

# Siberia's Republic



Young Woman Bread Merchant of Siberia.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)  
The passing of the Far Eastern republic of Siberia recalls that this picturesque government, which Moscow was willing to have exist as a buffer state toward the Japanese-occupied territory around Vladivostok, was supposed to be built on the model of the United States, but with certain radical "attachments." It is even probable that, though the country is federated with the Moscow government, its individualistic tendencies may continue; for the pioneer conditions of Siberia and the struggle against them have developed an individualism in the Siberians not unlike that which grew in our Westerners.

When the daylight is fading and the long shadows are stretching across the plains, one realizes the vastness of Siberia—panorama of a gently undulating, silent sea, green and brown, or unending white.

The area of the Far Eastern republic is 450,000 square miles, larger than Texas and California combined, yet it is only the southeast corner of Siberia, one-twentieth of the former Russian empire. From Vladivostok, on the coast, to Verkhne-Udinsk, on the republic's western boundary, is more than 1,700 miles by rail, and little more than one-third of Siberia has been crossed. Usually the train is the only sign of life. As far as the eye can see, the telegraph poles stand sentry along the winding railroad, fading away in the distance.

Everywhere now are the scars of war. It may be a locomotive, rusty and half covered with sand, lying in the ditch where it plunged with its human freight. It may be the skeleton of a train, deserted on a side track, burned except for the steel framework of cars and trucks. Twisted rails, wrecked bridges, or shattered fragments, where an ammunition train has blown up, vary the picture.

A peasant's wagon, with shaggy galloping ponies and the invariable dog trotting behind, is a sign that a village is near. The lamps on the station platform are gone and semaphores of the old days stand with broken arms, for this is now a moonbeam railroad, running without signals or headlights.

**Railroad Still Running.**  
The railroad is the most important public utility of the republic. Poverty and dilapidation have overwhelmed it, just as they have gripped the fallen gentee of the barakholka. It keeps running, which is about all. With the obstacles which must be overcome, the marvel is that even that is accomplished.

The passenger coaches are unheated in winter, windows dirty and broken, electric light fixtures wreathed out bodily, lavatories filled with dirt, rough boards where once were mirrors, doors nailed shut or broken off, and the floors splintered from being used as chopping blocks. The proletariat seems to relish a martyrdom to darkness and dirt.

The Far Eastern republic has 2,920 miles of railroad, exclusive of the 1,100 miles of the Chinese Eastern railroad, which also belongs to Russia. They are more of a liability than an asset.

As a part of the Transiberian, the system of an empire stretching across two continents, these miles of road give access to the Pacific. They are more than the republic will need for many years to come. The 1,488 miles of the Amur road parallel the river through tracts of virgin forest, a country rich in gold and coal, but undeveloped. Geologists say that there is not a 150-mile stretch along this road where coal cannot be mined. It was constructed for military purposes, and when the war broke out much of it had not been ballasted.

When one travels in Siberia these days, at regular intervals the train stops and the conductor plods along the side, shouting "Tovarischi-sa dromam!" It is the call for the "comrades" to pile out and carry sticks from the neighboring woodpiles to the locomotive. It is a crude study in communism.

Most of the passengers, women and girls as well as men, make their way leisurely across the fields. Some climb on the tender, and the fuel is loaded as by a bucket brigade at an old-time fire.

For thousands the railroad provides the only home. An official may get a passenger coach or private car for himself and his family, but the proletariat—men, women and children—are herded by dozens in box-cars, anybody who can crowd in being free to pick out a corner for a home.

**Moving Slowly Toward Russia.**  
In Chita and Verkhne-Udinsk hundreds are housed in box-car cities, cooking, eating and living in the open during the day and at night sleeping on rough shelves which have been built into the cars.

Some are on the move, getting nearer soviet Russia whenever a locomotive can be spared to pull their trains, while others have been waiting for months. Included in this west-bound tide a year ago were about a hundred American artisans each month, bound for soviet Russia—"a country where men are free," as they explained.

The military band is an important factor in Chita's life. It precedes every company of soldiers, sturdy young men in unmatched uniforms, that marches through the streets during the day. In the evenings its members play at the two theaters and public gardens.

Chita even has a circus. It is mostly clowns with racy songs. On pleasant evenings the public gardens are filled, though 5 cents admission is charged. Every seat in the theaters is taken. No one attempts to explain how the strangely assorted crowd gets the price of admission. The cement-floored, free, outdoor dance pavilion is crowded also during the warmer months. Sometimes there is grand opera and other weeks there is a stock company or movies.

Among Russians, the paralysis of the country and the suffering the people have experienced in recent years is blamed on Japan. Much of it, however, is a heritage from the revolution, the overthrow of a despotic monarchy and the launching of another government whose principals go to the opposite extreme in radicalism.

That Siberia could not recover as long as Japan maintained a hostile army within its territory, and that a large proportion of the Japanese military did not want it to recover until it was annexed, as Korea was, seemed equally evident.

**Why the Republic Was Formed.**  
Several motives contributed to the formation of the Far Eastern republic as a constitutional democracy. Soviet Russia could have prevented, but assented instead. Moscow has been the only friend of Chita, aiding it with gold and soldiers, though extremely limited in both. However, the two republics were separate, as any one soon found out when passing the customs guards, immigration officers and soldiers on either side of the boundaries.

In the first place, the Far Eastern republic satisfied the wish for a buffer state between Japan and soviet Russia. Next, the leaders of Moscow realized that their beautiful theories of communism had been an economic and social failure, and this corner of Siberia offered a good field to try out the democracy of America embellished with some of the latest radical novelties.

The third reason, alone sufficient, was that the Siberian peasant is loath to accept a broader communism than the guild communism to which he is accustomed.

The Siberian peasant averages 100 acres of land. He can have as much more as he wants to cultivate. It is there for the taking. What he raises is his own. He is willing to put his crop in the community storehouse, but the idea of turning it over to a government on the strength of a promise of clothes, tools, or a free ride on the railroad cannot be driven into his head.

Propaganda is the gripping force of the government. Every employee or soldier gets a free newspaper, and a Russian newspaper is always more enthusiastic for its country and some particular local party than it is for news.

In each city is a reading room, and the demand for books on industry, electricity, mechanics, metallurgy, medicine, agriculture, and other useful sciences largely exceeds the limited number of well-thumbed copies.

## CALENDAR OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF HERTFORD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA BEGINNING FEBRUARY 26, 1923 FOR ONE WEEK

HON. F. A. DANIELS, Judge Presiding  
D. R. MCGLOHON, Clerk Superior Court

- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1923.
- 187. State vs. Ashley Craig
  - 191. M. P. Hubbard Co., vs C. S. Brown et als
  - 10. J. H. Watson vs. David Jones
  - 22. Jordan & Parker vs Jeff Lang & L. M. Mitchell
  - 54. J. P. Stricklen vs S. E. & V. L. Vaughan
  - 145. E. J. Gerock vs L. M. Mitchell
  - 146. E. J. Gerock vs L. M. Mitchell

- THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1923
- 111. H. M. Bramberry vs C. D. Nickens
  - 115. Garrett & Lawrence vs A. F. Kennedy
  - 52. J. E. Newsome vs J. W. Godwin, Jr. & Wife
  - 80. Hammond & Bell vs E. J. Gerock
  - 140. Garrett & Jernigan vs R. E. Cowan
  - 141. Garrett & Jernigan vs R. E. Cowan

- FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1923.
- 23. A. E. Garrett vs G. W. Baker & C. B. Godwin
  - 25. J. R. Garrett vs James Butler, Jr.
  - 26. J. R. Garrett vs Jim Butler
  - 48. Z. V. Bellamy vs J. W. Godwin
  - 83. W. P. Britton vs J. A. Long
  - 90. Raynor L. Holloman vs W. T. Holloman
  - 163. J. W. Godwin vs General Williams
  - 166. W. S. Perry vs J. A. Long

- MOTIONS
- 5. J. H. Mitchell vs J. R. Garrett
  - 20. A. W. Holloman vs Geo. W. Baker
  - 42. G. W. Raines vs H. R. Pender, Agent
  - 43. Cling Newsome vs Town of Ahoskie
  - 75. L. M. Morris vs Annie Morris
  - 87. J. R. Rives vs J. D. Cullens
  - 130. W. G. Phelps vs C. Green
  - 169. R. J. Cowan vs Geo. E. Myers & Geo. P. Holloman
  - 193. J. W. Godwin, Adr. vs Bank of Ahoskie

### MEETING OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board of County Commissioners of Hertford County met on the 5th day of February, 1923. Present J. H. Mitchell, Chairman, members, E. W. Whitley, E. H. Eure, W. J. Vaughan and J. O. Askew, Jr.

Proceedings of last meeting read and approved.

The Committee appointed to provide a flat for Maney's Ferry reports that contract for building of flat has been let to Eddie Cross. The Committee is still continued.

Committee to repair Court House at Maney's Neck is still continued.

The Board, upon motion and carried, orders the Clerk to make necessary corrections in Winton School tax of Luvenia Walden.

The Board votes that the County Home Committee be authorized to purchase a roll of wire for County Home and do the necessary fencing.

The Board, upon motion and carried, votes to rescind its action of last meeting asking that the County Representative pass law abolishing tax collectors and placing the collection of taxes in hands of the Sheriff.

The Board, upon motion defers further action in reference to Recorder's Court for Hertford County, until first Monday in March.

Mr. C. Salmon appeared before the Board and requested that he be allowed to list for poll taxes for 1922, as he was not present at list time. The Board granted this request and ordered that he pay single taxes.

The Board, upon motion and carried, ordered that the Tax Collector turn the poll taxes of Jule Brown, Winton township, in as insolvent, he being relieved of the amount.

C. C. Scott is also relieved by the Board of his poll taxes for 1922 on account of being physically disabled.

The Board agrees to accept the offer of W. L. Curtis, Ahoskie, for book case in the office of Clerk of the Court.

The matter of renting the warehouse belonging to the County at Harrellsville wharf was taken up, and the Board, upon motion and carried, leaves the renting of this property to J. O. Askew, Jr.

The Board instructed Mr. J. O. Askew, Jr., to have the ferry house at Boone-Harrell ferry vacated, so as to turn same over to the keeper of the steel bridge.

The matter of securing janitor and man to attend to the heating plant is left in the hands of Mr. E. H. Eure to make best contract possible.

Constable bond of C. W. Howard received again and approved by the Board.

The following bills against the county approved and ordered paid:

Wilson & Co., part payment on heating plant	\$1,000.00
Wilson & Co., part payment on heating plant	500.00
Chowan and Roanoke Telephone Co., phone bill, December	3.80
B. Scull, summoning jurors	10.80
B. Scull, telegrams	1.25
B. Scull, Sheriff, salary, December and January	250.00
Hertford County Herald, publishing reports, Dec. and Jan.	29.00
Dink Jones, keeping Hills Ferry landing	40.00
M. M. Brown, paid for supplies, County Home	14.63
Thad Dukes, work County Home, January	20.00
W. A. Miller, ginning cotton	13.50
W. L. Matthews, part payment commissions	200.00
J. J. Chadwick, services at court house	25.75
R. R. Buck, board prisoners, etc.	51.14
Abram Newsome, services janitor, January	6.00
Matthew Wilson, keeping Tar Landing ferry, January	35.00
H. P. Eure, keeping Parkers Ferry, January	45.00
Winton Auto Supply Co., supplies and labor, pump	12.15
J. A. Northcott, recording official bonds	2.75
George S. Baker, expense and clothing Jennie Stevens, insane	38.69
W. T. Pace, one thermometer	.55
C. W. Howard, bringing prisoner to jail	2.00
H. S. Storr Co., 1 dating stamp	3.55
H. S. Storr Co., book cases, Clerk Court	114.00
Myrtle Swindell, home demonstration, January	25.00
Edwards & Broughton Co., supplies Clerk Court	4.57
Edwards & Broughton Co., supplies Clerk Court	8.12
E. D. Hogard, fixing aprons Parkers Ferry	4.00
Daniel & Shaw, paint and glass	7.00
E. L. Jenkins & Son, oils etc.	7.43
N. C. Joyner, freight and drayage	12.05
Pine Lumber Co., lumber Maney's Neck Courthouse	10.00
W. C. Ferguson, lumber Maney's Neck Courthouse	41.00
Barnes-Sawyer Co., supplies County Home	31.63
Barnes-Sawyer Co., supplies County Home	17.19
Eddie Cross, part payment Maney's ferry flat	65.00
Judie White, support for February	3.00

No further business before the Board it adjourned to meet on first Monday in March, 1923. J. H. MITCHELL, Chairman. JOHN A. NORTHCOTT, Clerk.

### EGGS FOR HATCHING

Extra Fancy Thompson's Ringlet Rocks, Park's Bred-to-lay Rocks, Fishel's White Rocks, Vibert's S. C. Rhode Island Reds, Shepherd's Anconas, Ferris White Leghorns, Barron's White Leghorns, Buckeyes, Buff Orpingtons, White Orpingtons, and Black Minorcas, \$2.50 per 15; \$10.00 per 100 delivered; Jersey Black Giants 15 for \$5.00.

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### ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of W. J. Vinson, deceased, this is to notify all persons holding claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned, duly verified, on or before the 18th day of January 1923, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Those indebted to said estate will make immediate payment.

This the 1st day of January, 1923.  
JESSIE VINSON,  
Administrator of W. J. Vinson, deceased.  
1-19-23-6t.

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