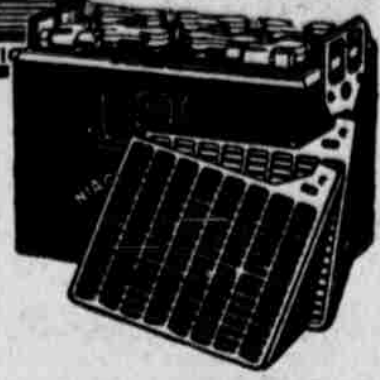


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ALLIANCE, NEBR.
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Harvest Time in South Russia



THRESHING THE WHEAT

HARVESTING in Russia is one of the great events in the peasant's life. Weeks before the corn is ripe enough for cutting the balliff goes around the villages on the estate and collects the extra hands needed for the work. Reaping machines are now used all over the country, but as there are many small woods and clumps of trees interspersed among wheatfields in the South, one often sees women with sickles finishing off difficult corners, says a writer in Country Life. "They make a pretty picture in their bright dresses against the high golden wheat, with the dark woods in the background.

Women predominate in agricultural life in Russia and are great workers. Their babies are kept in the village creches, and looked after by others till the mothers return at night. Sometimes the mothers take them in the fields. The women usually begin work about 5 a. m. and go on till twelve o'clock without a stop, when the midday meal is served. This is taken sitting on the ground. It generally consists of thick potato soup, or perhaps borstok (soup made with beetroots), "casha" (a brown grain boiled in the same way as rice), a raw herring, and a huge piece of black bread. Each peasant carries her own wooden spoon in her pocket, or tucked away in one of her high boots.

Water is served from a barrel, which goes from field to field, drawn by a donkey. The oxen are magnificent creatures, and it is nothing exceptional to see between thirty and forty pairs of them at work the same day. Horses are rarely used in the fields.

Between 4 p. m. and 5 p. m. an enormous samovar, (a special kind of urn heated by charcoal) is brought out, and boiling weak tea, with two lumps of sugar at least, is served to the workers in tin mugs. The men, of course, used to drink vodka, but now it is stopped, and happily so, for it is just about the strongest drink that exists. The tea hour being only a short respite, work is resumed with vigor and continued up till six or nine o'clock, according to the weather. But, except for a terrific thunderstorm occasionally, it rarely rains at this time.

Fond of Fresh Fish.

Supper consists of practically the same menu as that which is eaten at midday, baked or boiled potatoes being generally substituted for the "casha," and sometimes pond carp, crayfish and perch, fried. All the meals are cooked outside. An oven and fireplaces made of clay and bricks are built in a sort of trench in a central spot, and here you see only men cooking.

Fresh-water fish form a very important addition to the food supply in inland Russia. As there are hundreds of miles of marshy ground, great ponds are made everywhere. The chief fish stocked are carp, perch and crayfish. The streams and rivers give excellent trout, but cray-fishing also affords good sport as well as being a considerable industry. A dark night is chosen, if possible, since in the moonlight the fish are easily scared and retire to the middle of the pond, where it is impossible to catch them. The fishers are armed with strong nets about the size of a washing basin, but deeper and weighted, which are attached to long poles. Approaching the pond as cautiously as possible, the nets are dropped in and allowed to sink to the bottom. Then everyone sits and waits in silence, but smoking furiously to keep away the mosquitoes, which are both large and venomous. Then men appear on the scene suddenly, flourishing large torches over the surface of the water, and the crayfish, retreating, walk into the nets, which have to be cleared and dropped again very promptly.

Women at Threshing Machine.
It is most interesting to watch the quick working of the threshing machine, which is driven by steam. The women never seem to cease—sheaf after sheaf is dropped in from above, and on one side you see the chaff and straw coming out, and on the other the wheat dropping right into the sacks awaiting it below. These again are tied up by the men. I watched the grain being separated from the chaff for 40 minutes, and during that time 11 big sacks were tied up, labeled and ready to put away in the granary.

While this is going on, hundreds of black and gray crows (the real Russian crow), come flying around to pick up what wheat they can, and in some parts the ground is just a patch of black and looks most strange. Even storks put in a dignified appearance just to see what is going on, and great eagles and hawks hover above waiting to feast on the mice.

The only Russian crow I have seen in captivity was a miserable specimen in Dresden. They are much more sinister looking than their British brothers, and even their "caw" is different. Their behavior in the wheatfield is extremely entertaining. The old birds hop about uttering weird little noises and gingerly picking up grains of wheat with which they feed their practically full-grown offspring. If the young bird has had enough it drops the grain in front of another crow, which generally snaps at it promptly.

The peasants receive pay according to the proprietor's wealth or generosity—sometimes 50 kopeks a day (25 cents), at other times one rouble (50 cents); but this varies greatly, as some estates are so much richer than others. In all and every case, however, the peasants receive collectively one-tenth of the wheat of every field they cut, and sometimes this adds up very considerably. In fact, what they earn in harvest time practically keeps them for the rest of the year.

Won't Work on Feast Days.

Sundays and feast days (and there are over a hundred of the latter) they will not work, but lie about in the fields and drink tea, etc. But they love music, and to the tune of the balalaika (a kind of mandolin) and the concertina they will sing and dance at any moment of the day. Many of the peasants are much richer than they look, and they still put their money in their stockings and bury it as of old.

But to return to the harvest. Towards sunset, when work is at its highest pitch in the vicinity of the threshing machine (which, by the way, the peasants treat with reverence, as it means food to them in the coming year), life is indeed worth living. The throbbing of the engines, the buzz of many voices, the lowing of the cattle, the glorious sunset, and, above all, that lovely golden haze (caused by the dust of the chaff) which rises ever so lightly, and which seems to put a veil over everything, just makes you long for your brush and palette.

But, the wheat cut, threshed and housed, the machine must be put away till next year. This is quite a ceremony and always takes place in the moonlight. First it is thoroughly overhauled and cleaned, then decorated with flowers, small sheaves and branches of trees. Between twelve and twenty pairs of oxen draw the machine, moving as slowly as possible. All those who have taken part in the harvest work walk beside and behind it—generally between one hundred and two hundred. Behind these come the villagers, everyone dressed in his best, and the girls with garlands of flowers on their heads, singing folk songs. This huge cavalcade moves at foot pace until it arrives at its destination, when the squire and all his family and guests come out to see the ceremonial housing. The peasants then receive something "extra" and return to their houses, generally having a rollicking time, playing and dancing far into the night.

World Growing Saneer.

The theory that the world is growing mad under the stress and suffering of war is combated by Dr. William Graham of Belfast, an eminent Irish alienist. Doctor Graham is convinced by observation that there is less insanity now than there was before the war. He advances the theory that the hardships, the anxieties and the sacrifices of the struggle are strengthening the race mentally, physically and spiritually, instead of disturbing its stability.

Every great crisis, in the lives of individuals as of nations, carries with it the strength of soul and of body needed to cope with it. If that were not the case mankind would have been overwhelmed long ago by the tragedies of life.—New York Mail.

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AUTOMOBILES

AUTOS FOR SALE—A second-hand roadster and a second-hand Ford touring car for sale cheap. Inquire at the Sturgeon garage.

HOUSE FOR RENT

FOR RENT—Five-room house, electric lights. Phone 667 for information. 28-1f-8398

FURNISHED ROOM for rent. 315 Niobrara. Mrs. John H. Carroll. 28-1f-8415

FURNISHED ROOM for rent to gentleman. Modern, private home. Phone 175. 408 Sweetwater Ave. 30-1f-8445

FOR SALE—HOUSES

FOR SALE AT EXECUTOR'S SALE—Two residence properties located as follows: Lots five and six in block six, Wyoming addition to City of Alliance. The residences are composed of three and five rooms. These residence properties must be sold. Inquire of L. A. Berry, Room 9, Rumer Block, Alliance, Nebraska. Phone 9. 8287-23-1f

The Government needs Farmers as well as Fighters. Two million three hundred thousand acres of Oregon and California Railroad Co. Grant Lands. Title vested in United States. To be opened for homesteads and sale. Containing some of best land left in United States. Large Copyrighted Map, showing land by sections and description of soil, climate, rainfall, elevations, temperature, etc. Postpaid, One Dollar. Grant Lands Locating Co. Box 610, Portland, Oregon. 31-13f-8446

WANTED—A capable and responsible lady or gentlemen for outside work, soliciting and collecting. Work is pleasant and profitable. Permanent position. Experience desired but not absolutely essential if you have ability. Give full particulars in application. Address Box 3369, in care Alliance Herald, Alliance, Neb.

OFFICERS OF THE FOURTH REGIMENT

(Continued from page 1)
Thurston guard company quit upon being "mustered out." Colonel Baehr re-enlisted. In 1902 he was elected captain and in 1905 major of the first battalion. He was made Lieutenant Colonel in 1909. Following the resignation of Colonel George A. Eberly, who was given a commission in the officers reserve corps, upon his return from the Mexican border, Colonel Baehr was elected to his present command.
Colonel Baehr is a postoffice clerk in civilian life. To officers who know, he is considered the "best trained fighting man" in Nebraska.
Lieutenant Colonel "Heinie" H. F. Elsasser is the youngest field officer of the Fourth Nebraska. He is 33 years old.
Lieutenant Colonel Elsasser did his bit in the ranks. His promotion, however, has been more rapid than that of any other officer of the organization.
One day in 1903 Lieutenant Colonel Elsasser was watching the Thurston rifles going through the manual of arms drill.
"Want to enlist?" the drill sergeant shouted.
"Sure," remarked the genial Heinie.
He served for three years as private, acting at times as corporal. In 1905 he was allowed to wear the sergeant's stripes, and in 1907, one year after he married, he was made second lieutenant of Company L, then the Thurston Rifles, of the First regiment.
Lieutenant Colonel Elsasser made it a point never to miss a drill. For his interest in company drill members of his company elected him captain in 1908. In 1915 he was made a major. During that year and in 1916 he was commandant of the Omaha high school regiment. He was forced to give up this work when the Fourth regiment was ordered to the Mexican border. When Colonel Baehr moved up a notch following the resignation of Colonel Eberly, Lieutenant Colonel was elected his present command. He is now attending the school of musketry at Fort Sill, Okla.
Major R. G. Douglas, senior major who will in all probability command the first battalion, composed of Omaha troops, is 44 years old and has been a member of the guard eighteen years.
He enlisted in 1899 as a private in company A at York where he gave up his position as "schoolmaster." He was sent to the Philippines.

WANTED—Position by man and wife, two children, on ranch, where can have house to selves. Inquire Box 8494, care Herald. 8494-33-1f-8

HORSE SALE—250 horses will be sold at public auction at the Hemmingford Stock Yards, August 1st. For particulars see Calvin J. Wildy. 33-2f-8493

FOR SALE OR LEASE at a bargain: NW 1/4 Twp. 25, Range 56, Box Butte county. Price \$15 per acre. Geo. H. Gallup, Jefferson, Ia. 33-1f-8492

FOR SALE—One set of bedroom furniture in good condition. Phone 863. 33-1f-8485

FOR SALE—For the next thirty days, about 800 tons of hay. Inquire of F. E. Allen, 603 Niobrara, or phone 566. 33-1f-8486

WANT A JOB house cleaning or washing. Can give good satisfaction. Call at 111 Sweetwater, or phone 898. 33-1f-8487

FOR SALE—Household furniture. Inquire 1004 Big Horn, or phone 639. 33-1f-8475

Phone 166 if you have anything to sell. T. J. THOMPSON, New and second-hand goods. The Conley Miller place. 27-1f-7987

FOR SALE—High grade typewriter carbon paper. The kind that gives you a clear duplicate. The Alliance Herald. Phone 340.

Steady job wanted on farm or ranch by experienced capable young man. Phone 770, H. Laurence. 32-2f-85878

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed proposals will be received by the Board of Education of District No. 41, Morrill county, Nebraska, on or before July 31, 1917, for the erection of a 2-room school building with full basement, at Angola, Nebraska. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted. Plans and specifications can be secured at Angola State Bank by depositing \$5, which will be returned on safe return of plans and specifications. By Board of Education, A. D. Hull, Moderator. 32-3f-8583

WANTED—Washing or day work. Inquire 701 Missouri. 33-2f-8477

WANTED—A furnished room for light housekeeping by lady, in a home close-in. References furnished if desired. Phone 240, Herald office. 33-1f-8476

When word comes to us from "Sunny France" that our boys are hitting the line with all their might and main we will know that they are led and directed by men who know the game and who will not send their men where they will not go themselves.

Major Geo. H. Holdeman, who visited Alliance yesterday, while making a trip through this end of the state inspecting the railroad guard detachments, enlisted in the national guard as a private in 1896, as a member of Company A, First Nebraska, at York, Nebr.

In 1898 the Spanish-American war broke out and the major, with the other members of his company, volunteered as part of the First Nebraska Volunteer Infantry. The major was made captain of company A, Captain Jack Miller of Company G, Alliance, was sergeant in this company, serving under Major Holdeman. There has been a national guard company at York for more than forty years, the first company being organized there in 1877. Major Holdeman has been connected with the guard in some capacity or other for more than half of that time. During recent years he has been assistant postmaster at York.

During the active fighting in the Philippines the major commanded a battalion, for a period of six months, in the year 1899. He mustered out in August, 1899, with the First Nebraska Volunteers, and was out of active service in the guard for a few years. He then joined again and became regimental adjutant for five years in the First Regiment. Soon afterwards he became major of the First regiment, holding this office several years. Afterwards he thought he was through with military life and left the service for two or three years. But the call of the fighting life was too strong for a man of his training and when the call came to go to the Mexican border in 1914, when the York company was about to disband, he took hold and re-organized the company as Company M of the Fourth regiment, which was really composed of the old First regiment. From captain of Company M he was made major of the Fourth regiment in the spring of 1917. He loves the boys of the "Fighting Fourth" and his active fighting in the Philippines has well fitted him for the present duties.

While on his western trip, the major visited Fort Robinson the first of this week. He went from Alliance to North Platte and from there on east towards Fort Crook. He has been away from the fort three weeks.

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