

RUSSIA, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

The Czar's Vast Domain a World in Itself.

An Immense and Undeveloped Field for Western Enterprises.

Americans Already Coming to the Front—An Interesting Letter From William T. Stead, the London Editor, on the Resources of the Immense Prairie Through Which the Czar is Running an Iron Highway.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.) LONDON, Oct. 20.—William T. Stead, writing from St. Petersburg, says: "When Sir Robert Morier, one of the ablest of the British Ambassadors, was transferred from the court of Madrid to the capital of Russia he remarked on his arrival, 'I have come from a country which lives in the past to a country which lives in the future.' " "Since then many years have gone by. Spain has almost used up its past in vain effort to contend with the forces of the present, while Russia is exhausting the resources of the present in order to be able to cope with the immense possibilities of the future. Russia is the greatest aggregate of white men ever compacted into a State unit since the world began. The English-speaking family alone exceeds in numbers the Russian, but they know no one political allegiance such as that which binds all the Russians to the throne of Nicholas II. " "One hundred and twenty millions of men constitute a world in themselves large enough to absorb their energies and monopolize their attention. The difference of the Russians as to what passes beyond their frontiers is phenomenal. Fifteen years ago one of the aides de camp of the then Emperor, falling into conversation with an American, asked to what country he belonged, and was told, 'America, America,' said the aide de camp. " "Where is America? " "An American traveler recently returned from Siberia gravely assured me that all the war news he could find in the Orosberg papers is brief reports of telegrams describing the war which was raging between Spain and England. The Russian peasantry are not apt to make fine distinctions. Mankind for them, it has often been said, consists only of two great divisions—the Russians, or speaking men, and the non-Russians, or those who cannot speak. " "There is M. Polydonostreff, who is universally regarded as a kind of lay Pope and 'persecutor general' through-out Russia, speaking to me. He is keenly alive to the American evolution, or, as he thinks it, degradation. To him 'Boss' Croker is a kind of somber portent of the doom that awaits Parliamentarism or representative government. In his 'Reflections of a Russian Statesman' he has just made its appearance in English, he expresses profound alarm at the probable (?) triumph of the Roman Catholic religion in the United States. " "Prince Khilkoff (pronounced Hilkoff), Minister of War and Communications, is known to the Ministers. He served some years in an American railway shop, and he wears his beard in the traditional American fashion; his letters are written on a typewriter and he is simply burning with a desire to repeat to Siberia the great industrial development Americans have achieved in the last fifty years west of the Mississippi. " "At the Foreign Office Count Mouravieff, bluff, cynical, Bismarckian in his ambitions, though not in his capacity, has kept a careful eye upon the development of American ambitions. While scrupulously preserving the most rigid neutrality during the war, he had a bias in sentiment toward the United States. Great and growing Powers have not much sympathy with States that are moribund, and Spain has few sympathizers among the Ministers of the Czar. But the Spanish war interested them but little. It was waged, as it were, in a distant planet. Astronomers might watch it, but it was not the business of the average man. " "Americans are coming well to the front in Russia, as they are discovering more and more what an immense and undeveloped field the lands of the Czar offer to Western enterprise. Russia is at the beginning of a new epoch of industrial development. Before the next century closes she hopes to have achieved a progress as great as that which the United States has achieved in the closing century. No one adequately realizes the immense agricultural resources of the immense prairie through which the Czar and Prince Khilkoff are running an iron highway 8,000 miles long. Americans are supplying many of the rails, American engineers are everywhere. One American is superintending the construction of new steel works near St. Petersburg. Bates dredgers are to deepen the Volga, the Dnieper, the Don and I know not how many Russian rivers beside. The representative of Messrs. Worthington is laying down 200 miles of eight-inch piping in the trans-Caspian region, through which the Rothschilds' oil combination will pump petroleum, by means of our pumping stations, all of which will be supplied with the latest American pumps. " "The other day I met an American geologist and engineer, who, having quit the post of City Engineer in a great American city, has been spending the summer examining the great mines of Northern Siberia, and before the day was over I stumbled on another who had been reporting on copper mines in the Kirgi Steppes. The testimony of our Americans was favorable to the labor value of the Siberian Empire. " "The Russian is docile, quick to learn and does quite as good work as the skilled laborer in the States. As a craftsman he is past master with his only tool, the ax, and my American friends seem to think that he would be equally deft with other tools if he

had the training of the skilled artisan.

Now Stand Upon the Threshold of the Philippine Question.

Probable the Americans Will Demand the Whole Archipelago.

Well Informed Persons Believe Premier Sagasta Will Direct the Spanish Commissioners to Sign a Treaty by Which the United States Should Take the Islands and Assume the Forty Million Dollars Debt.

PARIS, Oct. 29.—While the Spanish and American Peace Commissioners now stand upon the threshold of the Philippine question, it seems probable, in the light of this hour, that the United States will take over the entire archipelago. This view is the focus point of the best unofficial opinion of the trend of events, of the development of impulses, of the reasoning of men, of the fixed landmarks to the crystal of fortune. " "During the four days just past those in touch with, though possibly not in the confidence of the Commissioners, have felt the concentration of tendencies toward the standpoint indicated as likely to be occupied by the United States Commissioners. Monday's sessions of the two commissions. " "In 1897 Spain issued, by royal decree, bonds in the sum of \$40,000,000, to which were pledged the revenues of the Philippines, and to which the Spanish national guarantee was added. From these \$40,000,000 of obligations Spain realized \$36,000,000 in cash. These \$40,000,000 represent the Philippine debt, which is entirely outside of the \$500,000,000 of the so-called Philippine and Spanish debt. " "The conditions also differ, the Philippine debt having been created by royal decree, because the archipelago was not a parliamentary colony, while the so-called Cuban debt was created by law. The difference raised the question of the non-responsibility of the Philippines when removed from the sovereignty under which their resources were pledged. " "Should the United States accept the Philippines, none but officials yet know whether they would assume a part or all of this debt, or more than the Philippine debt. The Americans have declined to assume any of the Cuban debt, because Cuba is not theirs; but in the event of the acquisition of the Philippines, the Americans acquire the debt, and it is believed there will be some financial assumption by the United States. " "At this point raises the question of how much financial relief might come from the loss of the Philippines. Some well-informed persons believe that Premier Sagasta has determined to rid of the Philippines, and would direct his Commissioners to sign a treaty by which the United States should take the islands and assume the \$40,000,000 of debt. This proposition finds support in the leading press, which to-day declares that such a thing is impossible, and that Spain should abandon the archipelago. " "There are Spaniards in Paris who insist that should the United States take the Philippines without a large money consideration, Spain's national guarantee should return, and the nation holding its soldiers in Cuba and elsewhere, again take up arms, achieve thus a glorious martyrdom to national honor. " "In the contending currents the Spanish Commissioners are awaiting the American declaration on Monday, and they declare they cannot sign a treaty of peace involving the loss of the Philippines to Spain. It is appreciated by Spaniards and Americans alike that should no treaty result here hostilities will be continued, and both event likely understand that in such event the American Commissioners would immediately possess the Philippines by question, and without money consideration to Spain. The Canaries would then be an object of interest to the United States, and possibly other Spanish possessions. " "The American Commissioners to-day received from Washington full advices in response to the submission of the individual views regarding the Philippine questions, and two sessions were held to consider these replies. " "WILL TAKE ALL THE PHILIPPINES, NEW YORK, INES. " "NEW YORK, Oct. 29.—A special to the 'Herald' from Washington says: " "President McKinley is convinced that there is no way for the United States to escape the responsibility of taking all of the Philippines. He has arrived at this conclusion after mature deliberation. He at first favored keeping nothing more than a military and naval base, and thought that the United States should in no event retain more than the island of Luzon. When the American Peace Commissioners left for Paris it was not contemplated that they should demand from the Spanish Government more than the absolute cession of this one island to the United States and a reversionary interest in the other islands of the group. It has been found, however, that there were many practical difficulties in the way of such a solution, not the least of them being the evident impossibility of the Spanish re-establishing authority over the remaining islands without a prolonged and bloody struggle with the insurgents. " "Information, coupled with the opinion of military and naval commanders familiar with the Philippine situation, led the President to believe that Admiral Dewey's destruction of the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay and General Merritt's capture of Manila annihilated Spanish sovereignty in the islands. " "The President has been deluged with letters from all parts of the United States urging that a United States sovereignty should be continued. In this same line the President's recent trip was a revelation to him and the members of his Cabinet who accompanied

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