

RUSSIA'S CHURCH PROBLEM

Struggle of Old Believers for Religious Liberty.

CEAR FAVORS ORTHODOX CHURCH

Freedom of Worship Offered Them, but They Must Not Seek Converts—They Win in the Duma.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 2.—A foreigner was marveling during the revisionary crisis at the stolidity of the mass of the Russian people. Would nothing arouse them?

"Only one thing could do it," answered a wise man. "If anybody on earth, even the czar, should attempt to enforce a law forbidding them to cross themselves before the icons of their church, they would rise up as one reborn giant."

Their church is in the narrow of their bones more than with any other people in modern Christendom. Its all-pervading influence has been justly brought by the Duma out into the open life of national politics.

The first act of legislation carrying through the czar's promise of freedom of conscience has been presented by the government. It is addressed to relieve the grievances of the community, numbering over 15,000,000 of Russians, known as the old believers. On it will be made, it is expected, the basis of general legislation on behalf of other denominations outside the orthodox church.

Nice Distinction Drawn.

The government bill proposes that the old believers should be allowed, with, out let or hindrance, to pray and to baptize, marry and bury, according to the doctrines of their faith; but it expressly provides that they shall not engage in propaganda, meaning thereby that their clergy shall not invade territories where their communions are not recognized. The government draws a distinction between freedom of conscience and religious liberty. It maintains that the czar promised to allow all Russians to worship according to conscience, but that he could never confer religious liberty on his empire any religion except his own.

So widespread is the interest in this matter that although there are twenty clergymen in the Duma and eight bishops in the Council of Empire the spokesmen of the church have rather been swept aside and the debate fought out by the national party leaders. It is especially important to keep in mind that the old believers are an important, conservative and loyal element in the population. In their present demand for complete religious liberty, including the right to spread their faith, they are supported by the radical parties, who have had nothing in common with them in the past. The support has previously circulated in Russia only in parchment manuscript and many errors of transcription had crept in through the increasing difficulty of deciphering accurately the old copies.

The authorities of the church under Archbishop Nikon decided to arrest the increasing confusion and have the text regulated by translating the Scriptures afresh from the old Greek. Naturally the new version showed differences from the words that had been accepted by many Christians of the most devout Russian thousands.

They refused to conform to the new order. Moreover, a different way of crossing themselves was ordained after reference to the placing of the hands of saints in the old Byzantine holy pictures by the reformers then in control of the church intensified their hostility. They abandoned the orthodox church and were treated as heretics. The schism became complete when they refused to accept the Great assumption for himself of the headship of the church as well as of the state.

Before Peter's day the metropolitan of Moscow was a greater personage than the czar of Moscow, for the church was both autonomous and predominant. Once a year the metropolitan set out for the Kremlin seated astride of an ass which was led by the hands of the czar attending him on foot. Peter changed all that for reasons of contemporary practical politics.

The church dignitaries were influencing his wife and son against him because of his rough and ready modernizing methods. He defeated the clerics, by the single stroke appointing himself head of the church and making his dignitaries wear personal obedience to him as much as if they were officers of his army. The old believers abhorred all this and studied the archaic texts fervently but secretly, hunted, persecuted sect.

Grow in Wealth and Number. They kept their Puritan habit of life and through it grew in number, wealth and social strength. The fact that they have today a different way of crossing themselves is the richest average membership of any denomination in Russia has a good deal to do with the air roused by their demand for full religious freedom.

Many of them are millionaire merchants. Their members have the best of the fertile lands in Siberia that they own, a vast amount of inherited property invested in the land. In time theirs came to be almost a political doctrine. It is equally against courtiers and radicals and stands for a solid, self-reliant class which hitherto has had no dealings with the government except to pay its agents for securing immunity of worship. When ready money was very scarce around the court during the Japanese war, such eminent non-believers as the late Grand Duke Vladimir and Alexei, betwixt themselves of the idea of raising the restrictions on the old believers in return for a cash payment of 10,000,000 rubles.

Alexander Gutchkoff, the leader of the most numerous party in the present Duma, the octobrists, is an old believer. He championed the right to full freedom from the government officers. They have had to enrich not only police officials, but city and state governors, he said. Now that they are done with that they have the right to the freedom of worship promised to all in the October manifesto.

"We are told that they are sympathized with by the czar," he added, "but they cannot have this full freedom. Apparently some devil's advocates stand near to the throne and are urging intolerance and fanaticism."

Neglect in the Hospitals. He had seen in the hospitals in Manchuria old believer soldiers dying without the services of their priests and buried like dogs. It was only at the end of the campaign and then through the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, widow of the Grand Duke Sergei, that their own clergy were allowed to be near them.

M. Gutchkoff declared that his plea was not only for his own community, but for all the other groups in Russia. It was exaggerating the ignorance of the people to say that religious liberty would bring with it moral confusion and with that political anarchy. M. Krijanovsky, assistant minister of the interior, announced the government's decision. It would take care that the old believers were free within their own place of worship, but it would not allow the rights of the orthodox church to suffer, and there must be no propaganda to the latter's detriment.

To make the attitude of the monarchists doubly clear the announcement was made by a member of the holy synod, which acts as keeper of the czar's conscience in matters of religion, that whatever liberalizing amendments the Duma added to the government bill would be ignored. "If the Duma adopt them the Council of Empire will reject them; if the latter adopts them they would still be refused the supreme sanction. The czar is by canon law the guardian of the orthodox church. He can not allow the position of heterodox sects to be improved to the detriment of his orthodox people."

The Duma adopted the right of propaganda amendment to the government's bill by 175 votes against 125. The octobrist vote was split, thirty members of the party voting with the government against their leader, Mr. Gutchkoff. The amendment has no chance of acceptance in the Council of Empire.

RUSSIA'S GLOOMY COURT

Czarina Broken in Health, the Czar Melancholy.

PENALTY OF BEING AN AUTOCRAT

Empress More Liked Than Formerly, but Gravely Affected by Troubles of the Empire—Simple Home Life at Peterhof.

ST. PETERSBURG, June 2.—The reports concerning the health of the czarina continue to be discouraging. Always of a melancholy disposition, the events of the last few years in Russia have deepened her depression until now there is no doubt that she is on the verge of melancholia, besides suffering from ill attendance upon a nervous breakdown.

The czarina, though she has never succeeded altogether in winning the love of her adopted people, is far more popular now than she was during the first years of her married life. Then the Russians frankly distrusted and disliked her. Her expression at that time was sad and rather discontented. She was very shy and retiring and assumed an air of indifference to cover these defects, which the court mistook for coldness.

Then, too, she was largely the victim of circumstances. The horrible accident on her wedding day when hundreds of persons were killed and injured filled the czarina with superstitious fear of her and her influence. Lastly, her delay in presenting Russia with a male heir to the throne displaced all the other.

Peasants Have Forgiven Her.

But lately she has won friends. People have discovered that her sad expression does not really mean discontent; that her assumed indifference masks a kind and sympathetic nature. The peasants have forgotten the ill-omened wedding day and Russia rejoices in the young czarowitz.

Yet notwithstanding this gain for the czarina there is no sadder court in Europe today than that at Peterhof. All the world knows that the emperor and empress live surrounded by guards, that their food is specially prepared by trusted hands and tasted before being served, and that they cannot go from the palace without the greatest precaution.

Yet in spite of these circumstances the imperial family leads a simple home life. There is no formality in the relations of the czar and czarina with their ladies and gentlemen in waiting. And though the empress has aged and changed she remains gracious and kindly to those about her, while the czar, though deeply affected by the trials of his unhappy country, is still at times the gay and delightful host of days gone by.

There are two ladies in waiting in immediate attendance always. Among other requirements is the one that they must be able to play tennis with the czar. Her ladies in waiting were the first of her people who learned to love and understand the empress and they tell many stories of her kindness and sympathy.

Czar's Home Life. The czar in his home life is all the most exacting could wish a devoted husband, sincerely admiring and deeply in love with his clever wife, an affectionate father who plays with and fondles his children. Until the troubles of the last few years and the recent breakdown of the czarina saddened him the czar was like a gay schoolboy. He is not brilliant and his nature is weak, but he has a saving sense of humor which endears him to all who know him. In days past he dearly loved a good joke and was as ready to laugh at his own weaknesses as at those of persons around him.

Through the world thinks of him as a despot, he is anything but that in his home. A friend of one of the ladies in waiting tells this story to illustrate how informal are the relations of the czar with those in his entourage. On the day of the christening of the last little princess the ladies in waiting had many fatiguing duties, and when all was over this particular lady was much needed rest and a chat with the friend who had come to see her.

Just as they had settled down alone came a messenger from the czar. "Would the princess come at once and play tennis with his majesty?" "No," said the lady in waiting calmly to the amazement of her friend, "I am too tired after the day's duties."

And that message was taken to the emperor, who apparently did not in the least resent it.

Children Mother's Care.

But the days when the czar took pleasure in simple fun are past. Now it is difficult to rouse him from the depression which has settled upon him since the czarina's health has given way. The empress, true to her English blood, is bringing up her children in English fashion, with the simplest of diet and the plainest of dress. She herself, despite the luxury and richness of Russian fashions, wears plain tailor made gowns and only wears her gorgeous jewels when state occasions demand. To see her in the morning with her little daughters one might suppose she was some one in charge of them rather than their mother.

WIFE BEATS HUSBAND TO IT

She Comes In with Cross-Bill and Gets the Divorce for Which He Applied.

Harry J. Hackett, a real estate dealer, probably wishes he had not started suit for divorce against his wife, Della Hackett. Mrs. Hackett came in with a cross bill and got the decree. Hackett made a statutory charge, and Mrs. Hackett denied this, setting up cruelty. It was argued in her behalf that the charge Hackett made, which was not substantiated, was an act of cruelty in itself. Mrs. Hackett will get one-third of Hackett's property, or about \$5,000 in alimony.

Mrs. Marie Lindell, in a petition for divorce, includes a solemn covenant which Gustave P. Lindell signed a year ago promising to be good, and which she says he promptly broke. No civil word in nine years, and a statement that she was his social inferior are charged to Lindell by his wife.

Mrs. Isabella Smith was found temporary alimony when the court denied that she is living in the same house with her husband and dining at the same table. Mrs. Anna Kolar sues for divorce, saying that Rudolf Kolar never contributed but \$2 to her support and took that away from her the next day. Frances Woodruff sues Miles B. Woodruff, charging desertion.

HOTELS.

In the Shopping District. 11th and McGee. "Petitcoat Lane."

Hotel Kupper. Kansas City, Mo. In the Shopping District. Near all the Theaters. 200 Beautiful Rooms. Hot and cold water in all rooms. Spacious lobby, parlors. Telephone in every room. Beautiful Cafe. Perfect Cuisine. \$1.00 to \$2.50 Per Day. European Plan. KUPPER-BENSON HOTEL CO., F. A. BENSON, Mgr.

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MANDO. Remove your eyes from the road. Only the best. Only the best. Only the best. Madame Josephine Le Ferre, 1200 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa. Sold by Myers-Dillon Drug Co., Boston Drug Co., The Bell Drug Co., Haines Drug Co., Omaha Clark Drug Co., Omaha, Minn.

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WE HAVE THE LARGEST AND BEST ASSORTMENT OF CARPET SAMPLES AND BLENDED RUGS SHOWN IN OMAHA.

Miller, Stewart & Beaton

413-15-17 South Sixteenth Street.

Great Rug Sale Tomorrow

We take inventory July 1st and it is our desire to close out as near as possible all room size rugs which are dropped from the manufacturers' list for the fall. Many of these are better and prettier patterns than those that will be made to take their place. The assortment takes in every size, quality and style of design that is made. Each rug is marked at such a great reduction that positive clearance is assured. Note the great values which this sale offers.

WILTON VELVET RUGS	AMSTERDAM RUGS
\$26.00 Wilton Velvet rug, 8-3x10-6, sale price, at.....\$16.00	\$25.00 Axminster Rug, 9x12, sale price.....\$16.50
\$35.00 Wilton Velvet rug, 10-6x12-9, sale price.....\$19.00	\$25.50 Axminster Rug, 9x13, sale price.....\$18.00
\$26.50 Wilton Velvet rug, 10-6x9, sale price, at.....\$15.00	\$35.00 Axminster Rug, 10-6x13-5, sale price, at.....\$25.00
\$22.50 Wilton Velvet rug, 8-3x12-6, sale price, at.....\$14.00	\$40.00 Axminster Rug, 12x13, sale price.....\$32.00
\$25.00 Wilton Velvet rug, 9x12, sale price.....\$16.50	\$15.00 Axminster Rug, 6x9, sale price.....\$12.00
BRUSSELS RUGS	KASHMIR RUGS
\$50.00 Brussels Rug, 11-3x15, sale price.....\$40.00	Beautiful reproductions of real Oriental rug designs, made in fine color effects to harmonize with surroundings. These rugs are reversible and for the price, no other rug made compares with them for durability.
\$45.00 Brussels Rug, 10-6x13-6, sale price.....\$36.00	Kashmir Rug, size 9x12, sale price.....\$10.95
\$40.00 Brussels Rug, 10-5x12, sale price.....\$32.00	Kashmir Rug, size 9x10-6, sale price.....\$8.95
\$40.00 Brussels Rug, 9x12, sale price.....\$32.00	Kashmir Rug, size 9x9, sale price.....\$7.95
\$32.00 Brussels Rug, 9x12, sale price.....\$25.40	Kashmir Rug, size 6x9, sale price.....\$5.50
\$30.00 Brussels Rug, 8-3x15, sale price.....\$24.00	Kashmir Rug, size 4-6x7-6, sale price.....\$3.00
\$22.00 Brussels Rug, 9x9, sale price.....\$16.50	Kashmir Rug, size 3x6x3, sale price.....\$1.50
\$17.50 Brussels Rug, 9x11, sale price.....\$12.25	WOOL FIBER RUGS
\$15.00 Brussels Rug, 9x11, sale price.....\$9.95	A very desirable medium priced rug, suitable for any room in the home, reversible and sanitary, come in a great variety of colors and beautiful designs.
\$26.50 Brussels Rug, 10-6x12, sale price.....\$17.00	Wool Fiber Rug, 7-6x10-6, sale price.....\$9.95
\$20.00 Brussels Rug, 10-6x10, sale price.....\$11.00	Wool Fiber Rug, 9x12, sale price.....\$11.95
\$32.00 Brussels Rug, 10-6x12, sale price.....\$24.00	Wool Fiber Rug, 6x9, sale price.....\$7.95
\$25.00 Brussels Rug, 10-6x12-6, sale price.....\$19.00	Wool Fiber Rug, 3x6x2, sale price.....\$2.00
at.....\$14.00	Wool Fiber Rug, 30x60, sale price.....\$1.75

Refrigerators. When you buy a refrigerator, why not buy the best? It may cost a little more, but the saving in ice will pay the difference in price in one summer. We sell the BOEN SYPHON REFRIGERATOR, the only pure dry air refrigerator made, entirely free from sweat. Any odorous foods, such as onions, fish or cheese, placed on the top shelf cannot contaminate milk or butter, even if placed in open vessels on the lower shelf. Consumes less ice and still ten degrees colder than other makes.

Porcelain lined Bohn Syphon Refrigerator, 66-lb. ice capacity.....\$31.75	White Enamelled Refrigerator, 60-lb. ice capacity.....\$23.75
Porcelain lined Bohn Syphon Refrigerator, 80-lb. ice capacity.....\$38.00	Porcelain lined Refrigerator, 80-lb. ice capacity.....\$28.50
Porcelain lined Bohn-Syphon Refrigerator, 125-lb. ice capacity.....\$43.50	Porcelain lined Refrigerator, 100-lb. ice capacity.....\$31.00
White Enamelled Refrigerator, 50-lb. ice capacity.....\$19.00	White Enamelled Refrigerator, 50-lb. ice capacity.....\$15.00
Zinc lined Refrigerators up from.....\$9.00	Some merchants will call these prices extravagant—but that does not pay the ice bill—these are ice savers.

Gas Ranges. Before you buy a gas range, you should see the VULCAN RANGE, the kind store and a personal inspection of the working of the burners on these stoves will soon convince you that there are none equally as good. We have replaced many so-called reputable makes with the Vulcan and receive highest compliments from our customers after making comparisons. Don't miss seeing the VULCAN.

Three-burner Gas Cooker with oven, connected, ready for use.....\$10.00	Four-burner Range with baking oven and broiler, connected, ready for use.....\$17.50
Four-burner Junior Gas Range with oven, connected, ready for use.....\$13.75	Four-burner Range with baking oven and broiler, connected, ready for use.....\$21.50
Four-burner Junior Gas Range with 18-inch oven, connected, ready for use.....\$15.75	Four-burner Ranges with elevated oven and broiler, connected, ready for use.....\$28.00
Four-burner Gas Range with 18 inch oven, connected, ready for use.....\$28.00	Two-burner hot plate with 6 feet of tubing.....\$2.20 \$3.00 \$5.50

WE ARE AGENTS FOR THE ALLWELL MOTION FOLDING GO-CART.

RALSTON GETS THE SALOON

License is Granted to Charles Bohlaviek by the County Commissioners.

The Board of County Commissioners voted Saturday to grant a license to Charles Bohlaviek to operate a saloon at Ralston. The vote was unanimous. Opposition to the license has been active and continued.

The commissioners on recommendation of Deputy County Attorney Magney approved the granting to E. W. Simral half the money collected under a scavenger suit contract \$4. The action is in accordance with that of the Board of County Commissioners in 1907. Since then Simral has fought the suit through the district court three times, to the supreme court and back each time, and it is going there once more now for the last hearing. The tract is that land formerly owned by W. J. Connell and sold to the County club.

Building Permits.

H. N. Way, Thirty-third and Arbor streets, frame dwelling, \$2,500; H. N. Way, Thirty-third and Arbor streets, frame dwelling, \$2,000; H. N. Way, Thirty-fifth and Martha streets, frame dwelling, \$2,000; H. N. Way, Thirty-fifth and Martha streets, frame dwelling, \$2,000; J. Gladwin, Sherman and Madison avenues, brick veneer dwelling, \$2,400.

York Elks Will Have Fine New Home

The convenience of a modern club, besides a splendid assembly room for the lodge purposes. The order here is about 300 strong numerically and occupies a leading position in the social life of the city.

In connection with the dedication of the club house, a fair and festival, lasting all week, will be held. This is more to get the public acquainted in a measure with the home of the lodge than to raise money. The committee in charge has made special efforts to so arrange plans that it will be a success in every way.

CLUB HOUSE OF YORK ELKS TO BE DEDICATED MONDAY.

York, Neb., June 15.—(Special.)—The Elks' lodge of York is to dedicate on Monday its new \$30,000 home. The new club house is one of the most complete in every appointment in the west. It literally has "all the comforts of home," as well as all

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