

RUSSIA'S FINANCES.

A RICH MINERAL COUNTRY WITHOUT PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

A Young Government Engineer's Novel Method of Reaching the Precious Metals—Southern Siberia's Prosperity and Fertility of Soil—The Cossack.

I had this morning a long and pleasant conversation with Col. de Gessler, an ex-member of the staff of the Grand Duke Vladimir, in the Russian army. Col. de Gessler has occupied an official position in the military forces of the Russian government for many years, and is intimately acquainted with their resources, their quality, and their power.

"Just what," I asked in the course of our conversation, "is the condition of financial affairs in Russia?"

"There seems to be an utter drainage of gold from the country. Our ruble, worth nominally something like 80 cents of your money, now sells for 47 cents. This, of course, applies to the paper equivalent which is in circulation throughout Russia. Coins of all kinds are very scarce, and paper money is about the only thing one sees. There was a time, directly after the last war, when the banks would give no gold at all, no matter what kind of an order was presented to them. They were willing enough to comply with the demands made upon them, but they had no gold whatever to do it with. We have a rich mineral country, but there is no incentive to private enterprise in mining, while we all know what such work is likely to amount to when it is done by the government. Let me give you an example of the way these things are managed. A man buys a piece of land in the mineral country, and undertakes to locate a mine on it. He digs down and down, until he reaches the vein of metal.

"Up to this point he has been allowed to go ahead upon his own responsibility, but the minute he touches gold or silver he is compelled to report to the governor of that province, and the representative of the czar comes in and takes possession, paying a certain amount in cash for the property. Thus the discoverer does not receive enough of benefit from his work to attract very many gold-diggers to the mines. Some of the frauds that are practiced on the government are interesting. The methods of digging gold are very primitive, and the fashion is to cut a great gash in the mountain side instead of sinking shafts or tunneling.

A NEW METHOD OF MINING.

"A number of years ago the government sent a young engineer to adopt more practicable means of digging out the precious metals. He went, and reported that he was about to put a new scheme into practice. The soldiers in Siberia can not do military duty to any extent in the winter, and they are allowed to work as laborers in that period, keeping for themselves whatever they may earn. This young engineer engaged thousands of them and set them to work, making an excavation which covered more than a square mile at the surface. Year after year this work was carried on, the excavation growing smaller and smaller toward the bottom, the sides slanting so as to keep the earth from falling in. By the time the rock was reached there was not much space for the proposed operations, and the whole thing was abandoned as a failure. In the interval, by paying his laborers 1 ruble a day per head, and drawing three or four times that amount from the government, the engineer had accumulated a fortune of about 5,000,000 rubles. The affair has never been investigated. Siberia is not altogether the country it is represented to be. Only in the north is the climate severe.

"Southern Siberia is one of the most fertile and prosperous regions in existence. It is to this part of the world that most political prisoners are exiled. The government gives each of them a fixed number of acres of land, a house, cattle, horses, and farming implements. The only restriction placed upon them is that they shall not go outside a given circle, and there is a sufficient force to see that they obey this behest. The vast majority of them settle down to a quiet, peaceful, and prosperous life, and never want to come back again, even after their terms of exile are finished. There are many enormously rich people in this portion of Siberia. The merchants make vast fortunes, financial ease is prevalent, and there is just as much luxury in that country as there is in any other part of the world. It is to northern Siberia, where the copper mines are situated, that the worst criminals such as

murderers and thieves of the vilest degree, are sent. To condemn a man to work in the copper mines is as good as reading his death sentence, for he seldom survives a year of labor there.

THE COSSACK AN INDEPENDENT SOLDIER. "What," I asked, "is the difference between your Cossack and the ordinary soldier in your army?"

"The Cossack," responded Col. de Gessler, "is an independent soldier. I can only liken him to the militia in your country, and even there I find points of marked dissimilarity. He owns his horse, his uniform, his small arms, and all his other accoutrements excepting his rifle. That alone belongs to the government. When he begins in the service of the czar he must remain in that service whenever it is demanded of him to the end of his life. His only advantage is that in time of peace he is to carry on any pursuit which he may care to embark. The Cossack country is always thriving and pleasant. The Cossacks, indeed, regard themselves as the original Russians, tracing their ancestry back to little Russia, and they speak of all the other inhabitants of the great country as being 'with them, but not of them.' It is difficult to tell what will be the future of Russia. There is a great change working in the country, and there seems no way out of the nation's financial difficulties. It looks indeed, as though absolute bankruptcy were impending."

Some of Col. de Gessler's anecdotes of life in the latter campaigns of his career were interesting. He told, for instance, how, at the fall of Plevna, Osman Pasha sent his sword to Skobeleff, and that upon the meeting of the commanders or the hostile force, the grand duke personally took the weapon, and, with his own hand, hung it again about the waist of Osman, while the troops on both sides cheered themselves hoarse, and in their ardor wildly embraced each other. Skobeleff is still sincerely mourned in the Russian army. He was the most dashing and impetuous of all the czar's chief officers, and he was held in great reverence by the men in his command. Among other things he was a tremendous drinker, and it was his steady habit to consume a dozen bottles of champagne in the course of a day's fighting. He would hold the bottle in his left hand, knock the top of it off with his sword and drink the entire contents at a draught.—New York Cor. Boston Herald.

SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

—The National Educational Association, in session recently, at Saratoga, elected N. A. Calkins, of New York, President.

—During his ministry at Cheltenham, the late Dean Close received over fifteen hundred pairs of worked slippers from lady members of his flock.

—During the past convention year the Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Iowa traveled, on official duty, upward of fifteen thousand miles.

—It was stated by Dr. Vose, of Providence, at a farewell meeting to a lady of his church about to start for India, that hitherto no foreign missionaries had gone from Rhode Island.

—"What do they do when they install a minister?" inquired a small boy; "do they put him in a stall and feed him?" "Not a bit," said his father; "they harness him to the church and expect him to draw it alone."—Exchange.

—Women have been elected, for the first time, to positions on the Glasgow School Board. When Scotland breaks through the trammels of conservatism, in any particular, it is usually safe for the rest of the world to follow.—Current.

—The number of names carried on Baptist Church books of members whose whereabouts are unknown is said by the New York Examiner to be very large; and the same thing is said of the Presbyterians by the New York Observer, while a third authority reckons the proportion of these lost members at ten per cent. of the whole.

—"He stood in rumination deep and long," shouted a high-school boy, declaiming Montgomery's poem, "Arnold Winkelreid." As he couldn't think of the remaining lines, he very aptly illustrated the text.

\$1.50 in advance! for the Reporter for 1887, means just what it says—IN ADVANCE. Not a month after the beginning.

MISCELLANEOUS.

County Seat or No County Seat;

Now Lets Talk Business a Little.

OUR MOTTO IS SMALL Profits and quick returns. Honest Goods, Honest Weights and Full Measure

Upon which we hope to win your esteem and patronage. Our connections with Eastern and Pacific coast dealers and manufacturers are such that we are enabled to buy these goods as low or lower than our competitors, whether general or special dealers. Buying goods in greater quantities than most competitors, and when handling business of any kind the volume of business enters largely into the account in determining the profit or margin to be realized out of it. Therefore all General Dealers do have an advantage over special dealers, and the greater quantity of goods sold or the volume of business done, the greater that advantage and the less the price ought to be. Having a full and Complete Stock of the following lines of goods from the leading dealers and best manufacturers, which we replenish with new fresh goods monthly or oftener as the trade requires, to wit: LADIES

Dress and Fancy Goods, Gents and Boys Clothing and Furnishing Goods, Hats and Caps, Boots and Shoes, Crockery, Queens ware and Glass ware.

and a full line of fresh groceries, so our customers do not have to deal at half dozen places to supply their wants. While we do not propose to be undersold, yet do not and can not put these goods in competition with Auction or Short Weight goods sold to the trade by unscrupulous dealers. We fear no honest competition. Thanking people for past patronage and favors, will be pleased to have you call and determine for yourselves what merit is in our modest claim.

A. J. APPERSON.

POPULAR ROUTES.

Oregonian R. R. Co. LIMITED Line,

CHAS. N. SCOTT, Receiver.

Portland and Willamette Valley Railway.

From Portland.		To Portland.	
Passenger Fare.	Coburg and Airlie Mail.	STATIONS.	Coburg and Airlie Mail.
	LV 9 15	Portland, PWV* Ft. Jefferson St.	AR 4 45
\$.24	11 00	Elk Rock	4 15
.29	11 06	Oswego	4 00
.52	11 46	Tualatin	3 40
.75	12 10	Winters	3 10
.88	12 26	Summit	2 53
1.00	12 50	Newberg	2 29
1.00	1 10	PWV Dundee JUN	2 15
1.00	2 10	ory Dundee	1 25
1.16	2 32	West Dayton	1 03
1.24	2 44	Lafayette	12 53
1.36	3 02	Dayton Junction	12 35
1.40	3 08	McMinnville Cs.	12 29
1.48	3 19	Armstrong	12 18
1.56	3 30	Whites	12 07
1.72	3 52	Briedwell	11 45
1.75	3 57	Harrison	11 40
1.84	4 08	Broadmeads	11 27
1.86	4 10	Sheridan Jun'n	11 25
1.96	4 23	Ballston	11 08
	5 09	Sheridan	10 45
1.94	5 55	Perrydale	9 25
2.12	6 17	Smithfield	9 00
2.24	6 31	Polk	8 46
2.37	6 50	Dallas	8 30
2.53	7 10	Cochrane	8 06
2.65	7 28	Monmouth	7 50
2.80	7 47	Luckiamute	7 30
2.91	8 00	Simpson	7 14
3.02	8 15	ARLIE	7 00
		AR	LV

CHAS. N. SCOTT, Receiver ORC (Ld) Line. WILLIAM REID, President P&WV RCo.

City Stables.



HENDERSON BROS.,

Ample room to care for horses. Livery teams at as reasonable rates as any where in Oregon. New stable Third St., McMinnville.

SAMUEL COFF,

Late of Independence, having purchased the TEAMS AND TRUCKS

Of Logan Bros. & Henderson, offers his services in that line to the public, and will

Guarantee Satisfaction

To all who favor him with their patronage. He will keep a wagon specially adapted to the delivery of parcels, trunks, satchels, etc., for the accommodation of the public. Orders left at the stable will be promptly attended to at reasonable rates.

McMinnville

LIVERY FEED AND SALE STABLES



LOGAN BROS. & HENDERSON.

—PROPRIETORS—

Fine Carriages, Hacks and Saddle Horses,

And everything in the Livery hire, in good shape

At Reasonable Rates.