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TEA

'Fresh from the gardens'

Mighty Volga Passes Varied Racial Scenes

Russia's National River Flows its 2000 Miles to the Caspian Sea

Nizhni Novgorod, U.S.S.R.—Stretching to its magnificent length of more than 2000 miles from the far northwest of European Russia to the largest salt lake in the world, the Caspian Sea, the Volga is pre-eminently and indisputably Russia's national river. For uncounted centuries peoples have used this great waterway for trade and war and migration. "Matushka Volga" (Little Mother Volga) is the central figure in many ballads and stories.

One usually begins the popular steamboat trip down the Volga at the old city of Nizhni Novgorod, with its picturesque location on a high bluff overlooking the junction of the Oka and Volga Rivers. Nizhni Novgorod still preserves its character as a natural commercial meeting-place for Russia and the East; every summer, on a low tongue of land which is regularly flooded during the spring rise of the river, takes place the traditional fair.

Start of Five Days' Cruise

When the Volga passenger steamer Turgeniev (the Volga steamers are christened in about equal proportion after famous writers and natural scientists, and after revolutionists and Soviet leaders) cast off from Nizhni Novgorod and started its five-day cruise to Astrakhan, at the mouth of the river, one was immediately conscious of the change of atmosphere. The bleak, strenuous, restless life of the present-day Russian city gave way to the deep repose of the unchanging river.

One glides along the broad placid stream through a series of days that becomes gradually warmer and sunnier and nights that become less cool. For after the first day's sail eastward from Nizhni Novgorod to the old Tartar stronghold of Kazan, the main course of the river is southward, toward the hot Caspian Sea, which washes the shores of so many desert lands.

Of Finnish Stock

To travel down the Volga is to pass through a varied racial panorama. Soon after leaving Nizhni Novgorod one has on the right bank of the river the Chuvashes and on the left bank the Maris, of whom the former are a puzzle to anthropologists, while the latter are of Finnish stock. The holiday costumes of the Chuvash women, with their heavy many-colored head-dresses, glistening with gold coins, are especially striking. A day's sail brings the boat to Kazan, capital of the Tartar Autonomous Republic, where the spires of the minarets and the bulbous domes of the Russian



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ASPIRIN

ISSUE No. 42—'29

The Affair at Flower Acres

by CAROLYN WELLS

BEGIN HERE TODAY.

Douglas Raynor is found shot through the heart in the early evening on the floor of the sun room of Flower Acres, his Long Island home. Standing over the dead man, pistol in hand, is Malcolm Finley, former sweetheart of Raynor's wife, Nancy. Eva Turner, Raynor's nurse, stands by the light switch. Then Nancy, her brother, Orville Kent; Ezra Goddard, friend of Finley; Miss Mattie, Raynor's sister, and others, enter the room. Lionel Raynor, son of Douglas Raynor by his first marriage, comes to claim his father's estate. Nurse Turner confesses to attempting to poison Douglas Raynor out of revenge. Pennington Wise, a celebrated detective, and his girl assistant, Zizi, are called to take the case out of the hands of Detective Dobbins. Wise tells Orville Kent that an outsider is suspected of the murder because of the print of an over shoe found on the floor of the sun room.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

"Is that really a clew?"

"It's sort of a negative clew. I have made most careful search and I have found in the house no rubbers that can be made to fit that print."

"Supposing I did it—and threw away my rubbers—"

"Where did you throw them?"

"Why—why I don't know—"

"All right—where would you choose to throw them?"

"In the rubbish can, I suppose," and



IN THE FAINTEST OF TONES SHE SAID, "FEAR NOT—NO HARM SHALL TOUCH YOU—IF—IF—"

Kent looked so blank that Zizi smiled at his utter lack of ingenuity.

"Now, as to the time, one more," Wise said. "What do you know of the time from your own observation regarding that moment of the crime?"

"What do you mean, exactly?"

"I mean, from teatime until after you knew that Douglas Raynor had been shot, did you look at your own watch?"

"Not that I remember."

"Yet I think you testified that you stood on the bridge with Miss Fay at seven o'clock."

"Oh, yes, I did. She said it was seven, and she must hurry home, as her mother would be expecting her. So she went home, and I came back up the hill to this house."

"Reaching here to find Raynor shot and the others standing about in consternation?"

"Yes."

"Oh, Mr. Kent, you are forgetting your story of shooting him yourself! Zizi cried this out.

Kent did not smile—he looked troubled, and said earnestly, "But you tell me, Mr. Wise, that my sister will not be arrested if she is innocent."

"I did not say arrested—I said convicted. However, I do not think she will even be arrested. So, as I said, wait 24 hours before you make public this rather bewildering story of your own guilt. We have pretty well proved that the shot was fired at five minutes before seven. You were then on the bridge with Miss Fay. Now when you see your sister in such dire danger that you feel necessary to take over her guilt, and claim it for yourself, it will be time enough to make your confession. But for heaven's sake get it bolstered up into shape so that at least Dobbins will believe it!"

"Will you let me know, Mr. Wise, if or when you see matters so tending toward my sister that she is in danger?"

"In order that you may make your fake confession?"

Kent nodded.

"I'll promise this Mr. Kent. I'll promise to tell you first of all, when I have learned the identity of the real criminal. And I will tell you within the 24 hours."

"I know what ails that Kent man," Zizi said, as they walked away into the gardens. "He has no sense of humor."

"My word, Zizi! Do you call this an occasion for an exhibition of a sense of humor?"

"Not precisely, but I mean he couldn't even see how funny he was bargaining with you to let him know when the psychological moment arrived for him to commit perjury to save his sister."

"Your English is nearly as involved as his plans! Now, Zizi, the will business must be looked into next—and settled before we can accuse the beautiful widow."

"Don't Penny."

of such a thing in this house, and, moreover, impressed by the type of apparition—which he had always held was the real thing—he at once accepted the wraith-like figure as supernatural.

Even when the eyes turned on him, and he saw merely two small blurs of flickering light—Zizi was too much of an artist to overdo the phosphorus—it seemed that at least a true ghost had appeared to him, and Lionel Raynor gave way to paroxysms of fear.

He writhed, he mumbled, he clutched at the bedclothes, and the watchful Zizi saw that there was danger of the man's going into convulsions.

In the faintest of tones she said: "Fear not—fear not—no harm shall touch you—if—if—if—"

(To be continued.)

Canada's Road Mileage

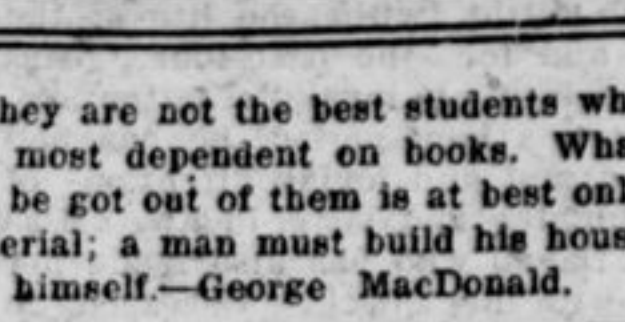
Ottawa.—Partly to accommodate the rapidly increasing tide of tourist traffic, much of which travels by automobile, the construction of highways and good roads throughout Canada continues to advance. In the past three years the mileage of surfaced roads in the Dominion has been increased from 47,411 miles to 64,121 miles. Including improved and unimproved earth roads, the total mileage of highways open for traffic in all parts of Canada, was at the end of last year, 281,977, or a mileage that would circle the earth over 15 times.

Last year 8,610 miles of highways were constructed, of which 2,454 miles were earth and 6,156 surfaced. The total expenditure on construction was \$28,912,022, while a further sum of \$15,963,381 was spent on maintenance. The year's work included 541 miles of permanent surfaced highways in bituminous macadam, bituminous concrete and cement concrete construction. Waterbound macadam totalled 417 miles and gravelled highways 5,198 miles.

There were 1,076,819 motor vehicles registered in Canada in 1927, which was an increase of 131,147 over the previous year. Passenger automobiles registered amounted to 521,395, an increase of 106,028 over 1927. On an average basis, there was one passenger automobile per 10.5 persons in Canada and one motor vehicle, including trucks, motor cycles, buses, etc., per 9.9 persons. Only three countries had greater densities than Canada, the United States with 5.1, Hawaiian Islands, 7.9, and New Zealand, 8.0 persons per motor vehicle.

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Makes Good Soap
Cleans Disinfects Deodorizes
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Removes Old Paint
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They are not the best students who are most dependent on books. What can be got out of them is at best only material; a man must build his house for himself.—George MacDonald.

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ALL DEALERS

A Plea to Save Hawks and Owls

By DR. JOHN E. MAY
State Ornithologist, Massachusetts

A group of birds which are in need of encouragement are the much-maligned "birds of prey," the hawks and owls. These birds are diminishing steadily and all too rapidly. Dr. Frank Mer Stone, editor of the Auk, writes in the July, 1929, issue of that authoritative journal, "There seems no hope for our raptorial species. It is all very well to claim that it is a matter of education, but the birds will be exterminated before we can educate the public, especially when Game Commissions are educating them in the other direction. It would seem therefore that the case of the hawks and owls is hopeless." And Dr. Frank M. Chapman comments editorially on the fact that the papule at a "Game Conservation Institute" in New Jersey killed "296 hawks and 179 owls" during a short period, without apparently making any effort either to distinguish between the different species of birds destroyed or to study their stomach contents in an effort to ascertain whether they were or were not, injurious species.

Recently a game protective official asked me why we who are interested in wild birds did not prepare some real "do-good" as he called it, upon the feeding habits of our hawks and owls. There is plenty of authoritative information for those who wish to learn the real status of these birds.

We do not claim that hawks and owls destroy no song birds, game birds or poultry, but we are certain that the damage done by many of these birds is very greatly exaggerated. The screech owl in my orchard killed rats, house mice, field mice, and deer mice in numbers, but the only evidence of bird murder which I could find were remains of one starling and one house sparrow. The long-eared owl pellets I examined this winter showed skulls of sixty-one meadow mice and the sternum of one bird. Sparrowhawks in summer are almost entirely insectivorous and in winter largely mouse-eaters, but I learned of one recently which made daily visits to a poultry yard in New Hampshire until it was captured (the chickens must have been pretty small). The osprey is more than ninety-nine per cent fish eater, but the last issue of Bird Lore tells of one which killed tame ducks. The number of birds killed by most species of hawks and owls is negligible, though there are exceptions to all rules and, as in the case of the erring osprey, "lead pills" may become the indicated remedy in special cases. On the other hand, most hawks and owls destroy great numbers of very injurious rodents and many of the birds eaten are the weak or diseased members of a flock, which are easier to catch, and which might spread disease to the other members if not destroyed. This latter point has been well brought out in investigations of the status of the red grouse in Europe, where the same attitude toward birds of prey prevails, unfortunately, as in this country.

Alaska has paid bounties recently on well over 40,000 eagles, and we in New England kill every bald eagle we can reach, with some such excess as the (discredited) newspaper stories of its attacks upon children. Eagles are protected by law in Massachusetts, as are ospreys, sparrowhawks, screech owls and a few others, and their possession or capture is forbidden.—Our Dumb Animals.

Britain's Need of More Cruisers?

To advance "trade protection" as a reason for building ten new cruisers is equivalent to a wife demanding a new umbrella because the roof had blown off. So declares a retired British naval officer in The Socialist Review (London), and he adds that the futility of this reasoning would have been exposed during the late war if it had not been that the geographical position for Britain to pin their fleet within the confines of the North Sea. This former naval officer goes on to say:

"Our cruisers were not called upon to protect our trade from wholesale surface raiding, and so their inability to do so was not exposed. As it was, a few German ships did break out of the North Sea, notably the Moeve and Wolf, and they sank our ships in the Atlantic unhampered. A medal was struck in Germany to commemorate the Moeve's exploit, after she had returned safely.

"It has been pointed out that our regular fleet was powerless to deal with the submarine menace. The truth is that the task of maintaining the Seven Seas as a private lake for the merchant ships of any one nation is ludicrously beyond the power of the navies of to-day.

"The 'trade-protection' excuse for more cruisers is utterly fallacious. The real reason for any nation wishing to build cruisers is because other nations are building them. It is the desire to be able to match these ships gun for gun, in a fleet action. That is what cruisers were used for in the last war; it is what they would be used for again.

"To pretend that can be used for any other purpose is to confuse the issue and to make unnecessarily difficult the task of disarmament."

Sir Truby King Advocates Sunlight Tuberculosis Cure

Sydney, Aus.—Sir Truby King, recently knighted in recognition of his work in reducing infant mortality, advocates an hour a day in the sunlight, led in a linen hat and a loin cloth, as part of Australia's school curriculum. He believes it would eliminate tuberculosis.

POLAR BEAR FAVORITE AT BANFF

One of the greatest favorites of the visitors to Banff national park is the polar bear in the Zoo. He was brought down as a tiny cub from near Herschel Island in the Canadian Arctic, by an officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Sincerity is quite as valuable as knowledge and even more so.—L. Murray.

Minard's Liniment for Warts.

Minard's Liniment for Warts.

West Afr

An Article in P...

The Dominion of largely in the... been found for... sited continents... economic separa... derstanding, and... made to the D... tory results... tions began the... hibitions in Can... Africa has figur... second being la... Gold Coast and... pated. Although... tended that the... be in the D... Prevision it was... housed in the... which was inde... quirements. The... three Oshana... much attention... engaged. Canada... imported largely... and the increas... trade has been... by the high pri... African cocoa, ... manganese ship... Coast.

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London Zoo's Prize Nuisance

Lion Cub is Center of Attraction in the Old Capital

London.—Gus is causing trouble again! Gus, in case you don't know, is the most important nuisance in the whole London Zoo. He is one of the three offspring of Doris and Fat, who are the proud parents of the first lion cubs to be born in the Zoo for six years.

Gus is woolly and soft, but as he is the only "man" in the new family he spends his time showing he knows it.

The other two cubs are mere sisters without any progressive ideas, but Gus has already shown a hankering after his first real bone. All Gus got was his first real spanking, administered from the paw of Mr. Pat Lion—which is one of the reasons why cubs leave home.

Happy Family

Now they are all once again the Zoo's happy family, as Gus is resigned to drinking milk until the time arrives when he will grow into a fine healthy man-eater like his ancestors before him.

In the meantime hundreds of people have heard of the new arrivals and have tried to see them. It is far easier to interview the Governor of the Bank of England than see these cubs.

Behind the cages, built on the floor of the passage, the family has a secret nursery of its own. It is here that Fat sits contentedly toying with a bone while Doris mends house.

It was here also that the irrepressible Gus first showed he was a man by trying to steal his father's meat, and when he was disappointed, tried to hew his little sister's ears.

A special menu of red meat, which is the envy of all the childless lions in the Zoo, is being given to Fat, while Doris is waited on by "Keeper Bill" as if she were a princess.