

Russia Erects Port on Bleak Coast of Siberia

Hopes to Open Ship Routes Through Arctic Sea.

Washington, D. C.—Along the bleak Arctic coast of Siberia, at the mouth of the River Lena, the Soviet government is constructing the most northerly port in the world.

Though one of the six longest rivers in Asia, being almost 3,000 miles in length, the River Lena plays a minor role in the life of the continent. The sparse population of its basin, and its ice-jammed mouth on the dangerous, little-known Arctic ocean has prevented the Lena from taking part in world trade and limited it to internal commerce," says the National Geographic society.

"As Russian population spreads toward the Orient, however, this new port and the opening of navigation routes through the Arctic sea, may mean that the Lena will become a busy trade artery, through which will pulse the wealth of minerals, timber, and valuable furs of Central Siberia. "Rising as a clear mountain torrent in the Baikal mountains, the Lena rushes northward between steep, forest-clad cliffs of red sandstone from 200 to 300 feet high and then between lower chalk cliffs, gutted with innumerable grottoes. At the town of Vitim, 876 miles from its source, it is joined by the Vitim river, noted for its gold mines.

Cliffs Resemble Castle.

"Its volume doubled, the Lena flows for miles through the dense taiga, a primeval coniferous forest stretching from the Arctic circle to Turkestan. Through the dark wild shrubbery run packs of howling wolves. Flying squirrels leap from pine to pine above prowling brown bears, sables and ermines.

"The monotony of the forested slopes is broken occasionally by the flickering red camp fires of hunters, tent settlements surrounding post-houses, and limestone or sandstone cliffs. One series of cliffs, the famous 'Colonnades of Lena,' resembles a castle, whose battlements of red and green limestone strata stretch for miles along the river. Shortly beyond the junction with the rapid Olekma smoke from burning coal fields is seen rising from the banks of the Lena. These banks were long ago ignited by forest fires, giving rise to legends of volcanoes in central Siberia.

"The Lena valley has a wealth of minerals. Because its tributaries, the Vitim, Olekma, and Vilyul, flow through a region rich in gold, the Lena carries more of the precious yellow metal in its sands than perhaps any other river. Coal is found in several places along the Lena valley. In the region of the upper Lena are petroleum fields and whole mountains of salt. Near Yakutsk are silver mines, iron and zinc. Sulphur springs

bubble on the banks of the middle Lena. Jasper is found at Zhigansk. Platinum is so abundant in the Aldan valley that natives are reputed to make bullets out of it.

Yakutsk Is Chief City.
"Yakutsk, the chief trading post of eastern Siberia, and an important fur market, is built on alluvial soil about two miles back from the Lena and about halfway between its source and mouth. When the ice breaks in June, floods sweep the town. For this season, many houses are built on high platforms. Yakutsk boasts a wooden blockhouse fort built in 1832 by Yermak, the Volga boatman who turned plate.

"Yakutsk has a few brick office buildings, schools and churches, but most of the city is an unprepossessing collection of skin yurts (tents) pitched to spaces between snow-swept log houses. The few muddy streets become quagmires when the ground thaws. Many of the inhabitants are exiles, reindeer-riding Tungus, who breed cattle, and the more advanced Yakuts, who occupy the entire length of the Lena valley, farming on the fertile elevated banks almost to the Arctic circle.

"One hundred miles below Yakutsk, the confluence of the River Aldan from the right sweeps the River Lena, temporarily, to a width of twelve miles, almost an inland sea. Not far below, the Vilyul enters the Lena on the left.

Clock in Deserted Cabin Runs 8 Years

Placerville, Calif.—An eight-day clock in a vacant mining cabin has been kept running for eight years. When the mining company abandoned work in 1927, some one tacked a sign, "Please wind the clock," beneath the timepiece. Fishermen and hunters using the cabin for overnight headquarters have been faithful in following instructions. Enough of them visit the cabin during the spring, summer and fall to keep the clock running.

During the winter, Ed Ramsey, who lives three and one-half miles away, makes a weekly hike to the cabin. Winding the clock has become a sort of tradition.

Beyond are only insignificant tributaries and the Lena flows northward for 1,200 miles, a majestic stream, four to twenty miles wide.

"Steamers carry about 15,000 tons of freight a year on the Lena. To Yakutsk come barges bringing trade from the Sea of Okhotsk via the Aldan, and smaller craft with fox-skins from Bulun, with sables, ermine, and fossil ivory from the tundra of the Arctic. Skin-boats full of fish pass great rafts of timber, white steamers and leisurely ferries.

"The vast delta of the Lena covers an area of 8,800 square miles. It is formed partly by alluvial deposit, and partly by a group of ancient marine islands connected by silting or upheaval."

Roper Welcomed by the Blackfeet



Secretary of Commerce Daniel C. Roper on a visit to Glacier National park was greeted by Wensel Feather and George Bulchild, Blackfeet chiefs. In the photograph they are saying, in the sign language, "Welcome" and "We are brothers."

BRISBANE THIS WEEK

It's Already Smashed At Last They Got Him Air Wisdom, and Nonsense Forest Made to Order

Senator Borah denounces monopoly as the cause of all our troubles, and says "Smash the monopolies!" As it happens, happenings since 1929 have smashed the monopolies fairly well. If anybody has a monopoly that you would like to own, you can get it at a bargain.

It took 15 federal agents, all expert gunmen, to "get" Dillinger. And they got him by surprise, thanks to a woman's "tip that he was to be in a certain theater," a tip supposed to have been well paid for. It was no "detective work." Dillinger was killed as he had killed others, without a chance of escape, like a trapped coyote, and now he knows, if he knows anything, that as a profession "crime does not pay."

The War department's special aviation committee says the army should have 2,320 planes, with corresponding increases in flying men. It also says there should not be one department controlling all air forces, which is pitiful idocy.

Mr. Baker must remember what happened when he was secretary of war and the flying machines of this country sent to Europe were a joke among nations, our flying men compelled to borrow from France and England planes that would really fly.

However, the big men in the army and navy are not flyers, and feel that they should have their little separate flying units to play with.

From somewhere in the Pacific President Roosevelt sends an order that \$15,000,000 be set aside now, \$75,000,000 in all, spent on a "made to order" forest, stretching across this country through the heart of the drought area from the Canadian border to the Texas Panhandle. Planned as an experiment to counteract the drought by encouraging rainfall, the new forest will be 1,000 miles long, 100 miles wide, 100,000 square miles of forest surface.

It will be a long time before anybody knows about the plan's success. The President and those around him will have disappeared, will not see the big forest, and before it amounts to much men may have learned to produce rain when necessary. It is an interesting experiment, costing only \$75,000,000, a mere nothing in these days.

Henry Ford says: "Old-fashioned Americanism, the pioneer spirit that isn't afraid to tackle anything, will save this nation from its economic and social afflictions."

Perhaps Henry Ford, who lives some distance from the fringe of American civilization, gives his fellow citizens credit for too much of the old "American spirit."

When you read that 3,000,000 children are deprived of schooling in the United States, that this country spends for "luxuries" twice as much as it spends on education, you think that possibly something has happened to that "pioneer spirit." The Talmud says, "Jerusalem was destroyed because the schools were neglected."

Conditions in Vienna are bad, with more dangerous riots expected as Nazi terrorism continues its bomb explosions. Nazis in Austria declare that "Roman Catholic priests led Chancellor Dollfus in his campaign against the Nazis," and a Nazi spokesman declares that Nazis "have determined to kidnap the Roman Catholic priests as hostages." As soon as any Nazi terrorists are sentenced to death, and hanged, their friends will kill the priests held as hostages.

Mr. and Mrs. Peters (he was "night man" in a small Hoboken, N. J., lunch-lobby) won \$25,516 in a sweepstake lottery and felt that they should show that winning, in a lottery, is a good thing. They drove to collect their money in a rented 16-cylinder car with a liveried chauffeur, and "opened" champagne.

Any expert accountant can show them that 4 per cent on \$25,516 will not stand that strain. Some "get-rich-quick" expert will probably show them how to change \$25,516 into \$10,000,000—then Mr. Peters will be "night man" again.

Germany has real troubles, some factories closing, hours reduced, because of lack of raw materials. It isn't that other countries refuse to sell raw materials to Germany, but that Germany lacks cash and credit. Hundreds of thousands are said to be added to the number of unemployed.

News that malaria is spreading in Cuba, 6,000 cases reported at Santiago, will disturb intelligent Cubans and doubtless cause an energetic fight against the dangerous malaria-bearing mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes spread malaria and also spread yellow fever. Malaria is the worse of the two, for it makes life worthless. According to scientists, the malaria mosquitoes coming up from the marshes, not rude barbarians from the north or the vices of the inhabitants, destroyed the power of ancient Rome.

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Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted by William Bruckart

Bank Deposits Increase

Washington.—The end of June statements of all of the banks of the country are now a matter of record and surprisingly, nearly all of the individual banks have shown increases in deposits and resources over a year ago. A couple of the largest banks in New York showed such astounding increases in deposits as \$100,000,000, compared with June, 1933. But irrespective of the increase in deposits—that is, the money actually in possession of the banks—almost none of them disclosed any increase in the total loans now outstanding. Indeed, the rule was a decline from June 30, 1933.

Banking authorities in the government and outside tell me these figures on deposits and resources clearly indicate an improvement in the general banking situation. The Federal Reserve board in its latest review of conditions declared the banking structure was on a much firmer foundation. Yet, the fact that the banks have not made loans is being seized upon by a certain segment of politicians and alleged economists as proof that the banks are not doing their part. From very high quarters in the administration we hear intermittent yelps that the banks are not co-operating and are not attempting to loan money. This condition, as they construe it, is being used as the excuse for the existence of numerous of the government loaning agencies and for other activities under the New Deal that result in getting money out into the country.

The circumstances in the decline of bank loans, however, is to my mind not such as the critics of the banks claim. It must be remembered first of all that bankers, when they make loans, are putting out money belonging to you and to other depositors. They must be reasonably sure of getting it back, even though we do have now the Federal Deposit Insurance corporation that is supposed to prevent losses for the depositors. Bankers, therefore, are willing to make loans of the vast sums of idle cash their banks hold if they can only find someone who will put up security guaranteeing a return of the borrowed funds.

While some of the critics of the bankers have been continuing their attacks, I note statements from the Public Works administration, from the Reconstruction Finance corporation, from the Home Owners' Loan corporation, and the Farm Credit administration, among others, which show very clearly that the government or its agencies is unwilling to make loans unless it can foresee a reasonable chance for repayment. Just the other day, the Public Works administration withdrew an allocation of some \$6,577,000 for construction of a bridge in Chicago because, according to Public Works Administrator Ickes, the political subdivision of that city having jurisdiction was unable to provide a guarantee of repayment of that loan. Every day local units of the Home Owners' Loan corporation are turning down applications by home owners who seek government money through mortgages on their property to aid them in whatever distress they find themselves. The same statement may be made respecting loans by the Reconstruction Finance corporation in its dealings with industry.

Lately the various Federal Reserve banks issued a weekly statement of their operations, and only three of the twelve reserve institutions reported having made loans to industry.

Why Borrowers Are Few

I have inquired in numerous quarters for reasons why borrowers were so few. The consensus given me by men who should know, is that there are two distinct reasons for the small amount of loans being made by banks and, of course, the same reasons apply in the case of government loans, except that the government has been known to put out money in places from which it probably never will be returned. One of the reasons mentioned was that individuals and firms who most need money have nothing but their own signed obligations to put up as a guarantee. Obviously, if an individual or a corporation has no resources, the note of that individual or that corporation is of little value, however honest and well intentioned the borrower may be.

The second reason, and one that is quite as important, is the lack of confidence which business men tell me exists to a large extent in commerce and industry. Whatever is the basis for this lack of confidence is not a matter of concern in this discussion, but its existence seem to me to be a matter of the gravest importance.

Whether taxpayers are afraid of the burden in levies which they can foresee, is the reason for their hesitancy, is not now wholly apparent. Many observers are convinced it is an influential factor. There is also the question which one hears so often asked: Where and how far does the New Deal intend to go in socialization and reform? It seems to be obvious that each of these, and perhaps others, are factors standing in the way of a sound expansion of business under the recovery plan.

In the meantime, the federal govern-

ment is going ahead with its program to spend our way out of the depression. Here is one item to show what is happening.

This road building has resulted in the construction of enough miles—more than 22,000—of new highway almost to encircle the earth. This money was voted by congress in the last session as a means of creating work. Proponents of the appropriation, and administration authorities, hold that the \$400,000,000 earmarked for road building would provide thousands of new jobs. Bureau of public roads figures indicate that this has been the result, but I find many observers who are wondering whether the amount of money that has been paid to labor for highway construction has been a proper proportionate part of the total set aside, when the purpose was solely the making of jobs.

Total figures by the public roads office show that 6,360 miles were completed and in use on July 1 of this year and that 14,000 miles were under construction, with the probability that they will be in use by the end of 1934. Contracts have been awarded, the bureau has said, for the construction of about 1,000 miles more, and work on this portion will be under way in the late summer.

It used to be assumed that when economic conditions were below par, many owners of automobiles would dis-

Still Use Their Cars

pend with their machines until they were better situated financially. Such, however, seems not to have been the case in the last year. Automobile registrations, while they declined in 1933, continued to remain at an unusually high figure as compared with recent years. Official statistics show that 23,872,000 motor vehicles were in use last year. This is only 1 per cent below 1932. The decline from 1931 to 1932 was larger, but the point is, according to officials, that the decline was very small. The authorities insist that the reduction in total motor vehicles in use as compared with 1932 should be considered as hardly noticeable when the whole country and the whole number of motor vehicles is considered. Although I have not the official statistics concerning the sales of new cars last year, responsible sources inform me that this business was very much improved and they add also that the sales for 1934 in the first six months have been exceptionally high. This would indicate that a great many individuals have found money, in some way or another, which they could spare for a new automobile.

Washington observers lately have noticed an increasing tendency among conservatives throughout the country, whether Democratic or Republican, to align themselves under one banner. The movement as yet is much in the embryo, but I am told by various observers who are acquainted with political trends that the alignment is taking a rather definite shape.

Some months ago I reported in these columns the belief of many political leaders that Mr. Roosevelt, as President, was definitely engaged in the formation of a Roosevelt party that would adhere strictly to liberal standards. Assignments which the President has made, the legislation which he has proposed, and his general attitude on social matters coupled with an absolute disregard of old-time Democratic principles, has laid the groundwork for the regrouping of voters under a liberal and conservative alignment. It is to be noted in this connection that Mr. Roosevelt is continuing to expand his liberal doctrines under the guidance of some of the political leaders heretofore held to be radical members of the two old parties.

Conservative Trend

Another factor and influence that is noted now to be at work is the gradual concentration of the conservative side of political questions under the New Deal. Washington has heard lately of efforts being made which would result in the molding of business interests, or the spokesmen thereof, into a compact organization as a means of combating policies of the New Deal regarded by business leaders as radical in character.

It is too early to attempt a forecast as to the scope of this move. Nevertheless, it is quite apparent that a concentration of this strength is under way. Not only will these men and interests oppose expansion of such policies as NRA and the AAA but they are organizing to fight the ever-increasing burden of taxation and to oppose extension of government in business.

It is a matter of record, of course, that the tendency of government policies in the United States since the World war has been steadily to the left. Conservatives have been unable thus far to check this trend, largely because the conservative element never has stood together. It is important and significant, therefore, that for the first time we are observing the development of a conservative organization in this country which has the avowed purpose of turning the American government back somewhat to the right and, as the leaders describe it, back again to the Constitution as it was originally drawn.

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Plan Steel Building With Roof Airport

French Show "Last Word" in Metal Construction.

Paris.—In times of peace prepare for war is obviously the motto that inspired the architect of the new exhibition building to be erected at Issy-les-Moulineux on the outskirts of Paris along the Seine river.

Commissioned to erect a building that would be at once the last word in steel construction and at the same time suitable for showing all the different uses to which steel can be put, M. Leon-Joseph Madeline, the architect, has gone even further.

He designed a building with an airplane landing field on top and surrounded with lagoons, where hydro-airplanes may land.

His design has been approved by the committee of distinguished architects.

The building chosen will cover twelve acres of land. The roof, by the use of cantilever arches, will be supported only by the four walls and yet will still be strong enough to hold up the great twelve-acre airplane field.

The ground about the building will cover another eight acres, including the large lagoons. In addition, the new building will solve a problem which has puzzled those interested in commercial aviation for a long time.

The building will make available, on the outskirts of Paris, a landing and taking off field that will improve immediately the prospects of airplane traffic. Issy-les-Moulineux is on the subway and the railroads, and the Seine boats stop there.

What was originally intended to be an exhibition of steel, and still will be, will also be at a strategic point from the aeronautic standpoint. All the technical services, laboratories and industrial factories for the manufacture of airplanes in this district are located at Issy-les-Moulineux.

11-Year-Old Bridegroom Has to Attend School

Belgrade.—Europe's youngest married couple are Mustafa Bashitch, eleven, and Brisha Kasapovich, seventeen, of Bosnia.

Although a full-fledged husband, the young bridegroom has to go to school every day and his bride helps him with his lessons. He is in the third grade.

Early engagements are no rarity in Banovitch, which is a Moslem community. The above couple, however, break all records. In the village of Raanu recently a young couple thirteen and twelve, respectively, became engaged. Both were in the same class at school. The bride-to-be's father, however, decided that the marriage should be postponed until they finished their schooling and the groom-to-be had become apprenticed to a carpet-weaver.

Only White House Dog Gets District Tag No. 1

Washington.—President Roosevelt has received a shiny brass tag bearing the numeral No. 1, to be worn on the collar of his dog Winks.

Winks, an English setter scarcely more than a year old, is the only dog at the White House now. Gus H. Gengerich, the President's secret service guard, is the owner of a half-grown American pit bull terrier, but it is not known as "No. 1" was not included

in the White House kennels to the extent of receiving a special tag.

The No. 1 tag was brought to the President personally by Chaplain M. Towers, collector of taxes for the district.

This is the first time the Presidential family has received only one dog license. Last year the White House kennels were composed of Major, the German shepherd dog, which was banished because of his fondness of biting; Meggie, little black Scottie belonging to Mrs. Roosevelt, which also was banished for the same reason, and a collie pup belonging to the children of Mrs. Anna Curtis Dall, in addition to Winks.

Ohio Man Given Permit to Kill Robin Raiders

Dumontville, Ohio.—Cheery robins, beloved by most ornithologists to be man's friends, are the bitter enemies of D. L. Swarts, who believes he has the only federal permit to kill them. Swart's home is a bird haven. Doves, starlings, wrens and cardinals flock there. But robins—that's different.

"The robin is one of the fruit growers' most destructive pests. One day I counted fifty robins at my place, and every one was averaging a berry every five seconds," Swarts said.

"I get mad at them, but I can't shoot them until the fruit begins to ripen. Then I'm going to protect my property."

Swarts, who said robins cost him several hundred dollars' loss every year, applied last spring for a permit to kill the birds. The government granted it and the state conservation department approved.

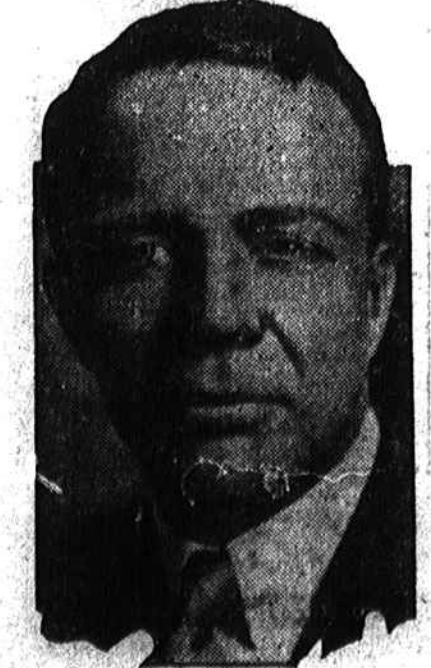
Expert Finds Flowers Keep Better in Copper

New York.—If you want to keep cut flowers for a long time, try keeping them in copper containers. John Ratsek, floriculturist on the staff of the New York State College of Agriculture, placed snapdragons, stocks, roses, primroses and other flowers in such containers and by so doing he found that their life span was increased by one to three days. He explained that the copper kills bacteria which would decay the flowers.

Eats 100 Doughnuts

London.—Derek Eyles of Wellington waded he could eat 60 doughnuts at a sitting. He ate them—and won. Then he ordered 50 more and ate them at the rate of one a minute.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT



Col. Theodore Roosevelt is the newly elected president of the National Republican club. In accepting the office he said: "The Republican organization must be re-made into a new party—a virile, fighting unit, liberal in the real meaning of the word—an opposition party that will oppose where the real interests of the nation call for opposition and that will support the President wholeheartedly in all constructive measures."