Falls City Tribune

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FALLS CITY - - NEBRASKA

RISK LIVES IN SMALL BOAT.

Englishmen on Voyage to Australia in Fourteen-Ton Vessel.

A daring trip is to be made by two Brighton (Eng.) men in a craft so small that should the elements during the time she is in mid-channel prove anything but of the best, the chances are that she will never again reach land. The two young men are Mr. A. L. Napper and Mr. J. L. Langford, who start in their boat, the Brighton, for West Australia during this week. The object of the voyage is to reach the pearl fisheries at Broome, in N. W. Australia, cheaply, with a craft ready for the work there. The adventurous pair propose to travel 16,000 miles in a fourteen-ton boat. Two of the most ingenious devices to be carried aboard for the sake of safety are a dinghy and a floating archor, both the inventions and patents of Napper himself. The dinghy has been constructed with a flat bottom to enable it to be carried standing flat on the deck, and thereby dispensing with the cumbersome davits. The floating deep-sea anchor is constructed with a spar 15 feet long, attached to which is a triangular-shaped canvas sail weighted at the bottom with shot. This contrivance is made especially for outriding any storms which may be met with in mid-channel, when the water is too deep to allow the ordinary anchor to be lowered. The deep sea anchor is let out at the stern of the craft, and the action of the water on it while in this position holds the boat practically motionless. The route to be taken, starting from Brighton, is through the Bay of Biscay and the Atlantic ocean to

Capetown, and then a run of 5,000 miles without touching land will have to be made from the Cape to Fremantle.—Liverpool (Eng.) Mercury.

Motor Water Carts.

The long expected motor water carts beginning to make their appearance in Paris streets are highly successful. This new, useful municipal automobile carries 1,100 gallons. The maximum speed is 18½ miles an hour. Each can be filled in six minutes, and can sprinkle a mile of roadway 45 feet wide in twenty minutes. Steam is the motive power, a 35-horse power engine being used in connection with a bevel gear drive and live rear axle. A connection between the wheels and the water jets regulates automatically the output of the latter, according to the pace of the cart, and closes them altogether when the vehicle stops.

Japanese Firemen.

With all his enterprise the Japanese dislikes to hurry. Firemen going to a fire make the occasion a ceremonial affair. With their beautiful uniforms the companies march and countermarch and dance in leisurely state, no matter how serious the fire may be, some men carrying pails and ladders, but more bearing banners, as if flames could be extinguished by a display of magnificence.

Martyr Chiefs of Russia.

Men and Women Who Have Laid Down Their Lives in the Cause of Liberty

Among the clandestine literature now being circulated broadcast in Russia are the leaflets and brochures that relate to the history and progress of the revolutionary movement. The Czar's government expressly forbids the publication of news relating to political conspiracies, attempts at assassination and trials of revolutionists.

Since the recent war reverses in the east the Russian censorship has been somewhat relaxed, especially in regard to messages sent abroad; another step forward was signalized when the St. Petersburg newspapers were permitted to publish long accounts of the assassination of Von Plehve. Yet in one respect the embargo of the autocratic system upon news still remains. It continues to be impossible in Russia to publish biographical sketches of revolutionists and their doings; as, therefore, the task of supplying such information

VYERA SASSULICH

falls exclusively upon the "underground" press, clandestine literature obtains a circulation, even among the official classes, which the very prohibition of it makes literally enormous.

One of the classic incidents of the revolutionary movement in Russia is that associated with the name of Vyera Sassulich, for, though there had been acts of revolutionary violence before her time, there was something in her act and its conditions that entitle her to be called the pioneer of the modern phase of terrorism in Russia. And when, in February, 1878, she took upon herself to punish Gen. Trepov, the chief of St. Petersburg police, for his cruelty to a student whom he had under detention, the whole of non-official Russia hailed the act, not only with applause, but also with delight.

The Russia of the seventies came within an ace of convincing the subjects of the Czar that they were born slaves and must remain so. In 1873-4 alone some 1,500 propagandists were arrested and subjected to the agony long-drawn-out of "preliminary detention." Of the total number only 190 were brought for trial, while about seventy-three died, went mad or committed suicide.

As the years went on, administrative tyranny grew in severity; students' protests were crushed with revolting barbarity; oppression in the prisons gave rise to hunger strikes. For a while the instigator of these abuses, Gen. Mesentsey, head of the state or secret police, was enabled to pursue his plans for rooting out the widespread disaffection which prevailed. But in 1878 he was warned that if the government took the life of Kavalsky, a revolutionist, then under arrest at Odessa, his own would pay the forfeit. Kavalsky was shot, and two days later the sentence of the revolutionists against Gen. Mesentsey was executed in the Nevsky Prospekt.

The man who thus "lifted the dagger," if he did not "stir a city's revolt," was the man afterward widely known in Europe as a litterateur, and in New England as a lecturer, under the pseudonym of "Stepniak"—the man whom, on the occasion of his visit to Boston in 1893, that acute and careful judge of men, Phillips Brooks, did not disdain to visit and to befriend.

Stepniak lost his life as the result of a railroad accident. In recalling personal memories of him Robert Spence Watson, the member of Parliament, said: "He was one of the rare men whose personal influence is magnetic, and from communion with whom you never come away unsatisfied. His was a mind capable of long, acute and profound thought. There was coupled with this mind a body of powerful build, admirably disciplined. He was strong, true, single-minded, earnest for the truth, wherever it may lead. When the news reached this country that Mme. Sigida had succumbed beneath the cruelties and indignities she had suffered, Stepniak suffered terribly. I then saw the great man who had been the moving spirit of the great terrorist movement, the war of revenge against the oppressors by the oppressed—the stern, bold, determined avenger of the wrong done by brutal power. It was a grand, a terrible revelation!"

"Only of middle height, if not shorter, he was uncommonly broad both in the shoulders and from chest to back, while his thickly set arms, hands, legs, feet, seemed to have been made of cast iron. On this herculean body a big head, with dark complexion, jet black hair, mustache and beard—the two latter somewhat curling—and deep-cut, large, but manly, features rested. It might be taken for that of a Russian gypsy but for the openheartedness of its expression, while unbounded energy flashed from its beautiful, flaming dark eyes."

Such is the description, given by his prison friend, Volkhovsky, of Peter Alexeyev, the weaver, who, born an illiterate peasant in a village of the Smolensk province, taught himself at the age of 16 or 17 to read and write. Becoming familiar with the revolutionary literature of Russia, he joined the propaganda movement, and at the age of 20 was already working in it with all the ardor of a novice.

His plan was to travel from one weaving mill to another, spending enough time in each to inoculate his fellow-workmen with the microbe of political discontent. He was finally captured in Moscow. At the trial he made a speech which is memorable in the revolutionary annals. Having refused the assistance of a barrister, on the ground that the verdict had been arranged beforehand, he proceeded to deliver a crushing indictment against the autocratic regime.

"While we are only boys of 9 years

STEPNIAK
KRAVCHINSKY.

of age," said he, "we are placed under the supervision of adults who, by means of kicks and the rod, accustom us to being overworked; any food is good enough; we are choked by dust and air polluted with all kinds of filth. Any place is supposed to be good enough for us to sleep in; we have to lie down on the floor with no bedding or pillow, covered with some rags and attacked by myriads of swarming parasites."

Then as to the grown-up workmen. "They," continued Alexeyev, "are driven into the most miserable existence. Seventeen hours' work a day and hardly 40 kopeks (25 cents) for it. It's horrible! And while the necessities of life are so dear, one has to provide out of this scanty wages for one's family and his paying of taxes."

The prisoner went on to complain of the practical serfdom under which the workmen were compelled to exist—punished for daring to read books, exiled to Siberia for daring to ask for an increase of wages. The presiding judge, who had grown more and more nervous during Alexeyev's speech,

PETER ALEXEYEV,
FACTORY-WORKMAN AND REVOLUTIONIST.

finally ordered him to stop. But the prisoner raised his voice yet higher in eulogy of the young revolutionists.

"They alone," he cried, "have stretched out their brotherly hands to us. They alone have responded to all the groans of the peasant, wailing under the yoke of despotism. And they alone will march with us all the time until the workmen will lift up his sinewy arm"— Here the weaver raised his first and, despite the court's demand for "Silence!" shouted at the top of his voice, "And the yoke of despotism, supported by the soldiers' bayonets, will fly to shivers!"

For this speech, which created tremendous feeling in Russia, being many times clandestinely published and republished, Alexeyev was exiled to the Yakutsk province of Siberia for ten years. After his prison period had expired he became a "free colonist." His end was hardly less tragic than that of the exile who committed suicide or goes mad—he was murdered by the Yakut savages.

Ambassador Choate Popular.

Ambassador Choate is by all odds the most popular American in London. He is an unusually brilliant conversationalist, being gifted also with an ever ready and pungent wit. It was noticed at a recent embassy dinner, the king and queen being present, that her majesty laughed more heartily and continuously at the ambassador's sallies than she had been known to do for years. As a rule an American is easily distinguished from a native of Great Britain, but this does not hold good in the case of Mr. Choate, who in accent, manner and general air is almost invariably set down by those who do not know him as a subject of King Edward.

Creates Demand for Copper.

The enormous increase in the production and sale of copper, especially in the United States and Europe, is due to the general increase of electricity used.