

# Russia of Today



Russian School Girls of Today.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

**L**ITTLE has been noticed of the real test which is going on inside Soviet Russia in recent years because the clamor of theory and proclamations has filled the ears of the world. Theories have been meeting individualism which is so universal in humanity, unwritten rules of life and trade which have developed through the ages, and world laws which centuries have formulated for nations.

Russia is the world's largest country, stretching across two continents, and when theory and practice reach a balance, the test of a new system of government will have world-wide effect.

Politically, it is divided into six constituent republics; they in turn comprise 33 autonomous units, each differing ethnologically and culturally. Most of them have their own language, their own customs and costumes, and the babel of tongues becomes even greater from the tribes who are as yet too backward for self-government.

Cities and villages string along the railroads and rivers over all that vast territory. As one rides over the Siberian steppes the plains seem unending. Then a peasant's cart is seen in the distance, the invariable dog trotting behind. Soon appear other carts, all going in the same direction.

Then a village of log houses, with perhaps a public building and a departed aristocrat's brick house, always painted white, and the ever-present church, with its five Turkish-shaped towers, the large one in the center for Christ and the smaller ones on the corners for the four Gospels. The train vanishes again over the unending plains, varied only by stretches of forest or hills, which seem to come and go as suddenly as the villages.

**Moscow a Huge Village.**  
Moscow, metropolis and capital of Russia, is the largest village in the world. Moscow has its trolley cars, electric lights, tall buildings, theaters, stores, motor buses, and other outward metropolitan manifestations, but at heart it is a village. Leningrad, Odessa, and even some of the cities of the interior have an appearance and an atmosphere of western Europe; Moscow is the heart of Russia and it changes slowly.

Its brick and stone are a mosaic of the Russian spirit—stolid, unsmiling, unpolished, and slow to change. Even the unpainted log houses of the peasant villages seem to reflect age and durability.

Moscow is sprinkled with what is new, but everywhere it speaks of age, from the weather-beaten walls of the Inner City to battlemented monasteries on the outskirts. Broad thoroughfares radiate from its center, but around each corner the streets are narrow, with sidewalks no wider than footpaths.

Fires have wiped it away, invaders, from Tatars to Napoleon, have destroyed it, governments have come and gone, but Moscow, stubborn and dull, has persisted. It symbolizes Russia.

It is only a step from Moscow, overcrowded and teeming with its peoples of many races, with rules for every movement and police to enforce them, into the wild, wide-open spaces. Wolves and bears still roam in the Moscow district, and when the dull winter dusk comes at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and the country is under its white mantle of snow, hunger drives them to prey on mankind.

In daylight hours a constant human stream jostles through the towered Iberian gate in Moscow in the wall between the Red Square and the Place of the Revolution outside the Kitala God (Fortified City). Men in sheepskin coats, the greasy leather outside and the fur inside; clerks in glossy leather jackets; officials with beaver collars, brief cases under their arms; women in felt boots; girls in slippers, with bundles, babies, and carts, were tramping through the slush, for this was a winter evening.

Between the gates in the center of the road is a shrine and inside the wall a church. The faithful pause and

make the sign of the cross as they pass. Others enter. Patriarchal, bearded beggars, hands outstretched, stand at the doors.

### Beggars and Robber Gangs.

Begging is a lucrative profession in Moscow except for the few days of sporadic police round-ups. Beggars are of all types and both sexes, from infants who toddle underfoot while an older head directs them from the sidelines, to husky rascals faithful to a vow of "I won't work."

Differing from the whining beggars are the 200,000 to 300,000 homeless children, pariahs of the social order, ragged, sooty-faced from sleeping in the embers of street repair gangs' furnaces, dirty, diseased, dope-poisoned, and desperate. They run in packs.

A gang straggles through the gate, hugging the curb, eyes alert, the world a potential enemy, its plan of action decided. The leader grabs a woman's handbag, a man's fur cap, and overturns an unwary peddler's basket of apples. The basket is picked clean, and with wild screams the gang is gone, scattering through the streets, policemen and pedestrians in vain pursuit.

In several cities homes are maintained by the government for these young vagabonds—heritage of war and revolution, but augmented every month by wanderlust—with baths, clean coats, clothes, food, and a caretaker to give them instruction and advice. Personal liberty goes amiss with this social group, too young to appreciate civic responsibility even if they had been taught it. Police and social workers periodically round up the wild, untamed children and put them in the homes.

The crowds elbow through the white-painted brick gates, in and out of the Red Square, between a gauntlet of vendors. Baskets and clumsy little wagons are on the curb; also flabby, brown, frozen apples for a cent and fat ones, carefully sheltered under blankets, for 40 cents; stands of cigarettes, each with one and a quarter inches of tobacco and three inches of paper mouthpiece; oranges for 70 cents; cheeses, cut and weighed while you wait; candies collecting dust; dried sunflower seeds, two cents a glassful.

### Phases of the Social Movement.

The goal which Soviet Russia has set is to industrialize the country until it can supply its domestic needs. It will then be independent of the outside world. The United States is taken as a model, not the countries of Europe, which have developed industry by colonies and foreign trade. Until that goal is reached, or abandoned, no wars of Russia's making need be anticipated.

The social movement in Russia may be divided into three phases: First, to arouse the workers to a revolution; second, to instill the idea in their minds that they were the rulers of the country; third, to impress them that they must produce.

The third stage has now been reached. More and more emphasis is laid on the fact that the worker must produce results and devote less time to theorizing and talking. Stalin recently in one of his rare speeches declared too much time was given to celebrations, meetings, and anniversaries. As practical illustration he cited that the marketing of the grain was costing 13 kopecks a pood when it should cost 8.

When summer comes, the face of nature changes like the spirits of the volatile people. Daylight, which faded into the winter gloom at 2 o'clock, tints the cloudless skies until 10 at night. Dusty roads which were lost under the drifting snows are stirred by travelers, nature smiles, and the lonesome stretches where the wolf packs howled are green and flourishing.

The queues which shivered in front of the bathhouses—"the neatness of Moscow citizens is characterized by eight or nine washing parties a year," says the economics department—are gone and every watercourse is lined with bathers in the garb of Adam and Eve.

## Improved Uniform International Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Dean of Day and Evening Schools, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)  
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### Lesson for February 6 THE PRACTICE OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

LESSON TEXT—Matt. 25:14-30.  
GOLDEN TEXT—Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.  
PRIMARY TOPIC—The Story of the Three Servants.  
JUNIOR TOPIC—Three Stewards and How They Kept Their Trust.  
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—What It Means to Be a Steward.  
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Scope and Spirit of Christian Stewardship.

Stewardship here includes oneself and substance. Stewardship in money is only a small part of our responsibility. This parable like that of the ten virgins is associated with the second coming of Christ. In both instances the unpreparedness for His coming on the part of the people is exhibited. In that of the ten virgins their unpreparedness consisted in their failure of inward life—absence of the Holy Ghost. In this of the talents it consisted in their failure to properly use the gifts which had been entrusted to them. The first was failure to watch; the second was failure to work. By talents is meant whatever gifts and powers one possesses as gifts from God, whether of nature or grace, such as strength, reason, energy, knowledge, influence, time, money, ability to speak, sing, etc.

#### I. The Distribution of the Talents (vv. 14, 15).

1. It was a sovereign act. He called his own servants and distributed to them his own money. As the One who created us and absolutely owns us, He has assigned us our places and given us our several powers, intending that we put them to the best possible use.

2. It was an intelligent act. "According to his several ability." The God who made us knew our ability to use gifts, therefore has made the distribution upon that basis.

3. It was a purposeful act. The talents were given to be traded with. They were not given to be used for one's own gain and profit, but as stock in trade for the enrichment and glory of the Master.

#### II. The Employment of the Talents (vv. 16-18).

1. All the servants recognized that the talents were not their own—that they were responsible to the Lord for the use made of them.

2. Two servants used their talents. The five-talented man put his to use and gained five more. The two-talented man put his to use and gained two more. This shows that God's gifts can be increased. The exercise of any gift increases it. The faithful use of what we have in the place we are will prepare us for greater usefulness and honor.

3. The one hid his talent. The fact that one possesses but one talent should not discourage him, but should make him strive harder. God does not reward according to what we possess, but according to our faithfulness. The crime of the one talented man was not that he had but one talent, but that he hid the talent which the Lord gave him.

#### III. The Accounting for the Talents (vv. 19-30).

1. Its certainty. There is a day coming when we all must give an account of our stewardship.

2. The time. This will be at the coming of the Lord. If we have done well, we shall then have praise. If we have been unfaithful, we shall then be cast out from the presence of the Lord.

3. The judgments announced.  
(1) Reward of the faithful. (a) Praise—"Well done." We all like to be praised. From childhood on through life commendation is pleasing. (b) Promotion—"Be thou ruler over many things." Promotion is desirable to all. (c) Entrance upon the joy of the Lord. The five talented man and the two talented man received the same praise and the same promotion.

(2) Punishment of the faithless. The one talented man lied when brought to account. The talent when dug up was not the same as when it was buried—it was not of the same weight. Gifts unused are lost. (a) Reproach—he was called slothful and wicked. To be called lazy is a reproach which even the lazy man dislikes. (b) Stripped—the talent which was given to him was taken from him. (c) Cast out—he was condemned on his own ground. The very fact that he knew the character of the Lord should have been an incentive for him to have exerted himself.

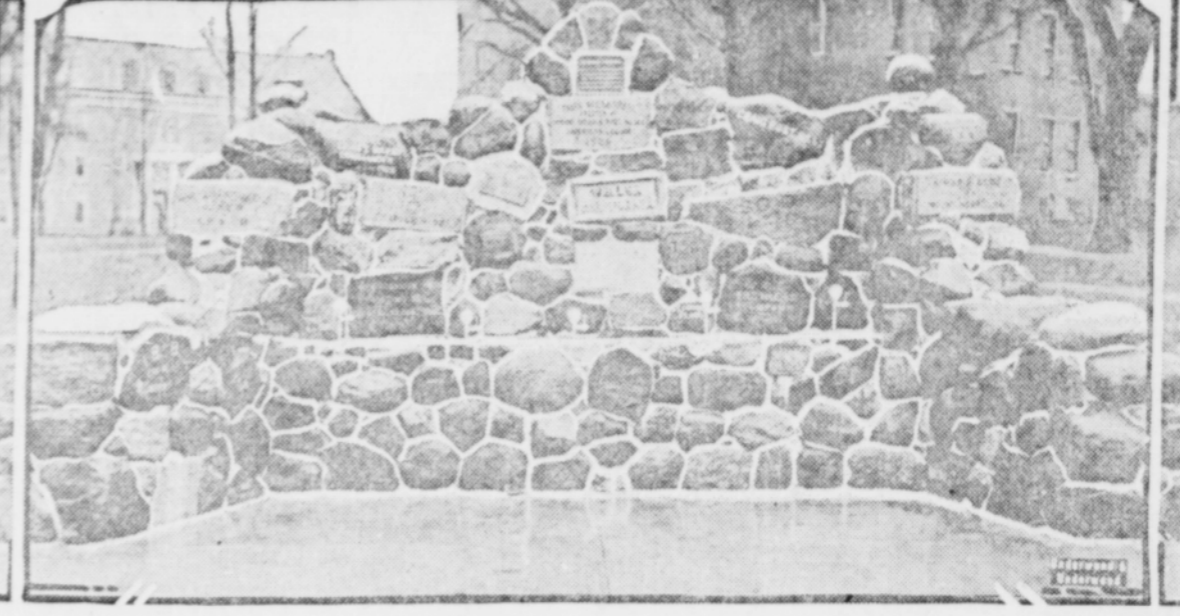
#### The Human Brain

Man's brain, which has been under observation and investigation for 25 centuries, contains 9,300,000,000 cells, according to Dr. C. Judson Herrick, president of the department of psychology of the University of Chicago.

#### Proverb Corrected

The old proverb about having too many irons in the fire is an admirable old lie. Have all in, shovel, tongs and poker.—Adam Clarke.

## Unique War Memorial in an Illinois Town



Unique among memorials of its kind is this fountain recently dedicated by the American Legion post of Mount Morris, Ill., to the memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice in behalf of their country. Every state in the Union and Legion posts abroad contributed each a stone, more than 250 being procured, carrying the names of the donors. The work of construction was performed by service men.

## Dreyfus Is Now Living in Peace

### "Bordereau" Case, Involving French Officer, Shook Nation Generation Ago.

Paris.—Twenty years have gone by since Alfred Dreyfus, condemned by a court-martial in Paris in December, 1894, to spend the rest of his life in Devil's Island for alleged treason, resumed his place in civilized society, his rank in the army and his status as a free man innocent of the charge leveled against him.

Today Lieutenant Colonel Dreyfus, retired, wearing in his lapel the rosette of commander of the Legion of Honor, is living the quietest kind of a life in a sumptuous apartment in the Parc Monceau quarter with his wife, who stood by him when half of France was howling for his blood. He receives few visitors. "Tiger" Clemenceau, France's organizer of victory, is perhaps the last survivor of this courageous group who defended Dreyfus a generation ago.

Maitre Labori, the lawyer who acted as his counsel at the peril of his own life; Emile Zola, the novelist who went to prison for his part in the defense; Colonel Picquart, who risked his career for taking the part of the accused officer, and Juarez, the great Socialist orator who stirred the chamber of deputies and the country by impassioned appeals, are dead.

Stirred Whole Nation.  
For twelve years this man stirred French passions to depths such as the country had not known since the revolution. The "affaire Dreyfus" dominated every aspect of public life. It caused governments to topple and made France almost a nullity in the political history of Europe. It led to a recrudescence of royalism which threatened the life of the republic. Political parties were divided and families were split. Several persons lost their lives in the almost daily clashes between the factions into which the nation was divided.

Previous to his arrest as a traitor Captain Dreyfus was merely an obscure staff officer, disliked in the army because he was a Jew. He was born in Mulhausen, in Alsace, in 1859 and was twelve years old when the armies of Kaiser Wilhelm's grandfather swooped down over the Rhine and incorporated Alsace and Lorraine in the newly born German empire. His parents sacrificed their patrimony rather than live under German rule. Young Alfred was just old enough to remember and was one of the many thousand Alsaticans who swore never to rest until the lost provinces were restored to France.

Nevertheless he was not popular in the military academy of St. Cyr, always because of his religion and race. "Bordereau" Comes to Light.  
In the fall of 1894 a document, known later as the "Dreyfus bordereau," or memorandum, supposed to have been mysteriously stolen from

## LAST OF THE SIDEWHEELERS AT MEMPHIS IS DESTROYED

### Flames End Career of Kate Adams, Sole Survivor of Type on Lower Mississippi.

Memphis, Tenn.—Flames ended the romantic career of the Kate Adams, majestic river steamer here, and removed from the lower Mississippi the last sidewheeler to ply the great stream in southern waters.  
The "Kate," as she was familiarly called, beloved of river folk and pet of plantation workers along her course, perished as two of her predecessors of the same name before her and left a ruin of twisted metal beams at the water's edge, to mark her final anchorage. The cause of the fire was undetermined. She burned quickly, and some of the crew had narrow escapes. To plantation people, white and negro alike, the Kate was a living creature, whose sonorous whistle, audible as far as twenty miles inland, was the signal of joyous cries. Straightening from their tasks at the sound of the boat's melodious call, the black cotton pickers with grinning faces would shout across the field: "Yer comes de lovin' Kate!"  
As the palatial two-stacker, trailing black smoke in twin clouds nosed toward her landing with passengers and cargo, inhabitants of the little river communities would turn out as for a holiday.  
The Kate was built in 1898 and until 1922 was a mail boat. For 15 years she ran twice a week from Memphis to Arkansas City, and her reputation for clock-like regularity became traditional.  
In the last few weeks of her service the film producers of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" leased her for use in their movie scenes.  
The boat was 240 feet long, with a 50-foot beam, and was valued at \$125,000, but river experts said she could not be replaced for less than twice that amount. A small part of the loss was covered by insurance.  
The Kate Adams was owned by the Delta Packet company of Pittsburgh, of which Capt. Tom Reeves is president. Except for two years in service on the Upper Ohio river, which ended early last fall, the steamer was operated on the lower Mississippi and its tributaries. She was built at Jeffersonville, Ind.

## Housewives Dump Clams in Cellars to Catch Mice

Portland, Maine.—Mrs. O. W. Creamer of Cushing, Maine, left a basket of clams in her cellar overnight. Next morning she found three dead mice held firm and fast between the shells of as many clams. Mrs. Creamer told her neighbor and the neighbor obtained similar results. Now all the Cushingites whose homes are troubled with mice are putting clams on their trail and the mouse-trap business is experiencing a slump.

## Automatic Bank for German Children



Children making deposits in one of the automatic banks that have been installed in many of the German schools. Each child has a card on which his ten-pennig deposits are recorded. When these amount to one mark the city savings bank gives him credit in a regular bank book.