PEDESTRIANS LEAP AS RIGA DROSHKIES SPEED NOISILY BY

One-Horse Phaetons Give Patrons Hectic Ride In Russia.

RIGA, Dec. 25.—Riga's several hundred droshkies give the pedestrian a hectic time.

In the narrow, noisy cobblestone streets of this little Baltic port, the humble pedestrian is even more helpless than in the taxi speedways, sometimes called streets, of Paris, where tradition has it, a chauffeur can run over a man and then have him up for obstructing traffic.

Their bewhiskered drivers singing "yea, yea," swinging their whips over their ponies' backs and occasionally slashing at some slow-moving pedestrian who didn't step out of the way quite lively enough, the droshkies go tearing about the city with even greater abandon than the Paris taxis.

A first ride in a Russian droshky is almost as novel and exhilarating as a whirl in the roller-coaster at the beach. It is much more of a surprise, after your first glimpse of the sleepy looking little horse and the shabby vehicle, with its bushy driver, bent over his reins in a drowsy question mark.

Classic Mode of Travel.

What the Ford now is to America, the rickshaw to Japan, and the camel to the desert, the droshky is to Russia. For centuries it has been Russia's classic mode of conveyance. It has carried wealth and poverty, fame and obscurity, saint and scoundrel through the winding streets of Russian towns from the Black Sea to the Baltic. Russia without the droshky would not be Russia.

Physically a droshky is a small low slung one-horse phaeton, much like those that can still be picked up occasionally on Fifth avenue in New York. Its most striking characteristics are its ability to turn in an inconceivably small space—I have seen them twist around in a street hardly ten feet wide—and a fortunate faculty of remaining upright at all angles and speeds.

A driver begins with a price two or three times what it should be and comes down, gesticulatingly, in proportion to the wisdom or stubbornness of his passenger.

Driver Quaint Type.

The driver himself, the "izvoshtchik," is one of the quaint "types" in the transportation world. His delightful sense of the dramatic, his bandit-like exterior over the most harmless of souls make him a whole show in himself. He can change in a jiffy from an attitude of deepest dispair to the sunny blissfulness of a babe-in-arms—under the stimulus of a few extra roubles. He has a pathetic past, as a class. For centuries he has been cuffed about and sworn at from one end of Russia to the other. He was the lowest of the low. For there was no one who at some time did not ride in a droshky and give him orders. He received little more consideration than the horse he drove.

He is now wondering what the revolution will bring to him; whether, perhaps, even the "poor izvoshtchik" may not "have his day."

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NEW PROSECUTORS WILL TAKE OFFICE

Frank J. Kelly and Bertrand Emerson, jr., will take up their duties the first of the year as assistant United States attorneys for the District. Their appointments by Maj. Peyton Gordon, Federal attorney, have been confirmed by the Department of Justice.

Bernard D. Heffernan will be a special assistant in charge of prosecution for violations of liquor laws. He succeeds Charles S. Baker, a special assistant, who now becomes a regular assistant.

The resignations of Charles W. Arth and Lucien Vandoren as assistant District attorneys have been forwarded to the department by Maj. Gordon. Emerson will take Vandoren's place.

BIRTHS

White.

Thomas and Mary Dore, boy.
Frederick C. and Lucinda V. Brown, girl.
Walter E. and Catherine A. Thompson, boy.
Joshua R. and Nellie W. Taylor, boy.
Eugene N. and Louise J. Groshon, boy.
John T. and Ethel C. Kennedy, girl.
William R. F. and Elsie A. Hines, girl.
George W. and Anna J. Young, girl.
Ferris and Dorothy H. Yoakum, boy.
Allison A. and Ruth A. Hooff, girl.
Daniel J. and Alice Cleary, girl.
Grenville L. and Dora E. Millard, girl.
Charles J. and Lelia Dienelt, girl.
J. Eris and Mary F. Powell, boy.
Vincent and Florence Nocera, boy.

Colored.

Jacob A. jr., and Lucille B. Handy, girl.
Alfred and Emma Minor, girl.
Guy and Mabel Wills, boy.
James A. and Viola Carter, girl.
Roddie and Augustine Dorsey, girl.
Charles and Bernice Beasley, boy.
William A. and Dora Sullivan, boy.

DEATHS

White.

Andrew J. Hartman, 50 years, St. Elizabeth's Hospital.
Patrick J. Mulligan, 77 years, 2918 Twenty-sixth street northeast.
C. Evelyn Gilbert, 80 years, 55 Quincy place northeast.
Peter Shute, 78 years, 47 N. Y. avenue northwest.
John Blish, 61 years, U. S. N. Hospital.

Colored.

Mary C. Henderson, 18 years, 1305 First street southeast.
Martha Johnson, 41 years, St. Elizabeth's Hospital.
Julia Lewis, 8 months, 2158 Eighth street northwest.

DEATHS

STRIFFLER—Suddenly, Sunday, Dec. 25, 1921, at 3:20 p. m., JOHN, beloved son of the late LEONARD and BARBARA STRIFFLER.
Funeral Tuesday, Dec. 27, at 2:30 p. m. from residence of his brother, 605 Quincy st. nw. Funeral private. 736

SAFFORD—On Sunday, December 25, 1921, SUSAN U., wife of the late WILLIAM WALTER SAFFORD.
Funeral from the residence of JOHN PAUL BARNETT, 2128 N st. nw. on Tuesday, December 27, at 2 p. m. Interment (private) at Rock Creek Cemetery. (Norfolk, Va., papers please copy.) 735

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South China Army Advances

The Southern Chinese expeditionary forces are reported to have reached Pangyang, in Hunan Province. Peking is reported to have cabled Wu Pei Fu to stop the southerners' advance at any cost. (1) Bandits are operating on the Kwangsi border. (2) Gen. Tang Chi Kao, commanding the Southern forces, has been forced by bandits to halt at Singehow, Kwangsi.

(Copyright, 1921.)

Farmer Bloc Forces G. O. P. To Yield to Its Demands

Economic Distress in West and South Responsible for Growth of New Political Power in Congress.

By MARK SULLIVAN.

The "farmer bloc" has come to have, here in Washington at least, a meaning quite as definite as the terms Republican party or Democratic party. In fact, those Senators who compose the center of the farmer group in the Senate and give it leadership and guidance come together more often and act together more solidly than do the Republican or the Democratic Senators. Moreover, the farmer bloc is undeniably a growing institution. Its strength and prestige increases with every issue that comes up.

The leadership of the Republican party, which is supposed to dominate the Senate but does not, is in a state of constant yielding to the farmer bloc. President Harding and a member of his Cabinet, Secretary Weeks, have in public addresses spoken critically of this form of group action in Congress but the Republican leaders within the Senate and House do not fight it. At least they do not fight it vigorously or successfully. Their more frequent and obvious tendency is to let it have its way. Just now, as the important tariff legislation is about to emerge from the Senate Finance Committee, it is apparent that Senator Penrose does not feel strong enough to take any course other than largely to let the farmer bloc write whatever tariff it choses to write.

Origin of the "Bloc."

Since this is a new and important institution in American politics, it will be interesting and useful to consider the story of its inception and growth. For that purpose the best possible beginning is a brief statement of business conditions in the farming States from which these Senators and Representatives come, and whose economic and political ideals they represent. For such a statement there is no source more authoritative or compact than to quote a few detached sentences from the annual report of Secretary Henry Wallace of the Department of Agriculture. Secretary Wallace paints this picture of the farming conditions which have caused Senators and Representatives from agricultural States to seek economic remedies through government action, and to act together politically towards that end. He says:

"The purchasing power of the principal farm crops of the year 1921 at the present time is lower than ever before known. In times past some of these crops have sold at lower prices per sale unit expressed in dollars and cents, but probably never before have our farmers generally been compelled to exchange their crops per sale unit for such small amounts of the things they need.

Surprised by Price Drop.

"The unprofitable year of 1920 compelled large numbers of farmers to borrow heavily to meet excessive costs of production which could not be paid out of crop proceeds. The unprecedented drop in prices of farmers. They had expected some decline, but nothing so severe as what actually happened. Consequently for a time they tried to avoid heavy sacrifice and continued their borrowings. Their bankers shared their belief that the situation would adjust itself and were willing to lend, but prices went lower, and these loans, together with loans previously made, soon added volume to that mass of frozen credit of which we have heard so much talk during the last year.

"During the prosperous years land rents went up rapidly, doubling and trebling, and in some cases going even higher. It was human nature that renters should prefer to pay cash rent in a time of good farming profits. The drop in prices for crops in 1920 caused many of these renters to lose not only their labor for that year, but their savings as well.

"Many young farmers who had saved several thousand dollars during the prosperous years were induced to buy farms on contract at the price peak, making small payments down with provision for yearly payments of interest and on the principal, on pain of forfeiture of all sums previously paid. The sadly unprofitable year of 1920 wiped out thousands of these fine young men, and the even worse year of 1921 will finish more of them.

Conditions Produced "Bloc."

Those were, and are, the conditions which caused the Senators and Representatives from the States most affected to be acutely responsive to the needs of their constituents. Those were the conditions which brought the farmer bloc into being. It was purely a case of political action growing out of economic conditions. There was never anything in politics more spontaneous, more natural, or more sincere.

I do not know just what particular Senator took the initiative. It is clear, however, that from the beginning the acknowledged leader of the movement was, and is, Senator William S. Kenyon, of Iowa. Another Senator closely associated with Kenyon in leadership is Capper, of Kansas. From these two outward to the fringes of the group there are a number of Senators who participate in varying degrees in the meetings and counsels.

Mostly West of Mississippi.

The Republicans in the group—and for the moment I am speaking of the Republicans only—practically all are from States west of the Mississippi. The only Republican Senators from east of the Mississippi who have had much participation in the movement are the two from Wisconsin, La Follette and Lenroot. La Follette is, by choice and practice, a solitary maverick in politics. About the last thing he would do would be to subscribe to group action, or to obligations of team work that might impair his complete liberty of action in any contingency. Nevertheless, it is a fact that La Follette has shared most of the steps taken by the farmer bloc. Lenroot, who is one of the ablest men in the Senate, has a position considerably further toward the outer fringe of the movement. By reason of his ability and standing, he has been particularly helpful on occasions when his convictions have coincided with those of the farmer bloc. Kellogg of Minnesota is another ordinarily conservative Senator who has occasionally occupied a position on the outer fringe of the farmer bloc. Senator Ladd of North Dakota has been close to the heart of the movement. So have Norbeck of South Dakota, Kendrick of Wyoming, and McNary of Oregon.

Johnson and Borah Not In It.

Several Senators, who are frequently described as radical, like Johnson, of California, and Borah, of Idaho, have not been formally identified with the farmer bloc. It is also a fact that a few Senators who come from purely agricultural States, and who, therefore, might be expected to be in the heart of the movement, have not really participated in it in any formal way. But it is not possible to list all the members of the bloc, nor to state with exact justice the degree of participation in it or of dissent from it that Senators have had. Some Senators who have not attended the formal meetings of the bloc have nevertheless voted in favor of most of the measures it originated. Nothing that is here said should be interpreted too definitely by readers or others who contemplate political action one way or another, based on the identification, or lack of identification, of various Senators with the farmer bloc.

So much for the farmer bloc in the Senate. In the House the bloc has been less rigidly organized, but has been, nevertheless, on the whole, equally potent in casting the balance of power. Also it is clearly a fact that the membership of the bloc in the Lower House is rapidly growing.

Allied With Democrats.

This covers very incompletely and with no pretense to exact accuracy the Republican part of the bloc. One of the first acts of the leaders of the farmer bloc, and a thing which has been at the heart of their success, was the forming of an alliance with a considerable number of Southern Democrats. In the cotton producing States of the South, farming conditions last year were fully as distressing as Secretary Wallace has described them in the agricultural States of the West. It was this partnership in economic distress that made the political partnership easy. The economic remedy that would relieve the West would also relieve the South. Among the Southern Democratic Senators who are commonly described as having participation in the bloc are Smith, of South Carolina; Fletcher, of Florida; Sheppard, of Texas; Harris, of Georgia; Caraway, of Arkansas, and Heflin, of Alabama.

In this list of Democrats, as well as in naming the Republicans who are generally regarded as having participated in the bloc, there is no pretense to completeness or exact accuracy. Some Senators who frequently vote with the bloc are not formally identified with its leadership, and the local reader in the States from which these Senators come should be warned against making final political conclusions on what is here said.

Little to Criticise in Legislation.

In turning to a fair examination of what the bloc has done with its power, it must be said that so far as those measures are concerned, which they initiated or advocated, little can be said in the nature of criticism, even by those who are mostly disposed to deplore the underlying principle of group action in politics. As regards the measures which the farmer bloc is given credit for opposing or defeating, probably somewhat less is to be said for them. There is not space in the present article for any minute examination of the bloc's legislative program, either of advocacy or of opposition.

Perhaps the chief measure for which the bloc is responsible was the appropriation of $500,000,000 to be used by an agency of the Treasury for the relief of farm conditions. It is true that the form in which this measure ultimately passed was very different and much less radical than the form in which the farmers originally proposed it. But in the form in which this fund finally became available for the relief of distress in the farming districts it was an entirely reasonable measure considered as an emergency action, and in its application has done great good.

Fund Furnishes Relief.

The fund was intrusted to a representative of the Treasury in the person of a New York banker, Eugene Meyer, together with several associates, who are business men from various sections of the country. Mr. Meyer turned out to be a man of energy and resource. He has traveled up and down the country, finding out the spots where there was need of relief. The relief has taken the form of advancing money to local bankers and to others who, in their turn, had previously lent money to farmers and stock raisers.

In these cases the original borrowers among the farmers and stock raisers were utterly unable to pay their notes when they became due. If the lenders had foreclosed there would have been widespread distress, not only to the farmers but to the entire local business communities involved. The relief furnished by the Treasury was in the shape of advancing money and taking a prior lien on the collateral or other form of security involved. There is no reason to anticipate that the government will lose any considerable amount of the money advanced and the net result of the operation as a whole has unquestionably been to prevent the sacrifice of live stock and crops in a panicky market, and otherwise to stabilize business in the farming States.

Future Legislative Program.

The rest of the affirmative program of the farmer bloc, both in the past and for the future, has been and is largely in the same general direction of providing better credit and market conditions for the farmers. For the immediate future the program of the bloc includes a measure legalizing and otherwise making provision for co-operative selling on the part of the farmer; the creation of a rural credit institution, which will permit the loaning of money on commodities in the same way in which the government already loans money on farm land, and, finally, a somewhat more dubious proposal to require that a farmer shall sit on the Federal Reserve Board. Also as regards the tariff the farmer bloc will act as a unit, and it has already been given assurances that its wishes will be respected by the Republican leadership of the Senate.

One of the most striking events in the present Congress was frequently but erroneously attributed to the leadership of the farmer bloc. That was the forcing of the retention of high surtaxes on large incomes, after the House had once voted a lower rate, after President Harding had indorsed the lower rate, and after the Senate finance committee had practically decided to adopt it.

While it is probably true that most of the members of the farmer bloc voted for the higher surtax, the real leader of that Senatorial insurrection was not the farmer bloc. It was the vital and energetic senior Senator from Illinois—Medill McCormick.

(Copyright, 1921.)

JAPANESE CHEER FINANCE MINISTER WHO CUT BUDGET

Living Costs and Taxation More Than Coolies Want to Stand.

TOKYO, Dec. 25.—The Japanese people are rooting for the "watchdog of the treasury."

They are fed up on high living costs coupled with constantly stiffening taxation.

Finance Minister Takahashi has been trying to trim the budget of next year's government appropriations, and if he puts it over, he'll probably be the most popular person in all these parts.

Has a Hunch.

The average coolie may not know an awful lot about international affairs. He's hazy regarding the Yap cable and the open door in China and the naval aspect of Guam. But he has a hunch, gained from the popular press, that it would cost him less for living if the government spent less money on the army and navy.

The same papers tell him that if the Washington conference succeeds the government can spend less for the army and navy. Whereupon he emits a lusty "Banzai!" for the Washington conference.

In every grade of society the sentiment is the same. For weeks the officials have been wrestling with estimates and, at present, have made a reduction of about $70,000,000 in next year's budget, as compared with the present. However, that is only on paper for the present, and there will be other revisions before the budget is finally prepared and presented to the Diet.

Spend Less for Navy.

The tentative budgets for the next fiscal year have been made upon a basis of a continuation of the eight-eight naval construction program and also continued maintenance of the expeditionary forces in Siberia. The hope is, however, that these proposed expenditures will not have to be made.

If present indications here are realized the naval items can be considerably reduced as a result of the Washington conference. The prospect is that no withdrawal of the Japanese troops from Siberia can be expected for some months, but even if the soldiers are ordered out by next spring, money will be saved from the tentative budget.

A great hue and cry has been raised over all suggestions that the educational appropriations might be reduced. Without exception, all the principal Japanese newspapers hopped into the ring and howled. They declared that of all things that musn't be touched—that must, indeed, be tilted if possible—the education budget heads the list. One of the arguments commonly made was that the education budget this year is only about 3.5 per cent of the naval estimates, and that the total army and navy appropriations amounted to almost 50 per cent of the entire government revenues.

English Approve Betrothal Of Princess to Rich Lord

All Classes Happy at Match of Monarch's Daughter to Commoner Who Represents Ideal Type of Britisher.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—The announcement of the betrothal of Princess Mary, only daughter of King George and Queen Mary, to Viscount Lascelles caught the popular imagination os few purely royal society items of news could be expected to do nowadays. Every class felt that it had cause for congratulation.

First, there was the very general feeling of satisfaction that the monarch's daughter had been permitted to choose an Englishman, instead of being condemned to a high political diplomatic and certainly loveless alliance with foreign royalty. There was endless joy for the womenfolk of the country in picturing the princess who gives up royal status "for love alone." Madame may sneer, but she loves to think of the princess marrying a "commoner."

Also there was the gratification of the sporting elements (and all Englishmen are sportsmen), that the princess is marrying a "sportsman." Let a man earn the title of "sportsman" and he is persona grata to all Englishmen, regardless of rank or wealth.

Aristocracy Well Pleased.

There is the joy of the aristocracy that the royal family should be thrown into the market for alliances with their set, instead of being reserved for "the blood royal." And England's aristocracy now confidently looks forward to arranging marriages with some, if not all of the King's sons and other relatives.

There is the elation of royal and semi-royal circles—indorsed, ironically enough, by the most extreme radicals—that the princess has obtained a husband wealthy enough to guarantee her future without the aid of state grants. For it is freely admitted on all hands that a large and needy royal family, such as Queen Victoria left, is a mighty bad advertisement for the monarchial system. Then there is the solid conservative feeling of thankfulness that the princess has chosen "one of our sort—one of the good old English families—" (probably adding—"and there are not many of us left."

Model of John Bull Type.

For Viscount Lascelles is the ideal Englishman, from the point of view of his own countrymen. Scion of a family tracing its history back some 700 years without scandal or undue notoriety, he is a model John Bull type. A gallant soldier, who despite his rank, scorned "soft" staff jobs and insisted on remaining with his regiment in the trenches throughout the war, he has the suffrages of every former soldier—and there are some 8,000,000 of them in the British Empire. Thrice wounded and gassed, a Distinguished Service Order "with bar" (meaning two D. S. O.'s), his war record is good enough for the most captious "old soldier."

To the sporting world his racing colors, "black with yellow sleeves, yellow belt and cap," merely supplement the famous "black and yellow" livery noted for over a century for straight running as the badge of the Earls of Harewood. His father has won a derby, as also did his grandfather, and beyond this there can be no greater fame on the British turf. A fine horseman himself, he hunts and rides in races.

Inherits Uncle's Fortune.

The Lascelles family acquired most of its present wealth from two Cromwellian soldiers of fortune who emigrated to the West Indies after the restoration of Charles II, but while he will inherit a huge fortune on the death of his father, the Earl of Harewood, Viscount Lascelles is already independent of the family coffers and acres, as during the war he unexpectedly inherited a fortune of £2,500,000 from his uncle, the eccentric and miserly Marquis of Clanricarde, who died in 1916, leaving practically all he possessed to "Harry Lascelles," the gallant guardsman, who had returned to the trenches after being twice wounded.

The Lascelles family have long been attached to the court, and the bridegroom-elect's father was an intimate friend of the late King Edward. Whether this is a real "love match" or not, the average Britisher feels that Princess Mary has done well for herself, her family and the nation in general.

FORTY-FOUR DEAD IN STORM'S PATH

Million-Dollar Loss Caused to Property in Three Southern States.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 25.—The storm that swept Northeastern Louisiana, Northwestern Mississippi and Southern Arkansas on Saturday, destroying parts of many villages and towns and razing farm buildings, is believed to have taken the lives of forty-four persons, all but three of them negroes. One hundred and twenty-five pearsons are reported to have been injured, including many white persons. Children are numerous in the casualty list.

The railroads are sidetracking all other traffic in favor of relief workers and supplies. Physicians and nurses have been rushed to each center. A cold wave following the storm has increased the suffering of the homeless.

Among the known dead are John Eckhoff, an oil worker, of Spencer, La., and Mrs. L. E. Spain, wife of the manager of the Tinsdale plantation, near Monroe, La., both white. The property damage is roughly calculated at $1,000,000.

PRELATE ASKS AID FOR NEAR EAST

Archbishop of Baltimore's Plea for Famine Sufferers Read in Churches.

A plea to aid the suffering people of the Near East was contained in a letter from Michael J. Curley, Archbishop of Baltimore, which was read in the Catholic churches throughout the city yesterday.

"Famine stalks through the country known as the Near East," the archbishop's letter read in part, "and unless we of this favored land continue our splendid traditions of assistance God alone knows what will happen to those unfortunate men, women and children of the East."

The letter directed that all funds collected through the churches be sent to the archbishop's residence, 408 North Charles street, Baltimore. Checks may also be made payable to John B. Larner, treasurer of the Near East Relief, 308 Bond Building, Washington, D. C.

VETERANS DISCARD SNOWBOUND HOME

A frame house on the top of a Pennsylvania hill, six miles from a railroad and frequently snowbound for a week at a time, is hardly a suitable place for 200 sick war veterans to pass the winter.

Pocono Pines, therefore, passes, as far as the Veterans Bureau is concerned. Leased at $86,000 a year as a training center for disabled former service men, the bureau announces the immediate closing of the institution.

Pocono Pines was investigated after complaints were received from patients and physicians. Representatives of the American Legion found that heating facilities were inadequate. The medical officer declared tubercular patients could not be given suitable care during the winter. The 200 patients will be transferred to other institutions.

FINDS WIFE DYING ON RETURN HOME

Funeral services for Mrs. R. B. Moore, wife of the chief chemist of the Bureau of Mines will be held from her home, 1717 Lanier place northwest, this morning at 11 o'clock. Rev. Earl Wilfley will conduct the services. Interment will be in Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mrs. Moore was asphyxiated by gas escaping from a leaky pipe in the pantry of her home. Returning from a Christmas party, Dr. Moore found his wife unconscious and although medical attention was procured immediately it was of no avail.

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SOVIETS USING ROUTE THROUGH NORTHERN SEAS

Expedition from Western Europe to Kara Carried Cargoes.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—Although two ships of the Soviet government's recent expedition from Western Europe to the Kara Sea were lost, plans are already being considered for a more expensive expedition in 1922, the object of which will be to further open up this dangerous ice-ridden waterway that connects the West with the far reaches of Siberia, along the Arctic Ocean.

Results Satisfactory.

The results of the 1921 expedition are regarded quite satisfactory, especially in having demonstrated the possibility of arranging a heavy goods service on a large scale. Under the experiment, 556,532 poods of goods from abroad, and 100,000 poods of tar from Archangel, were delivered in Siberia, while 294,566 poods of general merchandise and 534,934 poods of wheat were brought from Siberia to Archangel.

Besides the purely practical result that has been achieved by the successful exchange of goods between Siberia and the West, the expedition must be credited with an immense scientific-technical as well as political importance. Hitherto the northern route has been used but seldom, and by private concerns, and always on a very modest scale.

According to official reports of the 1921 experiment, the ships participating in the expedition were divided into two groups, the first comprising five vessels and an icebreaker, all laden with various foreign goods in English, German and Swedish ports. These made their way to Murmansk, from which port they sailed out August 15. At the same time a second fleet sailed from Archangel to the Siberian Coast, consisting of five transports and three ice breakers.

Each fleet completed its voyage. The Archangel group saw ice only on the horizon, in the Kara Sea; but the foreign group which followed three days later, found itself among the icebergs for about a day and a half.

Near the Island of Bielol the two groups separated. One sailed to the mouth of the Ob and the other to the mouth of the Yenissei. At these respective river openings they were met by the river boats and proceeded to the transfer of their cargoes. The interchange of goods took place in unpopulated districts, but, despite the difficulties encountered, was completed in four days ahead of schedule time.

The homeward voyage was much more difficult than the outward one. A strong north wind brought down masses of ice which made a continuous wall on the route of the vessels. In forcing its way through this ice the Archangel group lost two steamers. Both were of an old type and were not distinguished for strong build or satisfactory condition with respect to their machinery.

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