POLICE IN RUSSIA

Characteristics of the Greatest Detective System in the World.

WHERE EVERY HOUSE JANITOR IS A SPY

"Carp" Considers Russian Policemen Less Offensive Than American Officers.

WORK OF THE GREAT THIRD SECTION

Record of Every Suspected Subject of the Czar Kept on File.

PRAISE OF RUSSIAN PENITENTIARIES

Where Prisoners are Well Fed (for Russia), Well Clothed, and the Strictest Sanitary Regulations are Enforced—Cases Sent to Siberia.

ST. PETERSBURG, Oct. 24.—[Special Correspondence of THE BEE.]—I came to Russia fully armed for contact with the police. I have letters from Mr. Byrnes, the superintendent of the police of New York city, recommending me to the protection and confidence of the policemen of Russia. I have confidential notes of introduction from the head of our secret service of the Treasury department to the chief of the third section of the czar, and before I left the United States I got letters from the Pinkertons to the chiefs of police of the great Russian cities. These letters have been of value in giving me an insight into the police system of this nation, which is said to have the best regulated and the most perfect police system of the world. By it the czar is said to know just where every one of his 100,000,000 subjects sleeps every night and St. Petersburg is practically governed by the police.

The heads of the third section, or the detective service of this capital, together with the chief of police, control all matters relating to the sanitary and political conditions of the city. Sitting in their big offices, not far from the banks of the Neva, they have their fingers on the wires which reach to every house and every room in St. Petersburg. Filed away in the pigeon holes of their offices is the record of every suspected person in the empire and their system is such that they can turn in an instant the electric light of police investigation on the record of almost any man in the world. They have their agents in every capital of the world, and nothing is done anywhere which in the least affects Russia which is not known to these agents and put upon record.

Less Offensive Than American Officers.

And still one might travel all over Russia and hardly know that the police exist. Outside of complying with the passport regulations, which are attended to by the managers of the hotels, you do not meet the police more here than in any other European city, and I have not found them as offensive in their bearing as the police of New York and London. I had no trouble with them on the frontier. I have carried my camera with me and have taken photographs of them on foot and on horseback. I have through them resisted the extortions of the droschsky drivers, and have gotten information from them just as I would from a policeman on a street corner in America. I have found them just as polite in South Russia and in the villages along the Volga as I have in the large cities, and I am convinced that the traveler who minds his own business and goes about it without fear may travel just as easily here as in any part of Europe.

The only trouble I have had with the police during my three months here was in connection with Mr. Frederic Remington, the famous artist, who, in company with Mr. Poultney Bigelow, made a very short visit to Russia and left in haste. I came with Mr. Remington and Mr. Bigelow on the same ship from New York to Hamburg. I lived in the the same hotel with them at St. Petersburg and said goodby to them when they left. I took a photograph of them in the steamer Normannia, on which we crossed, and I think their fears of Russian imprisonment had more foundation in their minds than any basis in fact.

Mr. Remington and myself, while out riding one day behind a fast droschsky horse, ran a race with a military official and this official was angered at our presumption. It was on the fashionable drive which goes from St. Petersburg to the islands of the Neva. The military man had a better horse than we had and he succeeded in passing us. Shortly after this we came to a bridge, in the center of which was a policeman. The official got there first and he said a word to the policeman as he passed, and when we came up the policeman told us we must go back to the city. We protested, but we could not talk Russian and our droschsky driver was forced to turn around and we drove back home. Whether the official was one of the police or whether he was a 5-cent general I do not know. At any rate he was big enough and small enough to take this petty revenge and we had to submit.

A Famous Chief.

The military and the police work together in Russia and the chief of police can call in the Cossacks to help him. The chief of the third section here is practically the governor of the city. He can try suspected persons when it is necessary in secret, and about 20,000 men were, it is said, banished from the capital every year during the reign of General Gresser. Gresser was the most famous chief of police the czar has had for years. He was a general of the army when he discovered a plot to assassinate the czar and his services in this were so great that the czar made him the chief of the third section. He gave him a present of $25,000, a residence here in St. Petersburg and a pension of $1,500 a year. General Gresser died only a few months ago and it was claimed by some that he was assassinated. The truth of it seems to be that he died from taking injections of Brown-Sequard elixir to bolster up his waning health.

The present chief of police is a fierce looking man of about 40, who is a more pompous man than Gresser was and who does matters in a business way. I chatted with him in German for some time the other day and found him a very intelligent though somewhat secretive official.

A man's life is as safe in St. Petersburg as it is in New York, and there is less vice and crime here than there is in the average American city. There is a policeman on every block both day and night, and there is always a policeman in the center of every street crossing. The laws of the road are such that though a man may drive at the rate of twelve miles an hour down the Nevskoi prospekt, and though the people always drive at a breakneck pace you never see collisions. There are few burglaries and few murders here, and there are less arrests than in London.

The police force of St. Petersburg consists of 2,000 men. The city is divided up into forty-two police districts, and each district has a police station, with which is connected a sort of police court. In each one of these stations records are kept of all the citizens of the district, and these records are classified so that the police can tell in a moment the history and standing of any man in the district. These records are made on papers of different colors, and those who are suspected of political offenses have papers of a separate color from those suspected of crime and dangerous characters have their police biographies written on a paper of still different color. In every one of these police stations and in the police stations all over the empire are kept lists of men who are to be arrested wherever they are found, and of men who are considered dangerous to the government. Similar lists are sent to the agents of Russia in the different capitals of the world, and by reports from these police agents the government knows as far as possible just where its enemies are.

Features Worthy of Imitation.

The 2,000 policemen of St. Petersburg wear uniform. There are tens of thousands of other men employed by the police who dress in citizen's clothes, and every house in St. Petersburg has its police agent and spy. Many of the people here live in flats and the man who takes care of the flat is known as the dvornik, and he is responsible to the police for the people within it. He reports upon their doings; he sees that their passports are correct and he keeps the police informed as to what goes on in his house, and it is almost impossible to have a secret meeting in Russia without its being reported by one of these men.

These dvorniks have a sort of trades union among themselves and they are governed by a chief, and this chief is a member of the police and is, to a certain extent, responsible for the actions of the dvorniks. It is necessary for every householder to have one of these men and often there are several of them in a single flat. They have control of the sanitary arrangements of the houses as well as the political and criminal arrangements. They are expected by the police to see that the streets in front of their houses are swept and watered twice a day, and St. Petersburg has as well kept streets as any city in the world. The dvorniks are responsible for any dirt or filth inside the house, and the man who does not keep his house clean in St. Petersburg can be arrested. If the police see a business man whose shop is not properly cared for, they order him to clean it. If he does not do so he may receive an order to close up his establishment for a certain number of months, and he has to do it. It is the same with theaters. One here in St. Petersburg had not as many exits as the police considered necessary. The manager was playing a big engagement when he received an order from the police to remedy this defect and make the house safe. He paid no attention to it and went on with his show. The result was that a few days later his theater was closed by the order of the police, and what he might have repaired at the loss of a few nights of acting cost him many thousands of dollars.

It is the same with the smallest matters. There is a law here that the barbers' shops must bring a clean piece of soap and a clean brush to every man they shave, and the barber who would do otherwise would be arrested. The result is that the order at St. Petersburg is very good indeed, and though there is much drunkenness among the people there are few brawls and practically no riots.

The passport bureaus are all under the police. Every man and every woman in Russia must have a passport, and if they move from one place to another, or from one house to another, this passport must be vised by the police. If a husband goes out of the country and wishes his wife to follow him he must arrange so that she can get a passport from the police, and this will be granted her only on the application of her husband, and will not be given without his permission.

Policemen Poorly Paid.

Every large hotel of Russia has its passport bureau, and you hand in your passport the moment you arrive and the hotelkeeper has it vised for you and gives it back to you within an hour or so. In leaving the hotel you will not need to have it again vised without you are going out of the country, but the landlord always asks you where you are going, and the moment you leave word is sent to the police as to the date of your departure and the place of your destination. Landlords are compelled to attend to such matters and they are fined if they do not send in the passports promptly. I have heard of the necessity of one always having a passport with him, and since I have been in Russia I have carried mine constantly in my left breast pocket. I have never had it called for, however, but it is, I am told, necessary if one would get checks cashed at the banks or letters at the postoffice.

The policemen of Russia are not very well paid and salaries are very low throughout the Russian empire. It is the same with the soldiers. The czar has something like 1,000,000 men in his army, but these do not receive as much as a postage stamp a day for their work, and the ordinary policeman only gets $12 a month. The chief of the police districts here receives only $1,250 a year, and in the interior policemen often receive no more than $2.50 a month and pay their own expenses.

Every man in Russia is expected to help the police. All householders must keep records of the servants they employ. There are blank books made for this purpose, and in one column you must put down the date of engagement of a servant, his religion and where he comes from. You must give his age and must have a record of his height, size, color, and, in fact, a regular passport description of him. You must send a notice to the police that you have employed him and they look from time to time over your servant book and put their stamp upon it. It is the same with hired girls as with hired men and the same with clerks as with house servants. When the servant leaves you you must again notify the police and state where he has gone. You have to pay fees and stamps for his service and the police here enforce the collection of stamp taxes.

Not long ago there was an order passed that every receipt and business paper should have a stamp, and the police were about to collect this tax from a gas company in South Russia. This company had thousands of contracts which were merely matters of record and the police called and tried to collect stamp duties upon each of these. The owner, who was a shrewd Englishman, saw that the thing was going to cost him about $50,000, and he burned up his contracts and thus evaded the tax. He had a book account, which enabled him to supply the loss, and he told me gleefully how he got ahead of the government.

Sent to Siberia.

I chatted about the police with another Englishman who lives in one of the big towns of the black plain and who was very angry at the police surveillance which was kept over him. Said he: "You can't do anything here that is not known to the police and there are spies everywhere. Your servants watch you, and even a beggar may be a spy. If a man does anything that is out of the way he is put under police supervision and he has to report every month or every week to the police. I had a clerk with me not long ago who was supposed to be a free-thinker. He had to report to the police every month. One night we missed him, and we did not hear of him for about two months. He had been taken off in irons to St. Petersburg, and he was kept in prison there a month. Then his accusers were brought to the city, and this man was brought out with thirty others, but his accusers could not pick him out of the lot and the result was that the authorities released him. As soon as he was released he was told he could have a free ticket home if he would wait for it, but he said that he preferred to pay his fare and go at once, and he did so.

"It is not uncommon for men to be sent from here to Siberia. Many of them do not go in prison gangs. They merely receive orders from St. Petersburg to report to the police at certain stations in Siberia and to remain there until they receive permission to leave. Once there they can engage in any business they please, provided they make their reports properly, and sometimes they stay for years. When they come back they say but little about their experiences in Siberia, and they are very careful of their utterances in the future. The majority of the persons sent to Siberia are for criminal and not political offenses. When a bank fails here the directors get 'wolf passports' or tickets for Siberia, and if a man commits murder he is sent to Siberia for life. There is not a great deal of flogging done in the prisons, but banishment takes its place."

Speaking of the spy system of Russia, while I was at Nijni-Novvorod the governor detailed his private secretary to go with me, and this man was very particular to know just what I was doing and for what purpose. He pretended that he wanted it for newspaper publication, but I afterwards learned that he was a spy, and I doubt not the story I told him was sent right on to St. Petersburg.

During my stay there I took dinner at a gentleman's house at which this private secretary was present, and at this one of the ladies at the table remarked in English that there were spies everywhere and there was one at this very table, but owing to his not understanding English he would not be able to report our conversation.

Praise of Russian Prisons.

I have been surprised in fact to find out how freely people talk in Russia about the government. They discuss the czar and the officials openly, and it seems to me that they are quite as free in this respect as we are in the United States. I find less red tape about the offices here in St. Petersburg than I have found in any of the other capitals of Europe, and though nihilists and socialists are undoubtedly watched carefully the people do not seem to be afraid of the police as much as is supposed, and they have their good points as well as their bad ones.

I have paid some attention to the prisons of European Russia. I find some of them very much overcrowded and the prisons of the empire need a general reformation. About those of Siberia I know nothing. They are probably as bad as Mr. Kennan pictures them.

One of the finest penitentiaries in the world is here at St. Petersburg. It is a splendid structure on the other side of the Neva river which cost $500,000 to build and which will accommodate about 1,000 prisoners. It is lit by electric lights and it is thoroughly sanitary in its arrangements. Each cell in it has cost about $500 and the cells are fitted up with bibles and educational works and with the materials for industrial work. The prisoners are well fed for Russia. They get buckwheat, mush and soup and rye bread three times a day, and they eat this out of wooden bowls with wooden spoons. The prison clothes are no worse than ours, but the treatment of the hair of the prisoners is different. We shave the whole head, but the Russian convict has only one-half of his head shaved and the remainder is left to grow long. They are fully as clean as our prisoners and the Russian prisoner is given a bath as good as a Turkish bath every week.

There are about 100,000 prisoners in this empire and the prison population of Russia is not, all told, much larger than ours in comparison with the population. It amounted to, in 1888, 116,000 and in 1890 we had 45,000 prisoners in our penitentiaries, to say nothing of the number in our jails and reformatories. During that year 18,000 were exiled to Siberia, and Siberia has, all told, it is said, a hard-labor convict population of not more than 10,000.

The profits of contract labor in the prisons of Russia amount to only $150,000 a year, or just one-twentieth of the $7,000,000 a year which it costs the country for its prisons.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

The "No. 9" Wheeler & Wilson will not break the thread nor impair the stitching if run in the wrong direction. Sold by Geo. W. Lancaster & Co., 514 S. 16th St.

THE THEATERS.

Tonight "The Colonel" company closes its engagement at Boyd's theater, and although this is its first engagement here, it has demonstrated that all that has been said in its favor has been the truth. In these days of farce comedy, in which every possible method is used to produce laughter, it is refreshing to see a clean, refined production of the legitimate school such as "The Colonel."

"Our Irish Visitors" is a goose that has laid golden eggs for several people, particularly J. M. Hill, who formerly managed the company for several seasons with large profitable results, and this year the goose will probably lay golden eggs for its managers, Messrs. Benedict and McKelver. There are a great many musical comedies, but none has pleased the American public as well as "Our Irish Visitors" has in the past ten years. "Our Irish Visitors" is a lively comedy, superior, in fact, to the present day farce comedy and horse play, and is positively not a variety show in disguise. The dialogue is bright and crisp, a laugh in every line, the specialties novel, attractive and entertaining. Mr. Sam J. Ryan, a well and favorably known comedian of exceptional merit, and formerly co-star with Mark Murphy in "O'Dowd's Neighbors," enacts the character of Colonel Gilhooley and has lost none of his power in making people laugh. His actions are awkward and funny, his brogue, of a quiet sort, is unapproachable and peculiarly his own, while that inimitable laugh or gurgle would move a stoic. Frank Davis as Alderman McGinnis makes an excellent foil for Ryan and they both work together capitally. There is probably no soubrette who has sprung into greater favor and prominence in recent years than Lottie Gilson, New York's fine favorite, called "The Little Magnet," and she is growing in favor each day by a certain native gift and has made a lasting impression in the part of Dorothy that will tell for many years to come. The supporting company is composed of well known favorites. "Our Irish Visitors" will be presented at the Farnam Street theater one solid week, commencing this (Sunday) matinee. Usual matinees Wednesday and Saturday. The usual popular prices will prevail. Election returns will be read from the stage during the performance of "Our Irish Visitors" Tuesday evening, November 8.

With pleasure we announce as the next attraction at the Farnam Street theater for four nights, commencing November 13, and continuing until November 16, with a Wednesday matinee, the inimitable and only Gus Williams, quaint in his humor, legitimate and neat in his acting methods and the universal favorite. Mr. Williams is so well known throughout the length and breadth of the land, that it is entirely superfluous to describe him further than to say that he is now the only legitimate German dialect comedian on the American stage.

That interesting dramatic novelty, "Yon Youson," is the coming attraction at Boyd's new theater and will open a three night's engagement Sunday, November 13. Since it was last seen here this piece has enjoyed a run of 100 nights in New York and received the endorsement of the metropolitan press as a unit. What few rough edges were noted in the early productions of the play have been polished off and it is now pronounced a sterling comedy drama destined to live a long time.

The claim of novelty perhaps first attracts theater-goers to this play, and when they have studied its merits from all points of view, there is discovered a substantial foundation for the encouragement of the patron of high class dramatic art. The simple, honest hearted immigrant whose native goodness of purpose enables him to quickly detect the cunning schemer and come to the aid of the innocent victim appeals to all classes, and when artistically portrayed, at once wins the esteem of all admirers of the natural in stage pictures. Mr. Heege's delineation of the title role in "Yon Youson" has won for him the admiration of critics and the public. The scenic and mechanical effects are no less novel than the play itself. The actual breaking of an immense log jam is said to be the acme of stage realism, and a most thrilling effect. The Minnesota lumber camp in midwinter and the view of St. Anthony Falls by moonlight, rival in splendor any effort of the scene painter yet seen in this country, and there are other startling devices introduced which render the production a positive scenic triumph.

The pure juice of the grape naturally fermented, that is what Cook's Extra Dry Champagne is. Its bouquet is unrivaled.

CONCURIALITIES.

A New York court holds that a proposal "made in fun" is binding.

A triple wedding took place in the Methodist church at Williamsburg, N. Y., October 26.

Miss Virginia Coudert, second daughter of Frederic R. Coudert of New York, will become Mrs. Frederick H. Benedict on the 10th inst.

On Monday last at Tuxedo park, Miss Blanche Havemeyer was married to J. Adair Campbell, the second son of a Scotch baronet, who has a fine estate on the shore of Loch Lomond.

Agnes Huntington's proposed marriage to a New York lawyer has eased the mind of a rich young Philadelphian, against whom she had entered a now to be canceled breach of promise suit.

Denver is something of a divorce center. Five hundred and fifteen mismated couples have applied for divorce during the past ten months. Most of the applications come from parties who recently moved to Colorado.

In Grace church, Brooklyn, October 28, Lieutenant Barns-Tracy Walling, U. S. N., and Miss Wilhelmina Boyd were married. Miss Boyd is the daughter of the late Captain Robert Boyd, U. S. N., who was chief of staff of the North Atlantic squadron, and who was well known as the commanding officer of the flagships Tennessee and Richmond.

The tendency toward later marriages, especially among the well-to-do classes, is again shown by the report of the English Labor Commission. From this it appears that miners marry younger than any other class of people named. Farmers, shoemakers and tailors follow next. The actual difference between the averages of these and the professional classes was fully seven years.

The wedding of young Edwin Gould to Miss Shrady in New York was commonplace in its details, though truly not many a bride can have a $5,000 gift from her father-in-law in the shape of pendant to the equally costly necklace presented by the groom. Yet the wedding was original in that the marriage was not ordained in drawing room nor in mamma's boudoir, but in the fresh hearts alone of the two who stood in front of a screen of flowers, and in forty seconds had been tied for life by the brief formula of the Presbyterian church.

The following three marriages have each elements of romance. Colonel J. Kennedy Stout of Spokane Falls, Wash., wed Ida Homan; Carrie Houlan married George Tidbale, Brooklyn, and Mollie Homan became the wife of Lloyd Lonegan, Brooklyn. Little Gertie Homan, the child actress, has in each instance figured as the unintentional matchmaker. The three bridegrooms met the little wizard, and, loving her, loved her older counterparts. The colonel from Washington is the owner of the Spokane Spokesman, and interviewed her behind the scenes in a Spokane Falls opera house.

Miss Birdie Lisso and Mr. Samuel J. Seligman, son of Mr. James Seligman, the New York banker, and nephew of Mr. Jesse Seligman, were married last week in Delmonico's. The ceremony took place beneath a canopy of white flowers suspended from which was a wedding bell of white orchids and lilies of the valley. The bride, who is a daughter of Mr. C. Lisso, wore a superb white satin gown trimmed with duchess point lace. The low corsage was arranged with elbow sleeves and the lace on it caught with diamond stars and a fleur-de-lis. A large pendant hung from a necklace. Her tulle veil was held with orange blossoms and she carried a bouquet of lilies of the valley.

RELIGIOUS.

Moody and Sankey are said to have received $1,200,000 in royalties from their gospel hymns.

Rev. Walter S. Rudolph, pastor of the Westminister Presbyterian church in Denver, has severed his church relations because he cannot consistently preach the doctrine of endless punishment.

Bishop Doane, who always registers as William of Albany and has his baggage so marked, is one of the few bishops of the Protestant Episcopal church who follow the English fashion of wearing knickerbockers and an apron.

No death has occurred in the family of Rev. Samuel Wakefield of Latrobe in sixty-one years. He is in his 94th year. His wife is a few years his junior. They were married in 1821 and have ten children.

Rev. Dr. E. Winchester Donald, the new rector of Trinity church, Boston, was not educated at Andover. He was only born there.

By a vote yeas 122, nays 40, the New York synod has decided that it is inexpedient to discuss the Briggs case now. The case now goes back to the New York presbytery for trial on November 9, without the synod taking any stand whatever on the questions in dispute.

Rev. Mary P. Whitney of North Cambridge, Mass., has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Second Unitarian church of West Somerville, Mass. Her husband occupies the pulpit of the First Unitarian church of Athol. It seems to run in the family.

Rev. John Murray, the founder of Universalism, was once berated by an angry lady who did not accept his teachings. He listened to her patiently, and when she ended said mildly: "Madam, it is not you that are angry with me, but the devil in you."

Rev. Thomas Dixon, jr., the Baptist sharpshooter of New York, paid $155 the other day for thirty-one robins that he shot out of season on Staten Island.

The recent statistical quarterly statement of the German empire reports the latest religious data of the country. Germany has 31,026,810 Protestant subjects; 17,674,921 Roman Catholics; 145,540 other Christians; 567,884 Jews, and 12,753 without any religious profession. The total population of the empire is 49,428,470.

The Protestant Episcopal general convention at Baltimore confirmed the election of seven new bishops, as follows: Southern Florida, Rev. Dr. Thomas Crouse Gray of Tennessee; western Colorado, Rev. William Morris Barker of Minnesota; Oklahoma and Indian Territory, Rev. Francis Key Brooke of Kansas; Northern Michigan, Rev. Joseph Horsfall Johnson of Michigan; Yeddo, Rev. Dr. Thomas Allen Tidball of New Jersey; Spokane, Rev. Dr. Lemuel Henry Wells of Washington; Shanghai, Rev. Dr. Samuel Roosevelt Johnson Hoyt of Iowa.

LABOR NOTES.

The strike of the printers in Pittsburg has lasted over one year.

The receipts of the Brooklyn Labor Lyceum for the last half year were $9,574.44, and the expenditures $8,001.69.

There are only two cities, San Francisco and Dubuque, in which the tailors unions continue unconnected with the Tailors National union.

There are today more than 200,000 women in the United States earning a living by professional and personal service, outside that of mechanical labor or work in shops.

Suits for $50,000 damages on account of loss alleged to be sustained through boycotts has been brought against the Central Labor union of Cincinnati by two theatrical managers in that city.

The working women of England are raising a memorial fund to the late Mrs. Paterson, herself a working printer and founder of the English Working women's Trade union. The fund has now reached $5,000. The memorial will take the form of a hall, where the officers of the union will be permanently located and where there will be a reading room for working women.

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I pursue my old vocation,
I'm still a Trav'ling man! A jolly Fairbank man!

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