

# The Outlook

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## The Peasant and the War

By Ernest Poole, Special Correspondent of  
The Outlook in Russia

## The Story of Port Arthur

By George Kennan, Special Correspondent of  
The Outlook in Japan

## Sectional Misapprehension

By Ernest H. Abbott

## Tibet: The Country and Its People

By H. Addington Bruce

## A Communistic Idyl

By Lucy R. Watkins

With those two ideals accepted as settled beyond controversy we shall see that the problems, social, political, industrial, and educational, of this land, though they assume different forms in different communities, are in essence identical, North and South. Misappre-

hensions must needs continue; but they will be individual, not sectional. Problems will continue; but two problems will disappear. The Race Problem will be resolved into an accepted Condition, and the Educational Problem will be resolved into an accepted holy Obligation.

## Tibet: The Country and Its People'

By H. Addington Bruce

**W**HATEVER may be the ultimate political consequences of last year's invasion of Tibet by the British, it unquestionably has had as result a notable enlargement of our knowledge respecting that country. The most superficial examination of the literary first-fruits of the expedition makes this very evident. While the more ambitious books that have appeared—the work respectively of Mr. Percival Landon, Mr. Edmund Candler, and Colonel L. Austine Waddell—are largely occupied with the narrative of the arduous campaign on the Tibetan tableland, they show that their authors were keenly appreciative of the significance of the invasion as an enterprise of discovery and exploration. At first sight it might seem that in three books, each essentially covering the same ground, we were possessed of a superfluity of riches. But investigation discloses that each supplements the others in a very helpful way, the writers, through temperament and opportunity, laying varying stress on different phases necessary to a thorough understanding. It cannot be doubted, however, that of the three Colonel Waddell's "Lhasa and Its Mysteries" is the most comprehensive. Inferior in literary quality to both Mr. Landon's "The Opening of Tibet" and Mr. Candler's "The Unveiling of Lhasa," it deals with the subject more broadly and intimately than either. Nor is this at all surprising, in view of Colonel Waddell's longer acquaintance with the country and its people. He has for years been making a special study of

the religion, manners, and customs of Tibet, and has frequently made incursions into the Forbidden Land, these incursions including a bold but of course unsuccessful attempt in 1892 to penetrate to Lhasa. It is thus obvious, not only that the Younghusband-Macdonald expedition, which he accompanied as chief medical officer, held a peculiar interest for him, but that he was exceptionally well equipped to avail himself of the opportunities it offered for research.

Not unnaturally, he opens with a discussion of the factors conjoining to make Tibet so long a terra incognita. "The chief cause," we are told, "has been the political barriers raised by its monks, the Lamas, who are at the same time the rulers, the priests, and the merchants of the country; and who, prompted by their own commercial and clerical self-interest, and their dread of losing their advantageous monopoly by the introduction of Europeans and their methods, have struggled and striven by every means in their power to preserve their isolation." That nature has been of the greatest assistance in the enforcing of this policy of exclusion is the uniform testimony of all who have ventured to defy it, and is fully borne out by Colonel Waddell's spirited narrative of the experiences of the expedition and by his luminous description of the topography, climate, and resources of the country. Indeed, he makes it apparent that, however the sentiments of the inhabitants may change, Tibet must remain very much a land set apart. Put to the test, the political barriers proved woefully inadequate; but the natural barriers—the fearful cold, the piercing

<sup>1</sup> *Lhasa and Its Mysteries: With a Record of the Expedition of 1903-1904.* By L. Austine Waddell, LL.D., C.B., C.I.E., F.L.S., F.A.I. Illustrated. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$6, net.

winds, the barren plateaus, and the bleak passes—well-nigh succeeded where man failed. From all accounts of the invasion, and not least from Colonel Waddell's account, it would seem certain that, had the Tibetans been of a slightly higher order of intelligence, the advance which began with such a flourish must have ended in an inglorious retreat.

Not that Tibet is a wholly undesirable land. The Po district of Lower Tibet, near Assam, is a region of great fertility, as is, though to a lesser degree, the Chumbi Valley, into which the expeditionary force descended after the toilsome passage of the Himalayas. In the Tsangpo Valley, near Lhasa, rich areas of cultivation were also found. "The villages," writes Colonel Waddell, "were pictures of agricultural peace, and the prosperous-looking inhabitants were busy harvesting, reaping, threshing the corn, and building stacks. So populous was this part that I counted over a dozen hamlets within two square miles. The fertility of the fields here was amazing; the wheat, barley, peas, and beans were breast-high, and quite equal to the best English crops, as were also the vegetables." Such fecund spots, however, were so exceptional that the commissariat problem was one of the most serious the invaders were called upon to solve. It is worth observing that almost if not quite the least difficult problem was that of overcoming the armed resistance of the natives. With their ignorance of military tactics and their antiquated weapons, the Tibetan soldiery—to whom an entire chapter is devoted—proved virtually a negligible quantity.

One thing, however, the various "battles" taught the British—that the enemy was not devoid of courage. On this point all the chroniclers are agreed. "The determination, resource, and bravery shown by the Tibetans," declares the Colonel, "should dissipate, once for all, the absurd delusion that the Tibetans cannot fight. Their daring is superb." Simplicity and friendliness were other characteristics revealed to the conquerors. During the armistice at Gyantse small exploring parties rambled for miles through the neighborhood, finding that wherever they went, to the meanest hut

or the most imposing monastery, they were kindly received and hospitably entertained. In Lhasa "it was almost always a good-humored, grinning crowd that gathered round us in our shopping or photographing excursions, and smiled in childish pleasure at our lavishness, or stared with open-eyed curiosity at our strange ways, invariably respectful, though never cringing. Seldom was a sullen face seen, except among the Lamas; but many of these would occasionally relax, so as to let a good-natured smile lighten up their broad faces."

Judging from the number and variety of games and pastimes enumerated, the Tibetans appear to be a sport-loving people. But, however strong their inclination, they can have little time for recreation. Yoked by an ecclesiastical feudalism, they are constantly at the beck and call of the Lamas, who are not only their spiritual guides, but their temporal overlords. And in this feudalism lies the key to the mysteries of Tibet—a key which, when turned, as it has at last been turned, reveals none of the esoteric marvels on which rumor has so long battered, but a blighting ignorance and superstition extending from confine to confine of the Roof of the World. Assuredly, Lamaism has erected unto itself some admiration-compelling monuments. Nowhere save in Tibet is there a Potala Palace, a Jo-Kang, a Däpung, Sera, or Gaden Monastery. But in all that makes for material, mental, or moral progress, Lamaism—which Colonel Waddell has exhaustively explored, and which he pungently describes as "a disastrous, parasitic disease which [has] fastened on to the vitals of the land"—shows itself not beneficent but baneful. Visiting monastery after monastery, the Colonel, to whom nothing in Tibet was so interesting as the religion, sought proof of the reputed stores of mystic learning. He found books in plenty, but nothing more noteworthy than translations of and commentaries on the Buddhist scriptures. And even these were seldom read, the most diligently studied being "a few volumes containing more or less unintelligible spells prescribed by the Lamas for the cure of disease and for good luck." His search, however, de-

veloped the astonishing fact that the illiteracy common to the laity extended to their clerical rulers. In the Pal-kor, the "grand temple of learning" at Gyantse, "not one in twenty or more [of the Lamas] could even write, and only two or three out of a hundred had ordinary intelligence." After this it is not difficult to understand why Tibet has lagged far behind civilization.

Here and there, to be sure, Lamas who could advance well-based claims to learning were encountered. Such a one was the Cardinal to whom the Dalai Lama, on the eve of his hurried flight to Mongolia, intrusted the great seal. An interview with this Cardinal constitutes the subject matter of a most instructive chapter. In this interview Colonel Waddell finally assured himself that, no matter how far he might press his quest of the occult, his efforts would be spent in vain. "Regarding the so-called 'Mahatmas,'" he writes, "it was important to elicit the fact that this Cardinal, one of the most learned and profound scholars in Tibet, was, like the other learned Lamas I have interrogated on the subject, entirely ignorant of any such beings. Nor had he ever heard of any secrets of the ancient world having been preserved in Tibet: the Lamas are only interested in 'The Word of Buddha,' and place no value whatever on ancient history. No Lama, he added, nor even any of the great monasteries in Lhasa, the greatest in all Tibet, possessed, he was certain, any account of the ancient history of India, the land of Buddha himself, beyond such fragments as were to be gleaned from the orthodox scriptures."

But if Colonel Waddell failed to find in Lhasa the "key which should unlock the mysteries of the old world," he found there much of very real interest. Hemmed about by snow-capped mountains, and standing in a broad and verdant plain, surely never was city more fairly situated. Thus is painted the gorgeous panorama that flashed upon the British as they neared their goal:

On the left is the front view of the Dalai Lama's palace, which faces the east, and is

now seen to be a mass of lofty buildings covering the hillside—here about three hundred feet high—from top to bottom with its terraces of many-storied and many-windowed houses and buttressed masonry battlements and retaining walls, many of them sixty feet high, and forming a gigantic building of stately architectural proportions on the most picturesque of craggy sites. . . . On our extreme right, and connected with the Potala hill by the knife-edged ridge, towered the still higher Iron hill, topped by its medical college, and foreshortened from here into a tall pinnacle. Between these two hills stretches out in front the well-wooded, fertile plain of the winding Kyi River, like a fine European landscape, four or five miles broad, and seven or eight up the valley to where a side spur from the mountains blocks the view. In the foreground are numerous orchards, gardens, and parks up to the river bank and between its many channels, and about a mile off the town shows up as a thin white line among the trees, in the center of which shines out the glittering roof of the great "cathedral" with the smaller burnished roof of Ramoché temple; to the left, and further off, at the foot of the hills, Sera, the greatest monastery in Tibet after Dápung; and as a background beyond the green plain, studded over with the white villas of the nobles and little farmsteads, rise on all four sides lofty mountains three thousand to six thousand feet above the plain, penetrated by the white tracks threading straight ahead to China, and to the Tengri Lake and Mongolia, passing by Sera on our left.

Lhasa proper, however, is rather uninteresting, being described as an agglomeration of squat houses set in narrow streets, the one great adornment being the Jo-Kang, or cathedral. But the magnificent structures in the suburbs, with their impressive natural setting and their architectural and decorative beauties, more than compensate for the shortcomings of the city. All of these buildings were, of course, visited by Colonel Waddell. If his descriptions of them lack literary charm, he nevertheless succeeds in conveying very definite impressions. We can only add that here, as elsewhere, intelligent perusal is facilitated by maps and numerous illustrations from photographs, some of which are reproduced by color process; and that the usefulness of his work as a book of reference is appreciably increased by the inclusion of several appendices exhibiting the more purely scientific results of the expedition.