

STEADY GROWTH OF RUSSIA

Widespread Belief in the World-Conquering Destiny of the Empire.

POPULATION INCREASING 2,500,000 A YEAR

Persistence and Cheerfulness of the Russians—Their Strong Religious Feelings—Leading Men of Great Ability.

General Francis V. Greene, major general of volunteers in the war with Spain, and recently police commissioner of New York City, contributes an article on "The Growth of Russia" to the War number of "World's Work." General Greene's impressions possess special value, inasmuch as they embody the experience and observations of a trained American soldier, who, as United States military attaché, followed the fortunes of the Russian army in the war with Turkey in 1877-78. He writes, in part:

What are the characteristics of this people, what is their purpose and what do they seek to accomplish, what are the chances of succeeding in their purpose? These questions are not easy to answer. The Russian character is marked and through deep snows, without blankets or tents, of crossing the deserts of Central Asia under a scorching sun, without water—and all this cheerfully, joyously, without grumbling or discontent. In the great statesmen this quality is shown by a continuity of purpose, from generation to generation of successive ministers working toward the same point, and sacrificing their time, their health, their wealth, and often their reputation, in the pursuit of the ideals which come down from Peter's time.

Next in importance, and perhaps even more important, is their lack of education. In 1877 among the recruits annually drafted for the Russian army, the proportion who could read and write was only 3 per cent. In Germany it was 97 per cent. I doubt if these proportions have changed in the intervening years. The latest statistics show that in the Russian population of 140,000,000 only 1,700,000 boys and 800,000 girls were at school, or in all 1 1/2 per cent. In the United States the school enrollment is 30 per cent and average attendance 15 per cent. Even in Japan, Russia's present antagonist, where the very idea of public common school was unheard of but a generation ago, the attendance is nearly 10 per cent, there being almost twice as many children at school, although the population is only one-third that of Russia. A nation so close to the middle ages, so backward in education and in all the elements of civilization—literature, arts, mechanics, industries, commerce—that spring from education and depend upon it, can only be feeble as compared with the strength which would otherwise pertain to its numbers and area. Were Russia as advanced in civilization as Germany or England it would well nigh dominate the world—certainly it would control Asia and Europe.

Another conspicuous quality of the Russians is what friendly critics would call their deep religious faith, and hostile critics their ignorant superstition. The Russians do not observe the 6th commandments more closely than the other Christians of the world, but they do observe the religious ceremonies of the church more closely than any other race except the Jews. They do accept without question or doubt the teachings of the Bible as it is explained to them, their sense of reverence is unalloyed, and they believe that God is personally directing the affairs of this world. Further, that they are certain that the ear is directly commissioned by God to carry out His purposes. A religious faith like this may have no results in morals, but it is a factor to be reckoned with in public affairs, for it leads those who possess it to deeds of heroism, courage, patriotism, which otherwise might not be anticipated.

Finally, the Russian is light-hearted. He has not much of this world's goods, and does not expect to have more. But with such as he has he is content, and he knows little or nothing of the great world beyond Russia. He is not morose, does not brood, but sings his songs, cracks his jokes, eats his cabbage, soup, and black bread, smokes his pipe, smokes, drinks his strong vodka, reports in the morning and goes to work rejoicing, cheerful, free from care. This, too, is a quality not to be overlooked in estimating the Russian's capacity for public affairs or achieving great projects. Doile, obedient, cheerful, persevering, a deep religious awe—superstition, if you will—this is the average Russian; disregarding the educated and official class, and the discontented nihilists, both of whom constitute, probably, less than 5 per cent of the population.

does nevertheless represent the political faith of the educated Russian; and the uneducated Russian simply follows his leader. The Russian believes that autocratic government is best suited to the needs of mankind and most conducive to their happiness, just as ardently and unquestionably as the American believes in the eternal fitness of representative self-government. The latter is sure that its form of government is destined to be adopted by all nations and races as quickly as they can be educated up to it, so the former is certain that the rule of an enlightened despot is patterned after Divine rule and is the form of government which God intends shall ultimately be established over the whole earth; and he believes that Russia is the divinely selected agent to carry this into effect.

In short, it is no exaggeration to say that not only the present but past generations of Russians have dreamed that it was the destiny of Russia to rule the world in this century or the next, but ultimately; and the dream does not seem so utterly fantastic when we recall that in less than five centuries its possessions have increased from 1-20 to 1-4 of the earth's surface, with outlets to the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Mediterranean all in one place and inhabited by a nearly homogeneous race, differing in these two essentials so completely from the British possessions, which are even larger in area and more numerous in population. Nor can it be denied that the elements of leadership are found in a race which has produced such statesmen as Platon and Pobedonostoff; such poets as Pushkin; such statesmen as Gortchakoff and Witte; such soldiers as Shwaroff and Skobelev.

This dream of universal dominion has led sometimes in one direction and sometimes in another, merely as different means to a single end. First in the Baltic, then to the Black sea; toward Constantinople, and then toward India; finally to the Pacific and to and beyond the borders of China. For two centuries Constantinople has been longed for, almost obtained in 1878 and then snatched away. For generations India was coveted, but then given up; being now considered much less important than was thought in Napoleon's time. The markets of China have now taken in popular estimation the place formerly occupied by the alleged wealth of the Indies.

And as bearing upon the question of universal empire it must be acknowledged that, in spite of corruption among their officials, the Russians have shown a conspicuous genius for colonial government. They harmonize and affiliate with subject races far more than do the English; they treat them as equals, not as inferiors; send their women and children to live among them and be a part of the community instead of sending only their men to exploit the country, extract its wealth and then return home. Witness the results in the Caucasus, in Central Asia, even in Finland and Poland. The Mohammedan in southeastern Europe and in Asia is enthusiastically loyal to the white czar, and in all the peoples and lands subdued and annexed by Russia since the time of Ivan III, there have been insurrections in only one—Poland.

Finally, what chance have the Russians of success in their aims? So far as they dream of universal dominion, this, of course, can never be realized; but there is reason to believe that their gradual expansion around the shores of the Black sea and the Caspian, and thence southward to the Indian ocean, will continue for generations, bringing under their rule the inferior races of Turkey, Persia and Arabia, to the great and manifest advantage of these races, of Russia, and of the world at large. In the far east they have met a rude check, and it is possible they may find that the time has come when the most critical in which they have ever engaged. They have shown themselves distinctly inferior to the Japanese in readiness and preparation for war; they have suffered severe defeats on the water and lost control of the sea, and are driven from their base by thousands of miles of a recently built and poorly equipped railway, which may be destroyed at any point. Unless they can gain an overwhelming victory on the frontier of Korea, they will probably be driven to a point where the distance from Japan's base will re-establish an equality between the two contestants. But as they retreat they grow stronger, and Japan, energetic and plucky as she is, grows weaker. And how will it be a year hence, or ten years hence, when Russia can, if need be, place 800,000 soldiers in Manchuria?

There is little doubt that the present struggle, if other nations do not interfere, will be a bitter one. Should Russia gain a ready decision of the war, she would enter Turkey in 1912, she would seek to make Japan a mere Russian province, filled with splendid harbors and forming a magnificent outpost for the coast of the Orient. Should Japan gain such a victory over Russia, she would wish to drive Russia's empire away from the Pacific coast, establish herself on the mainland and put herself at the head of the far eastern races. But neither will be allowed to do what it wishes. Wars are not ended in a year, in these days, but in such a way as the great nations think proper. In her last war, Russia had Turkey at her mercy, but she was obliged to tear up the treaty she had made at San Stefano, and to submit to the terms of the peace dictated by Germany and France, the Japanese emperor signed a document in which he renounced and gave up the chief advantages he had gained by that treaty. Similarly now, it is quite certain that Japan will not become a Russian province, nor will there be a "yellow peril" under the leadership of Japan; for no matter which side wins, the treaty of peace will be made, not by the two contestants, but by a congress of all the great powers, including ourselves, so far have unforeseen events carried us away from the traditions of Washington. The terms of that treaty will be such as the great nations think best for the interests of the world, and not alone of the two nations who have carried on the war.

His Status. "In my native land," explains the pundit, "humanity is divided into castes. Thus, one family will do nothing but mental labor, another the same profession, and another their occupation. Another family will do no mental work for the same reason." "Then," timidly asks the earnest young woman who hopes to gather sufficient material for a college paper on sociology, "I suppose the people who put mortar on the walls belong to the plaster cast, do they?" "Yes," timidly asks the earnest young woman who hopes to gather sufficient material for a college paper on sociology, "I suppose the people who put mortar on the walls belong to the plaster cast, do they?"

A Continuous Performance. "Hurry! let's get out of the way. Here comes Lushman." "What do you want to run away from him for?" "Why, he's just back from Europe; he'll want to tell us all he saw." "No, he won't. He didn't see anything but snakes from the time he started until he got back."—Philadelphia Press.

Strong Leadership. The nihilists may be disregarded—they have great intelligence, are profoundly dissatisfied, have committed terrible crimes, and have at times disarranged the social fabric; yet after a generation of effort they have accomplished nothing permanent, they have made no impression upon Russian institutions of government or society, and they have at present less influence than at any time in many years past. The small educated class of government officials, on the other hand, is a factor of the highest importance. In the lower grades he is simply a bureaucrat, smothered in red tape, faithful, and painstaking, but devoid of originality or initiative. But in the upper grades, the statesmen and soldiers of the highest rank, the good qualities of the Russian peasant—his perseverance, endurance, cheerfulness—all in a sublimated form, have produced for generations the very highest type of leaders. Gortchakoff, Giera, Melnikoff, Ignatieff, Tolstoen, Skobelev, Gourko, the two brothers Shouvaloff, Witte—these are only a few of the commanding spirits of the last forty years. At all times during the two centuries since Peter the Great's reign Russia has had in her service the keenest diplomats, the most skillful soldiers, the most eminent statesmen—men of genius, highly educated, familiar with the literature of other languages as well as their own, well informed by study and extensive travel of the history and customs of other people—and all of them believing implicitly in the mission of Holy Russia.

Spiritous Testament. As to the purpose of the Russians and what they seek to accomplish this is to be learned more by a study of their history than by their own writings. The "Testament of Peter the Great," although a somewhat clumsy forgery, is nevertheless a fairly accurate and truthful statement of Russia's political ambitions. It was first referred to in a book of which large numbers were found in Napoleon's baggage at Moscow in 1812; it was given in full in a French publication in Paris in 1839, and afterward republished in 1864 at the outbreak of the Crimean war. It records with the whole trend of what Napoleon said about Russia to his various secretaries at St. Helena. Quite probably the document was inspired by Napoleon as a justification for his invasion of Russia, and gives Napoleon's ideas of Russia's purpose based on her history during the century between Peter the Great and himself; and her history during the century since Napoleon has followed the same lines. In his document Peter is made to say to his descendants and successors on the Russian throne that:

"The All Powerful . . . permits us to look upon Russia as called upon to establish her rule over all Europe. . . . We look upon our invasion of the west and the east as a decree of Divine Providence, which has already once regenerated the Roman empire by an invasion of barbarians. The emigration of men from the north is like the inundation of the Nile, which at certain seasons enriches with its waters the arid plains of Egypt. We found Russia a small rivulet; we leave it an immense river. Our successors will make it an ocean, destined to fertilize the whole of Europe, if they know how to guide its waves."

Then follow fourteen articles of instructions, which Peter is made to recommend to the "constant meditation" of his successors. They are in substance to dismember Poland; "take all you can from Sweden; . . . marry Russian princesses with German princesses; . . . do all in your power to approach closely Constantinople and India; . . . keep up continued wars with Turkey and Persia; . . . Push back the Black sea, obtain the command of the sea, as well as the Baltic; re-establish the ancient commerce of the Levant, and thus advance toward India; . . . Make Austria drive the Turks out of Europe; . . . The result cannot be doubtful; Russia will be possessor of the whole of the east and of a great portion of Europe."

Fetichious but Representative. This document, fetichious as it is, and inspired by some Frenchman, probably Napoleon, from motives of hostility to Russia,

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IN NATURE'S WAY. 1414 Clybourne Street, MILWAUKEE, WIS., April 30, 1903. Inflammation of the bladder and the uterus is surely one of the most dreaded diseases a woman can have. I have had a sick feeling come over me for over six years with debility and progressive emaciation, red flamed tongue and as the trouble increased an enlarged papilla, an intense thirst and frequent irritation with a voracious appetite and a sinking of the stomach. I had used hundreds of dollars worth of medicine for these troubles without getting permanent relief to me, one of your Birthday Almanacs came into my hands. The testimonials read like fairy tales when I read your famous remedy and found that there was good reason why so many praised it, and after using 17 bottles I was well and had joined the army of your admirers. I have now enjoyed the best of health for ten months and have every reason to believe that I am cured permanently. Anna Diedrich. With Wine of Cardui to be had at every drug store it is unnecessary for any woman to suffer as Miss Diedrich suffered. The often repeated testimony of hundreds of thousands of cured women establishes the fact beyond controversy that it is really unnecessary for a woman to suffer at all. Miss Diedrich says the cures Wine of Cardui has effected seemed like fairy tales to her before she took Wine of Cardui. But it all seems very joyfully real to her now. She knows how this mild and simple remedy relieves her sex in Nature's own way. There is nothing mysterious about it to her now. It is so real and material that she unflinchingly offers it to every sufferer as the best medicine she can advise them to take. Wine of Cardui regulates the menstruation and is a wonderful tonic. By regulating the menstruation it strengthens all the female organism which is so sensitively connected with this important function. Miss Diedrich's cure shows how much Wine of Cardui will do for a suffering woman. You should give it a trial. All druggists sell \$1.00 bottles.