resources of every other part of the globe in all essential things, should be so deficient as a producer of precious stones. I am of the opinion that there will be a big discovery some day of the most valued gems, probably in some out of the way corner of the land."

"I do not mean to intimate that we are exactly destitute of fine stones, but that those found are mostly of inferior quality as compared with the output of the old mines. In North Carolina a good many emeralds and rubies and sapphires are to be had, but they are of not sufficient value to warrant cutting. Some very fine pearls have been taken out of the shells piled up in the streams of Arkansas, and at one time the search for them down there amounted to a craze. Pearls, by the way, have gone up in price from 200 to 300 per cent. in recent years."

"A great many semi-precious stones are mined in California, the turquoise found out there being especially beautiful, but lacking in hardness. Tourmalines also come from California in abundance."

PROSPERITY'S BAROMETER.

Salesman Says the Common Paper Bag the Grocers Use Is Reliable Trade Index.

"The paper bag, the kind the grocers use, you know, is the best barometer for registering the rise and fall of general prosperity," said the city salesman the other morning. "I have been selling paper bags for 26 years, and can refer to my old order books and tell you just about how much money there was in general circulation at any time since I have been totting that old paper case about the city."

"In 26 years I have closely watched the sales, and I want to say that I am selling bigger bags to grocers now than ever before. Along about 1891, and for three or four years afterward one pound and two pound bags were the most used. I now sell ten times as many eight pound bags as I did even six or seven years ago."

"You see, it stands to reason that when people have little money they will buy their groceries in small amounts. When there is plenty of money people buy more at a time. Of course, when the larger paper bags are sold it means that I won't sell so many of them, for people don't trot to the groceries so often."

Convict's Discovery.

Several months ago a man named Kurzpeski, having committed a serious offense, was sentenced to a long term of imprisonment in Germany, and since then the public heard nothing about him until the other day, when the news spread that he had discovered a cure for consumption which he claimed was infallible. In a letter to the minister of the interior, Kurzpeski gave a glowing account of the new remedy, stating that it had worked wonders on himself and others who are imprisoned with him at Luneburg, and requested to be set at liberty for a time in order that he might continue his investigations in a properly equipped laboratory. With this request the minister has not yet seen fit to comply, but he has thought the matter of such importance that he has instructed a committee of scientists to go to Luneburg and make a thorough test of the alleged remedy.

FEW BOGUS SILVER COINS.

The Reason for Scarcity of Counterfeit Dollars Given by Government Detective.

A bank cashier of long experience stated recently that fully one-half of the silver dollars in everyday circulation were counterfeit. He declared that as there was only a little more than 50 cents' worth of silver in a dollar counterfeiters were making them of the exact purity and fineness of dollars coined by the government. The bank clerk said that the makers were clearing about 25 cents upon each dollar made. This story went the rounds of the newspapers and was believed by most people, says the Kansas City Star.

Thomas R. McManus, the government's secret service operator here, whose business it is to know all about counterfeit money, said:

"I read that statement when it was printed. It was too ridiculous for serious attention by experts, but as it was believed by a great many people it might be worth while to say that of every 100,000 silver dollars in circulation not more than one is a counterfeit with any percentage of silver in it. It is true that a man could make a dollar with the same amount of silver in it that the government puts in and make a good profit on it if he could pass it, and many people wonder why it is not done more than it is."

"The reason is very simple. All government coins are stamped out of sheets of cold metal. This gives the coin a clearness and sharpness of line that could never be approached in a coin made of molten metal run in a mold. An expert can tell at a glance a coin that has been run in a mold, because the metal does not fill out the lines and corners. So, as a first proposition, your successful counterfeit of coins must first set up machinery that would stamp the coins out of cold metal."

"A plant of this kind would cost so many thousands of dollars that no man with that much money would think of investing it in so risky a business. That is preventive No. 1. The second is that such machinery in operation, if located in a city, would make the building and be so noisy that it would soon be discovered. It would be out of the question to operate such a plant in the country, of course. Inquisitive people would soon nose it out, and the government's operators would soon pounce upon it. So, in brief, I've told you why the bank cashier's story was a very silly one. You can add, to give it further effect, that an expert can detect a counterfeit silver coin the moment he sees and touches it."

MONT PELEE'S OBELISK.

Changes in the Crater Which Belched North Destruction on the City of St. Pierre.

Were a less reputable person to tell the story about Mont Pelee which Prof. Angelo Hellprin gave to Philadelphians recently, it would be received with skepticism. This well-known geologist had just returned from a two months' visit to Martinique, and he described recent changes in the volcano which destroyed the city of St. Pierre, states the New York Tribune. From the crater at the summit, he says, has been forced upward a column 840 feet high and about 300 feet through at the base. A small portion of the movement here recorded was observed by Prof. Hellprin himself. Within four days there was an elevation of 21 feet. At that time, however, the process of extrusion was apparently going on more slowly than before, and perhaps was nearly ended. There then stood in the small basin of the crater a mass twice as high and four times as thick as the Washington monument.

For what he regards a practically unique phenomenon in the history of volcanoes Prof. Hellprin offers a partial explanation. He attributes it to the same internal stresses which elsewhere force out molten lava. In this instance, he thinks, the material had had a chance to cool sufficiently to be solid, when it emerged. Credible as is this supposition, it does not answer all of the questions which suggest themselves. Why, for instance, has the direction of the movement been so nearly vertical? Why did not the mass lean over like the tower of Pisa? How long had the outward manifestation been going on? And how long will it continue? To the last of these problems the Philadelphia geologist replies that time only can tell.

Between the gradual and possibly quiet manner in which this development has occurred and the explosive effects observed at Pelee last year one cannot fail to notice a contrast. It will be remembered, too, that no lava at all was ejected in 1902. Only ashes, rocks, steam and gas were reported then. Still, even if it did not reach the surface at that time, it is not unlikely that there had been a welling up of lava from low levels in the earth's crust. To the meeting of such a substance, intensely heated, with a supply of water is commonly assigned the sudden and awful violence of volcanic eruptions. A want of harmony in observed facts might possibly be accounted for if the scene of greatest activity were well below the surface.

A recognized authority—The Weekly Oregonian.

MORE ELECTRIC LINES.

Battle of Right-of-Way in Walla Walla County Begun.

Walla Walla, Or., Sept. 7.—The Oregon Railroad & Navigation company has at last unmasked its batteries and inaugurated a strenuous campaign against the men who are endeavoring to open up Walla Walla and Union counties by construction of electric roads. Two independent electric companies have been organized here by the O. R. & N. people to take possession of the long-neglected field and build lines to connect with the railroad terminus at Elgin and tap the inland via the Grand Ronde river route.

The force of workmen of the Harriman company at Elgin has been increased, and rails are being laid. H. F. Connors, an attorney for the O. R. & N. Co., and P. A. Worthington arrived here this morning, en route for Joseph, to assist W. H. Morrow in securing rights of way to the point, the proposed terminus in Walla Walla county.

Activity of the Harriman people has gradually increased ever since W. J. Cook, backed by Portland people, came here two months ago to promote an electric road from Elgin to Joseph, and

began securing rights-of-way over ground surveyed by the O. R. & N. five years ago and abandoned.

As fast as Cook gave bonds for deeds to the land owners for right of way the railroad company's agent followed up and secured deeds to the same land by giving indemnity bonds to the farmers. An injunction was secured by the company against Cook, restraining his men from grading on the route, and the railroad company immediately began fencing the right of way.

Since that time Mr. Cook has been working on a new route with a view to gaining an outlet from the Walla Walla country to the Columbia river, and it is said he is on the eve of accomplishing this purpose.

It is now a race between the Cook forces and the O. R. & N. to secure first entry into the Lake Joseph region and get control of the business. It is believed the railroad company will be forced to go ahead and build a railroad this time or lose its opportunity.

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