

PEASANTS HIT SOVIET LAWS

Feelings Shown in Attempts of Greeks and Others to Leave.

Moscow.—The attempts of Germans, Greeks and other minority people resident in the Soviet Union to migrate abroad en masse is one of the strangest and least expected consequences of the government's aggressive policy toward the peasantry.

In some ways it has proved the most embarrassing of those consequences for the Soviet leaders. The attempts, like the spread of malaria and typhoid, are a constant reminder to the officials, here an expression of desperate opposition by a section of the peasant population to the collectivization policy and the vigorous methods of grain purchase.

Migrations New Problem. But whereas violence can be met with ruthless official counter-violence, the migrations presented a new and puzzling problem. Moreover, these minority peoples naturally aroused the sympathy of their blood brothers abroad and gave the problem an international political turn.

The Soviet drive against the better-to-do peasant households hit the German farmers in Siberia, the Volga region and Crimea especially hard, because the general level of prosperity was considerably higher among them. The same applies to a certain number of Greek tobacco planters in the Caucasus and Crimea.

It is estimated that some 13,000 peasants of German origin recently concentrated near Moscow in the hope of leaving the country. The authorities blocked the arrival of other thousands, otherwise the number might have grown to 25,000 or more.

However, it is still an extremely small fraction of the total German population in Russia, which, according to the last census, exceeded 1,300,000.

The attempted migration, in other words, may be taken as a form of resistance on part of the upper layer of German peasantry.

Seat of Trouble. There was a considerable proportion of poor and middle-class persons among them, just the primary impetus, most unbiased observers agree, came from the so-called "kulaks," or richer peasants. True, by comparison with American or German farmers, many of these richer peasants do not deserve the designation. The economic policy here, however, is necessarily based on local rather than international comparisons.

The principal thing which commentators abroad seem to have overlooked in this German situation is that their plight is not the result of a special policy against German or other foreign colonists. It is part and parcel of the entire agrarian policy, which hits certain peasant elements alike whether they be Russians or Germans or Jews.

You Can Cable Around World for \$1 a Word

London.—A message can be sent from London round the world by cable in an hour for one dollar a word. The time needed might even be less than 60 minutes.

Officials of the Imperial and International Cable company have outlined the course such a message would follow. The cable would leave London, and travel to Halifax where it would be flashed across North America to Vancouver. From there it would travel under the sea to Sydney, rush by land to Adelaide, call at Perth, visit Cocos, Durban and Cape Town, and then return to London via St. Helena, Ascension Island and St. Vincent.

The message might travel also by two other routes. It could go from London to New York and San Francisco and thence to Manila, Hong Kong and Singapore. From Singapore it would visit Ceylon, the Red sea, Alexandria and return to London via the Mediterranean, or it might travel by way of Port Darwin and join up with the second route at Singapore.

The message may be written in any language and the sender can select any one of three routes.

Plate and "Window Glass" Glass is made in two ways. One by blowing, the other by rolling. The blown glass, known as "window glass," is not always uniform in section, may contain imperfections, bubbles, sand marks, streaks, warped surfaces and is graded accordingly.

Plate glass is free from the imperfection of warpage, objects seen through it are not distorted. It is more costly. Single-strength window glass may be used for small panes and storm sash. Light-weight plate glass one-eighth-inch thick is recommended for small windows.

Indians' Poisoned Arrows The bureau of ethnology says that the arrow poison used by the Indians was of vegetable and animal origin. Among the vegetable poisons there were the sap of the yucca angustifolia, a preparation of acouate, and a plant called mogo, the milk of which was poison. Some tribes, such as the Shoshoni and Bannock Indians, secured a deer and caused it to be bitten by a rattlesnake. The deer was then killed and allowed to rot. Then the arrows were dipped into the putrid matter.

Desert Aster a Beauty In Painted canyon is found the desert aster—superior one of all western composites bearing the much-used name of "aster"—lavender-rayed, with yellow center, and two or three inches across. And with enough irregularity to give it an air which we can only satisfactorily describe as chic. It is a perennial, with a low woody base, a generous annual growth of slender herbaceous branches, and a liberal dower of foliage.

PIONEER FERTILIZER MINED ON BARREN LANDS IN CHILE

Introduction to the United States in 1930 Marked the First Use on Farm Lands.

New York.—The first hundred years in the use of commercial fertilizers can now be recorded in the agricultural history of the United States.

The practice of using a mineral fertilizer was started in 1830 when the first shipment of nitrate of soda was brought to this country. Up to that time only lime and marl of the inorganic substances now commonly used for agricultural purposes were known to the early farmers. Used continuously since that time, nitrate of soda is now recognized as the oldest of the present-day commercial fertilizers.

Although nitrate of soda has become a commonplace article on farms throughout the country, it is not generally known that one of the romances of modern civilization is woven around this fertilizer. It is a product of a barren desert, high in the Andes mountains of northern Chile. There is no rain or vegetation in the entire nitrate zone, which occupies a region nearly as large as the combined area of New York and Pennsylvania. Not a blade of grass springs from the soil, beneath which is one of the most important fertilizing compounds known to nature.

The nitrate ore is found at various depths below the surface, the average being about three feet. It varies in richness from 5 to 70 per cent sodium nitrate. Open-cut mining is practiced in removing the ore, after which it is transported to a refining plant erected nearby on the desert. The refining of the ore is an extremely technical process. The objective of the operations, however, is to remove the impurities from the ore and to concentrate the sodium nitrate so that when ready for shipment the fertilizer contains 96 to 99 per cent sodium nitrate and analyzes 15.5 per cent nitrogen. Iodine, which is also present in the ore, is a by-product of the refining process. Small quantities of this element are found in the fertilizer, as are also traces of boron and magnesium.

Conservative estimates by geologists and engineers in Chile indicate that the deposits are of sufficient size to supply the needs of the world for generations to come.

Will Fly Airplanes to Next Passion Play Oberammergau, Germany.—For the first time in history "Passion Play" lovers will journey in May to attend the 1930 "Passion Play" here by airplane.

Heretofore the modern conveniences of transportation have been frowned upon as being too "worldly." In every sense of the word modernness has been banned from the private and commercial life of the villagers, whose daily existence depends on the successfulness of the play every ten years.

But to please world travelers who have to cram so much sightseeing into their itineraries an airdrome has been built in this old-world village and scheduled planes of the large air transport companies operating from the capital cities of Europe will bring playgoers.

The theater has been enlarged to seat 6,000 persons. Alois Lang, thirty-eight, cousin of Anton Lang, who played the part of Christ for the last three times, has been elected to play the leading role. The city held its 1920 election of players for the parts last week.

Divorce Mills Not Popular With French Paris.—The divorce mills of France, which grind so smoothly for Americans, are not popular with the French, recent divorce statistics reveal.

During the first nine months of 1929 there were 4,926 divorces granted in France, according to figures of the general statistical bureau of France. Instead of being an increase over the same period in 1928, it represents a healthy decrease.

This number also includes a large number of American and British divorces. Although the foreign divorces are not listed separately it would be safe to estimate that nearly 1,000 were granted to foreigners, of which Americans headed the list.

The number of divorces is particularly striking when compared with the total number of marriages during the same nine month period. For the first nine months of 1929 there were 82,817 marriages celebrated in France, an increase of more than 2,000 over the corresponding period in 1928.

French Name Street for U. S. Ambassador Paris, France.—The late Ambassador Myren T. Herrick will be perpetuated in the memory of France by a street named after him in Paris, which probably will be followed by the erection of a monument to his memory.

The municipal council recently voted to name the new street joining the aristocratic avenue Victor Emmanuel III and the rue de Courcelles after the kindly American ambassador, who died at his post.

Cat Foils Robbers Cleveland, Ohio.—The angry yowling of a cat so excited fifteen-year-old John Blake that he was captured while trying to rob the cigar store of Ralph Musser.

Sanity in the Madhouse I should imagine that a madhouse would be an excellent place to be sane in. I'd a long sight rather live in a nice, quiet, secluded madhouse than in intellectual clubs full of un-intellectual people, all chattering nonsense about the newest book of philosophy; or in some of those earnest, elbowing sort of Movements that want you to go in for Service and help to take away somebody else's toys.—I from "The Poet and the Lunatic," by G. K. Chesterton.

BALSTROM'S PROFITABLE CROP OF YOUNG EVERGREENS

(By D. J. Walsh.)

BALSTROM swept his hand drearily toward the slope. It undulated downward to the river, richly green, hundreds of acres.

"Our desolation, Ellen," he said bitterly. "But very beautiful, John," she reminded softly. "Terrible, if you will, but beautiful. Let us think of it that way, I—I don't like to hear that hard tone coming into your voice, after you—"

"Optimistic years," he grinned wryly, "buoyancy, belief in every next day being better. Maybe it's a good trait, may be not. I've been wondering whether I was blessed or cursed."

"Blessed," John declared. Ellen, earnestly, "Remember how it carried you through the great war, the years in Germany, and then the awful years in one hospital after another. You know what Colonel Trevor wrote me just after the worst operation, that it was only your buoyant disposition and optimism that brought you through. But for your firm belief in a better tomorrow I'm afraid you wouldn't be with me now, dear."

"Here only as a poor apology of a man," he smiled. "If I hadn't been so sanguine there might be money in the bank now for Junior's college expenses."

"Junior wouldn't have a thing different, John," his wife said softly. "He is as proud of you as I am, and he is young and strong like you used to be. He will make his own way."

His eyes again swept drearily over the acres of young evergreen growth. "Doesn't look as though I had cleared all that slope off ready for the plow with my own hands, nearly 200 acres," he mused. "My idea was to put it into apple trees, to be ready for Junior's higher education. Then the war came on."

He was silent for some moments and his wife's hand went out caressingly to an empty sleeve, and a momentary dimness came to her eyes as they rested on a crutch that was now permanently necessary.

"You have given Junior a heritage that he values more than anything that money could give, John. We shall get along."

"I have offered the farm for sale at half its cost in the last week, but there are no buyers. I—"

"Junior and I would a thousand times rather have you, dear, than the cleared slope, apple trees and college."

"Yes, I know you would, Ellen. I am happy to get home at last, but—"

He broke off abruptly and forced a sort of grin to his face. "But I won't advise any more, dear. And yet," he smiled, "I can't seem to get used to a big Junior yet. I left him a boy of nine and come back to find him a young giant of eighteen. Hello! Here he comes now—whistling as usual."

The whistler was coming up through the young growth on the slope. When he saw them he increased his rapid walk to a run. Instead of bending down and kissing his mother, he lifted her up in his arms as a child and held her for a few seconds.

"Then he turned to his father, with an odd expression of mingled awe and affection. "How are you feeling, sir?"

"Fit, you young giant," laughed his father. "First, you know I shall start clearing off that slope, with you to pile up the branches, as you did before."

The boy grinned delightedly. "First, you know you laugh like that, father," he chuckled. "But maybe I could chop the little trees down with one hand now and carry them off with the other—only I'm not going to. Better let somebody else do it, for nothing, while I do something else."

He grinned again at their inquiring looks, then added: "Boatmen anchored down near the point and two men are walking among the young trees, and I was just going for sale, father. I was just going to say they could have the whole slope for clearing it off when I remembered mother said yesterday that she was low on money to buy groceries and would have to trade in some poultry."

Two men had left the evergreens and were approaching. "Your trees?" to Mr. Balstrom, as they drew near.

"Want to sell?" "I might," a little cautiously, as he saw a warning wink from Junior. The men read the hesitation as an indifference to sell, and glanced at each other. It raised their intended offer two cents.

"I'm willing to admit they're the finest lot of trees we've seen," said the spokesman, frankly, "and we'd like a few, straight cash. We'll give you eleven cents apiece."

"Not much of a price for timber trees," considered Mr. Balstrom. "Don't want timber," promptly. "Yours are our size, and they're getting short down stream. We were steaming up the river on the lookout when we sighted your slope. Best lot of trees I've seen anywhere, as I said, and the most. We want six to eight feet. The trees are too thick anyway, and clearing out the larger will allow the little ones to grow better. There seems to be all sizes, down to a foot or two. With proper thinning and may be a little seed sowing later, you ought to have a fine salable crop of Christmas trees every year."

"Christmas trees for next season?" Looking puzzled. "Yes, to sell, you know. Take down to Boston and other cities. Most every family with children buys trees."

"O-oh, I see. And you want a number?" "Yes, 20,000, at least. The price may not seem much, but there are a lot of expenses in cutting, carrying and marketing, so it will be all we can offer."

"Think there are that many, your size?" "Ten times that many, for we've tracked through them. I'd like to contract for all, but there are more than we could handle. I'll pay you for 20,000, at least, though, and will want a supply in years to come. But old Jack Boling is down the river with his boat, looking for trees for next Christmas. I'll send him up and he'll likely want to contract for 10,000 or 20,000 more."

CAPTURE WOMAN IN GUN BATTLE

Accused of Murder of Pennsylvania State Highway Policeman.

New Castle, Pa.—Mrs. Irene Schroeder, who was arrested near Phoenix, Ariz., after being hunted throughout the country as the "blond gunwoman" charged with the murder of a Pennsylvania state highway policeman, has been returned here for trial.

The woman, captured with two men by a posse after a gun battle in the desert, at first said her name was Mildred Winthrop and that she had no son in West Virginia named Donnie. A moment later she expressed a wish to see Donnie, "my son."

Through all the questioning, however, she denied any connection with the shooting on December 27 of Corporal Brady Paul of the highway police near New Castle, Pa.

At times she made vehement denials, but once she said: "I'm not saying anything about that. I'll just keep still and if the rest get sent up I'll take mine with the rest."

Not to Live Long. Once, in reply to a suggestion that she tell what she knows of the Pennsylvania shooting to relieve her mind, she said: "It won't make any difference. I'm not going to live long anyway."

Then she laughed. Examination of the woman by a physician revealed that she had been wounded by a rifle bullet when she and her two companions attempted to fight it out with the posse. She had a flesh wound in the neck, but it was not regarded as serious.

Arizona had taken formal steps to hold the trio. Technical charges of kidnapping for the purpose of robbery were filed against them in connection with the kidnaping of two deputy sheriffs, but later the authorities allowed her to be returned to Pennsylvania to face the murder charge.

Investigations also were under way to determine if the trio was connected with a bank robbery in Texas recently.

The two men captured with the woman gave their names as M. Glen Dague and Joe E. Wells. Dague poses as the husband of Mrs. Schroeder and Wells said the pair picked him up in Texas a few days after he was released from prison there.

Records, however, reveal that Wells was released from the Oklahoma state prison recently.

Wells is said to have admitted he and Dague held up and robbed two men in El Paso, Texas, but denied the bank robbery charge.

Arizona officials said they would insist that the trio be tried here unless Pennsylvania can prove positively it has a case of first degree murder against them. They point out that conviction in Arizona of a charge of kidnaping for the purpose of robbery carries a life sentence.

The Tiger Woman. Mrs. Schroeder, disheveled and unkempt, was the "tiger woman" throughout hours of questioning until the sheriff and his aids began mentioning "Donnie," her four-year-old son, who is held by Pennsylvania police.

The boy was found at his grandfather's home shortly after the Pennsylvania shooting and is quoted as having said: "Mama shot a cop."

The woman, during the moments she threw off her reserve and defiance, betrayed her love for her son and admitted she was Irene Schroeder. Once she broke down and cried: "Donnie—what have you done with my Donnie?"

Then she again assumed the role of the "tiger woman," eager to fight it out with the sheriff, with wits or with guns.

The woman with two men, one of whom is believed to be Dague and the other James Crawford, her brother, is accused of killing Corporal Brady Paul of the Pennsylvania highway police when he attempted to stop and question them.

Good Idea. Harringby was trying hard to listen to the speaker's eloquence at a political meeting, but the squalling of an infant directly in front of him gave him little chance. At length he leaned forward, touched the mother on the shoulder, and asked: "Has your baby been christened yet?" "No, sir. Why do you ask that?" "I merely because I was born christened you might name him 'Good Idea.'" "And why 'Good Idea'?" asked the woman. "Because," replied Harringby, "it should be carried out!"—Vancouver Province.

Helpful Suggestion. An employer who believed in supporting all efforts to introduce a new spirit into industry, had called his men together to place before them his plan for bettering working conditions. "Now whenever I enter the workshop," he said, "I want to see every man cheerfully performing his task, and therefore I invite you to place in this box any suggestions as to how that can be brought about."

A few days later he opened the box and took out a slip of paper on which was written: "Take the rubber heels off your shoes."

WEIGHS 235; CAN'T REDUCE; KILLS SELF. New York.—Ashamed of her 235-pound weight and despondent over her inability to reduce, Maria, a brilliant nineteen-year-old New York university freshman, took her life in the gas-filled kitchen of her Brooklyn home here recently.

French Railways Bar Hard-Liquor Drinkers

Paris.—An energetic campaign against alcoholism has been started by the French state railways. Any railroad workers who are found to be inveterate drinkers will be discharged immediately.

M. Basol Dautry, director-general of the French railways, in a statement explaining the nature of the campaign, declares there will be no attempt to enforce total abstinence nor to advocate prohibition, the main purpose being to discourage the use of hard liquor. According to the latest statistics alcoholism appears to be the chief cause of major accidents.

Expert Lessons Labor of Rat Extermination

Sioux City, Iowa.—George Reed, professional rat exterminator, does not pose as a young Edison nor does he believe that the world will beat a path to the door of the world's best mouse trap-builder.

But Reed does believe in doing things as easily as possible. Now, instead of using traps and having to bait and clean them he is catching rats with empty tin cans cut in a particular way which permits the rat to enter the can but not to leave it. Corn sprinkled inside the can is the bait.

Gigantic Wheel. The ferris wheel at the World's Columbian exposition, at Chicago in 1893, had a diameter of 250 feet; a circumference of 825 feet; a width of 80 feet. The axle of steel was 82 inches in diameter and 45 feet long. The total weight with the full complement of passengers was 1,200 tons. The driving power was applied through sprocket wheels and driving chains to cogs on the outer tires, while a system of clutch brakes kept the whole machine under control. There were 36 carriages with a seating capacity of 40 passengers each.

Food Requirements. According to Prof. V. H. Mottram, an adult woman needs but 2,500 calories a day. An adult man engaged in sedentary occupation requires 3,000 calories daily. A man doing hard work should have 5,000 calories. The physiological reason given is that the female organism utilizes food more economically than man. A child's food should not be proportioned according to his age, as he requires more than half the food of an adult. Boys and girls of fourteen are to be considered as adults in food utilization.

THE MARKETS. Portland. Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, \$1.19; soft white, western white, \$1.08; hard winter, northern spring, western red, \$1.06.

Hay—Alfalfa, \$23@25.50 per ton; valley timothy, \$20.50@21; eastern Oregon timothy, \$22@23.50; clover, \$20; oat hay, \$19; oats and vetch, \$18.50@20.

Butterfat—\$2@36c. Eggs—Ranch, 21@25c. Cattle—Steers, good, \$11.50@12. Hogs—Good to choice, \$11.50@11.75. Lams—Good to choice, \$9.75@10.50.

Seattle. Wheat—Bluestem, \$1.19; soft white, western white, \$1.09; hard winter, northern spring, \$1.08; western red, \$1.07.

Eggs—Ranch, 23@28c. Butterfat—38c. Cattle—Choice steers, \$10.25@11.25. Hogs—Prime light, \$11.50@12. Lams—Choice, \$11@11.50.

Spokane. Cattle—Steers, good, \$10.25@11. Hogs—Good to choice, \$11.85@12. Lams—Medium to good, \$10.25@10.65.

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400 Czarist Officers Reported Executed

London, England.—The Daily Mail's Biga correspondent says that the Soviet secret police have put to death between 400 and 500 former czarist officials, confined in various prisons, during the last two weeks.

Smiling on the Moon. The transition from night to day on the moon is very rapid, for the moon has no atmosphere; no rosy tints paint its mountain tops at dawn. There are no gradations between darkness and night, no twilight with color-tinted clouds. Before the sun comes there is blank, black darkness, deeper and blacker than anything else on earth. As the sun's brilliance comes across its surface the first peaks to catch its rays stand suddenly out, fully defined in a harsh, untempered glare and in sharp contrast to the dense blackness of the nearby terrain, where it is still night.