

CZAR IS AN EASY MARK.

Anyone with Designs on His Life Could Get Plenty of Opportunities to Shoot Him.

The very first thing I learned in St. Petersburg is that in Russia the czar is everything. He is law, he is order, he is the land and all his subjects are absolutely his to dispose of wholly as he chooses.

To understand anything about Russia it is first necessary to understand that this is the fundamental principle of czarism and that even in trade industry and commerce the czar is supreme.

Every good or bad thing in commerce, as in every other field, therefore, is done in the name of the czar.

The popular fancy pictures the czar as one never seen by his people, save when impeded in a phalanx of guards, thus protected from the bullets of would-be regicides.

The second opportunity was in the Nevski Prospekt, the widest street in the world, compared to which Broadway is an alley.

The several generations of foals which she had reared had all followed her example, though none of the full-grown horses had joined the amphibious group.

By this time a great silent crowd surrounded us.

What is your business anyway? the officer went on without giving me time to answer.

My passport is already in the hands of the police, I interpreted.

Meanwhile he had looked up the Nevski—the troika had turned off somewhere.

"Pardon," said the horseman, returning to his original politeness now that all chance of following the troika was gone.

"I'd like to feed that horse of yours, but my old mule there's got to browse quickly first to keep on her legs this fall."

"Stranger, I'm poor and way down, I'll own up. I can't feed you nor warm you nor gin you so much as a whiff of smoke, but if you don't get down often that horse and come over to the spring and have some water with me I'll never forgive you on the air."

California Batters. Many rattlesnakes are seen among the rocky crevices of the higher reaches of the mountains and here and there along the pine trails.

HORSES GRAZE UNDERWATER

When Herbage Is Scarce in Australia the Animals Dip Into Shallow Pools for Weeds.

While on a cattle station in western Australia Mr. Henry Taunton had an opportunity of seeing a remarkable instance of the way in which horses adapt themselves to their surroundings.

On the upper reaches of the river there was a large pool just fordable at most times, but in a dry season very low.

The first time I witnessed this strange sight was during a dry season when I was riding with the overseer in search of some strayed stock.

The overseer told me that during a long drought some five or six years previous, when hardly a vestige of feed was left on the run, and bush fires had laid bare the sand-plains, the old mare had discovered that there was plenty of luscious feed at the bottom of the pools.

The skin of the muskrat or musquash makes a much more durable and richer looking fur, and from it imitation Alaska sable coats frequently are made.

The fur is least liable to imitation, and whose prices vary according to quality, are Thibet, which is the natural white sheep skin, Krimmer, which is the Crimean lamb, and is usually gray, although there is also black, Persian paw, which is from the legs of Persian lambs; Astrakhan, the skin of the newly born Astrakhan lamb, and Virginia fox, which is the ordinary gray fox.

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FRAUDS IN THE FUR TRADE.

Much of the So-Called Canadian Sable Is Nothing More Than American Marten.

Purchases of furs are often made in the summer, as most women know that the prices at this season are greatly reduced.

These furs are not sable of any sort, but are from the American marten. Even genuine sables, when light in color, are subjected to a process called "topping" or dyeing, by which they are darkened skillfully to the proper hue.

Many fox furs are dyed and treated. As for smoke and blue fox they are imperfect white fox skins dyed. The genuine blue fox is one of the rarest and most expensive of furs and is seen very seldom.

The silver fox, which is the black fox with white hairs sprinkled through it, is still more valuable, and it is on record that last season a single silver fox skin was sold for \$2,400.

Rare skins are used for foxfurs, which largely takes the place of the expensive arctic fox, and rabbit skins are used in quantities to make the fur termed "electric seal."

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ENGLISH USED IN JAPAN.

But It Is Somewhat Maltreated in the Endeavor to Make a Display.

The English language is more widely used in Japan than any other foreign tongue. It is taught throughout the schools by Japanese instructors; only in the faculties of the universities are there many foreign teachers.

The Japanese are self-reliant, and their unwillingness to employ foreign teachers leads them into some errors in their use of English.

Another difficult passage occurred on the same notice. On leaving the bathroom parties are requested to put on the gowns provided in each bath room and then to wait in number two waiting-room for their own clothing.

On landing in Japan you purchase a guide-book. In it you meet English like this: "The restaurant in the city is the first established in the city. It has very fine view and its business is prosperous."

In the village of Koga there live many cultivators of flowers, plants and other garden trees. It must be in the same village that there is a fine large pine-tree stretching its branches horizontally into a long way.

American lager beer brewers have adapted their manufacture of beer to comply with the demand of the popular taste that was formerly met by ale, and there are many thousand gallons of strong beer or winter beer brewed each year as a substitute for ale.

So long as the immigration from England, Ireland and Scotland continued to be large the government insisted on ale and would not accept beer as a substitute.

Ale is essentially a drink for those of a moist and humid localities. The proportion of alcohol is great and the heating qualities of ale are undoubted.

The countries from which for the most part, ale drinkers come are damp, a condition which is not duplicated in New York.

Ale is, moreover, a winter drink, and recent winters have by their rigor made a greater demand on the supplies of whisky in saloons than on those of ale.

The larger expenses of saloons-keepers, incident to the increase of their liquor tax expenses, incline them to push the sale of beverages for which there is an all-the-year-round demand—beer and whisky are two of these—rather than a drink for which there is call only during some months in the year, as is the case with ale.

Famous Japanese Criminal. Japan has been much excited by the capture of its most famous criminal, Soshi Nno, alias Kimbei Watanabe, whose audacious feats of breaking out of the Maybashi jail this year created a sensation throughout the island.

When only a striping of 20, Soshi broke into a provincial bank and made away with the sum of 10,000 yen.

On another occasion he paid a nocturnal visit to S. Kariwa, a millionaire in Umata, Gumakken, carrying off 100,000 yen worth of old coins and 50,000 yen in bank notes.

He has been arrested 30 times, has made attempts to escape from prison no fewer than 110 times, passed 10 years of his life behind prison bars and robbed the public of 1,000,000 yen, at the latest estimation. Now he has been sentenced to imprisonment for a year and six months—London Telegraph.

FRENCH STATE MONOPOLIES

The Government Endeavors to Control Insurance as It Does Other Industries.

The monopolies of France are triple in kind—those of fabrication of sale and of transport. At present they consist of the monopolies of the postal and telegraph and telephone services, the striking of money, the manufacture and sale of powder, tobacco and stamps.

No one complains of the state handling of the issue of coin, neither does anyone complain of its working of its powder trade, but the complaints on each of the other heads are never ceasing, and one needs only to have tried to talk by telephone, attempted to strike a French match or had the misfortune to smoke a French cigar to know how well founded the complaints are.

The one open defense the government offers for them is that they bring profit of a collectivist nature into the public treasury—which, seeing how they are exploited to sustain others, is more than doubtful—and that they constitute a form of indirect taxation which is acceptable to the French taxpayer.

The necessity of providing money for M. Millerand's old age pension scheme is the cause assigned for the intended creation of the new monopoly.

Extraordinary as such a move would be it is not impossible that the French parliament will accept it, but lest there may be difficulty about it, he has prepared a second and alternative scheme which is not so drastic.

The second scheme allows the existing insurance companies to continue in existence, but forbids the creation of any new companies and provides for the immediate creation of a department of the state for insurance against fire which must almost at once take away all the business of the existing companies as premiums payable will not be fixed on any actuary's tables, but on the admirably simple plan of being always lower than the rates charged by other companies for corresponding risks.

Notwithstanding this peculiar basis of calculation it is estimated that the new monopoly in its very first year will bring in a profit to the state of 100,000,000 francs, which will be used if the plan of the government is carried out to supply the funds for the old-age-pensioners.

THE THRIFTY PIEDMONTESE Peasants of Italy Blindly Devoted to Religion and of Economical Habits.

In character the Piedmontese are very unlike the popular conception of the Italian people. As a class they are sober, industrious, and thrifty. They have not the gay and insouciant temperament of the Italians of the south, but are staid and unemotional.

There is indeed a curious combination in temperament between the Piedmontese and the Britons, writes E. J. H. Reynolds, in Chambers' Journal. If thrifty, they are also intensely religious and their religion is agitated to misery.

The blind devotion of the peasant coupled with their extraordinary tenacity of affairs, is sometimes expressed in the proverb, "There is an amount of hypocrisy, story told of a certain priest who increased the Pope's favor by the size of his flock by excluding from the pulpit a straw which he declared came from the pope's cell in the Vatican.

This sacred relic was accepted as an indisputable proof that his holiness was kept a state prisoner by the government.

The following instance of the thrift of the peasants has in it a touch of pathos. On one occasion, having given a cigar to a horse (herdsman), I found afterward that the previous week he had saved the recipient a whole month's pay of whiffs only being taken after the evening meal, and then it was carefully laid aside till the next evening.

When the custom which still obtains in some parts of the mount of regarding the harmless, necessary domestic use of a delicate material is to be put down to thrift or merely to a perverted appetite is doubtful, but it is well known that to all the peasants of a Piedmontese peasant is the usual tale of wandering or homeless hordes.

The Smallest Church. In a very recent issue of the little church in the village of St. Lawrence, on the Isle of Whith, was the smallest church in existence. It was built nearly 300 years ago, and was probably at first only used as a private chapel of some wealthy family. It was 25 feet long, 7 feet high and 11 feet broad. It held only 12 people. Not long ago it was entirely enlarged and is no longer the smallest church, although it is quite small—Philadelphia.

Incendiary. The Piedmontese seem to be simply mad for money. I understand they have collected a great deal of insurance.

AT THE WRONG END OF DA

Mistake of a Sibilious Man Who Has Since Taken to the "Water Wagon."

Here's a story which a downtown business man tells on himself and I suppose is a commonplace incident. The night he was at the club until late, he relates the Pittsburgh Dispatch. Instead of going straight home when his third had been smoothed by a plentiful supply of liquid refreshments he called a several speak-er, and by the time the wee sma' hours were at hand the sibilious man was about as sheets in the breeze and still sailing. Now he got home he cannot remember, but some friend who dotedly piloted him there.

When he awoke he discovered that he had been too stupid to retire and had dropped into a chair, where he had slept with his clothes on. He had a glorious headache and his tongue felt like a piece of chamolis skin. He glanced at his watch. It was not yet six. Closing the door, which he had left ajar, he washed his face, brushed his hair, changed his soiled and stinking collar for a clean one and mused 'til he bed to make it look as though it had been occupied during the night. Then he went into the sitting-room, congratulating himself upon his good fortune in awakening before the hour of six. His chery "good morning" was rather coldly received, and, realizing that something was radically wrong, the jolly gent slunk back into his bedroom and re-acted. During the course of these reflections darkness commenced to settle down.

It then dawned upon the business man that instead of being morning it was six o'clock in the evening. Developments proved that he had staggered into a house about daylight and, being unable to arouse him, the family had in disgust permitted him to snore away in the chair. He mutely acknowledged the joke and mounted the water wagon, upon which vehicle he is now riding.

DOGS' CURFEW IN ENGLAND Legislation for the Apprehension of Canines That Damage and Worry Cattle.

The dog law in England is a bill introduced in parliament by Mr. F. E. Jones, a lord of the treasury. Mr. Walter Long, president of the local government board, and the director general, reports the London Chronicle.

The dog bill is apparently designed to lessen the damage done by dogs in the worrying of cattle and this it proposes to do by instituting a kind of curfew for dogs and by robbing them of the time-honored privilege of "first bite."

Hispanic in order to be successful in an action for damage done by a dog it has been necessary to prove a preliminary malicious propensity in the animal. The first clause of the new bill provides that the owner of a dog shall be liable in damages for injury done by his canine to any other animal, and it shall not be necessary to show any malicious propensity in the dog, or the owner's knowledge of such propensity, or to show that the injury was attributable to negligence on the part of the owner.

A dog however, who has been injured or killed may be dealt with as a dangerous animal under section two of the act of 1871.

The new regulation empowers the board of agriculture to make orders for preventing dogs from straying during all or any of the hours between sunset and sunrise.

Spain may be well founded at the expense of the owner, and if not determined within five days may be destroyed.

The act is intended to apply to all dogs, and is not intended to apply to any other animals.

CARRY HORSE'S PEDIGREE. Owners of Fine Roadsters Have Cards Giving Particulars of Breeding, Etc.

Roadside courtesies along the beautiful highways and byways in Philadelphia's suburbs take on many odd characteristics when the Philadelphia Press-Pedestrian are often seen hobnobbing with their automobiles and carrying friends. Coaches and the women folk of the neighborhood who are known to many a "hit" while the athletic young fellows in outfit costume seated on flowing bank and rustling bridges can be seen on any pleasant Sunday enjoying their mutual interest.

An instance a little out of the ordinary happened the other day when a well-known Philadelphia who was walking along a road happened to say quite audibly as a young man rode by on a fine horse: "That horse is a beauty." Of course, the young man heard him, and at once he reined up his horse, turned around quickly, and came cantering back, and said to the Philadelphia: "It is a fine horse isn't it?"

And then, putting his hand inside his coat as if to hand out his visiting card, instead he pulled out a piece of card-board about eight inches square, and continued: "And this is his pedigree, having the horse's card over to the Philadelphia who was quite surprised but pleased that his admiration for the horse was not unfounded as it was related to some of the best-known names in American stables.

But the carrying of a horse's card around with you seems quite a novelty although a very easy way to settle things in case chance admirers want to know a thing or two about the horse.