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PAINT CO'Y SLAV PEOPLE IN

The Post is in receipt of the following interesting letter sent to us from Skaro, Alberta. It is written by Mr. J. H. Hardy, a former L.C. I. student, well known to many of our readers.

Accompanying the article were a number of really excellent photographs of scenes among the Ruthenada. We regret that we have the facilities for reproducing views in connection with the

Forty miles northeast of Edmonton, and extending many miles to the east, and south of the branch of the Saskatchewan river, a settlement of over thirty bousand Ruthenians, or Galicians as they are often called. Naturally, such a large mass of people do and will play an important part in the politics of Alberta. Already the elections in three constituencies swayed by their votes, and at e sent up to Parliament a member who was a Ruthenian by birth Twenty years ago these people were rought out from Galicia, a province of Austria, bordering on Russia, where seven million of the same stock still live. Fully one half of the section

Capada now inhabited by them still wooded;, an abundance of small game such as rabbits, prairie chickheard in the distance. The picturesque thatched, and whitewashed buildings of these people from Cen- a standstill, and any children who to these wilds. As the majority of surrounded by clearings of various at home, then invade the sizes, to which they usually add a The most bitter feeling exists few acres each spring. The lack of tween the two religious factions, the people in respect to their roads is supremacy of the Pope and necessity of bridging it over. Some of the best sections are still unbroken wastes, and on enquiry one finds ter service they sit about in groups that they are either school sections -that is, land set aside for educaticual purposes - C.P.R., or Hudson

early frosts, as the Galicians

danger from this source will be less. As he glances down the trail, the summer visitor is astonished at the appearance of a figure approaching him energetically waving a poplar s simply a native's method of keepilies at bay. A herd of cattle leisment herd together for the night on lee side of a smudge formed The Galicians have been in

midst for only twenty years, and their settlement is to a great isolated from Canadian influence, they still retail many of their old customs. Though the men! dress more or less like Canadians, the wostill cling to their ancestral beadgear, which consists of a kerchief thrown over their heads and his wife or "jinka" hoeing side by paniment of two squeaky fiddles and side. In the majority of homes the a violin. A neighboring small buildhuge, out-of-door earthen bake ov- ing, evidently a hen house at other ens are still used for cooking; their times, had been fitted up as a barancestral wells, a long pole suspend- room, and supplied with an unlimit ties invariably attract the attention shouting hilarously, others showing

any merchant of the stranger. On approaching one of their dwellings he is in dire danger of being or be liable to hungry looking dogs. Should he esbits of straw- cape these, and open the door, sevbits is entitled to his feet, and he beholds an old hen his feet, and he beholds an old hen and her brood nestling under

stove. In another corner a turkey is

mothering her brood, and a family which resembled doughnuts, of kittens are playing on the earth- glasses of foaming beer, which liar Russian odor. If it is about one rather painfully of what their meal time, the home made ta- hogs dine on in Ontario. ble is freighted with an unlimited supply of murky tea. The most noticeable feature of the dwelling and ness everywhere in existence.

which well fliustrated this. On one when de crazy." occasion a Ruthenian's wife lay very! Though they have been settled in doctor's, the man requested his them is still in its infancy. neighbor's wife to remain with her. are but few places where This neighbor, however, forced him have been opened more than pay cash, but informs you be will

part in the lives of these only their religious, but also their social life. All their holidays festive occasions are "holy days," days sacred to some one of their students whom both the desire

"Orthodox," who acknowledge Greek church or "Juniats" who ever the priest passes through the periences like the following. district. It assumes the form of picnic, and large crowds attend; the road is lined for hundreds yards with wagons, the horses or yokes of oxen feeding from them. Afon the grass, and eat the food they have brought, in picnic style. The men in their working clothes and wide brimmed straw hats, and the women with gaily colored kerchiefs thrown over their heads, form picturesque scene. When once a year their bishop visits the settlement, bis arrival is the signal for a mighty mass meeting. Our sec.-treas, who told us one day that he was now frost take all, me haf to buy seed" known all over Canada, and who, It is hoped, however, that, as the since he resurrected as proof of the Winnipeg Free Press, should be authority, informed us that one-half Alberta would be present at one of these mass meetings. However, his idea of geography is doubtless somewhat hazy.

A wedding is a great social function, and the festivities connected with it last for two or three days. urgly feeding in a field bordering on Usually the ceremony is performed North of Fire Hall the highway, suddenly stampede in on a Saturday in the presence one or two witnesses. Saturday afternoon anh evening the young people of the community congregate at the bride's home and carry on their mirth far into the night. At on which is placed a soup plate. The guests file by, each one depositing a coin, their gifts varying from a nickel (coppers are not used in this country) to a dollar. Everyone attends church Sunday morning, and in the afternoon crowds escort the couple to their future home, often a

Three of us were distunguished at one of their weddings. straggling in, each man lugging tied tightly under their chins. Foot- couple of loaves of bread as a pres ent, while his "jinka," or wife, hugged a "squawking chicken to her bosom. In the house dancing was already in progress, to the accomed amount of beer. The dancers repaired thither at intervals during the dance, drank the bride's health, came out, some reeling and no effects. At first the dancing was quite orderly, but when several the men became half drunk, couples showed a tendency to collide, and one couple ended by coming in violent contact with the window sill. We were invited to share the wedding feast, and sat down to a table on which was placed several a table on which was placed several dishes of bread (their wedding cake) For sale at Higginpotham's store.

en floor. A youngster or two are found some difficulty in refusing, as perched on the ted, three or four all Galicians drink large quantities, unkempt, dirty urchins cling to their especially on such occasions. A dish mothers' skirts and gaze curiously of green garlic they call sacurkraut at the newcomer. The whole estab- was also in evidence, which proved lishment reeks with a strong, pecu- fairly eatable, though it reminded

supply of boiled eggs, some brown for several years in Edmonton, unrye or barley bread, and a copious derstood some English, undertook to strong hopes are entertained that When told we did not know the art, ly by a stiff fight. its occupants is the lack of cleanli- she exclaimed, "It easy! very easy Though hospitable to a stranger, around. What ! You no drink either! in their dealings with each other Why, dat's the reason! Perhaps you rainfall would prove a blessing. they show most remarkable avarice, ashamed to get up and try to dance which would shame even a Jew. Dr. now, but you drink lots of whiskey, trict, Haliburton County, and at Archer, of Lamont, the nearest town that make you crazy, then you to this district, told us an incident dance fine. Men dance much better ous, causing the settlers much alarm.

while he took the trail toward the five years, educational work among have sent in a gang of men to fight to first pay her an adequate sum years. Many new ones are opened as everything is so dry. for the valuable time she was los- each year, and in several districts no The Haliburton correspondent of ing, before consenting. It is said institutions of the kind yet exist. the Minden Echo says:that they even levy toll for giving a The government schools are neat, The fire flend which has been very neighbor a ride, but the writer can- well furnished frame buildings, with vouch for the truth of this copious school grounds, usually two statement. Business men attest that acres in size. One unique feature is they are fairly honest, but all alike the teacher's shack on the grounds. agree that if a "Russian" does not As one reared in a Canadian home would, as you may imagine, find it pay on a certain day, that he has rather difficult to accustom himself no intention of ever keeping his pro- to living in the homes of these people, well equipped shacks with all Religion plays a most important that is necessary for housekeeping simple are provided on the grounds for the people, as their church supplies not pedagogue who comes to spend the summer months among them.

The quota of teachers is largely supplied from the ranks of university replenish their light pocketbooks, On these days all work comes to and love of adventure has brought, on less auspicious occasions remain the elder generation can speak only school. Very broken English, if any, few can be- write even their own names, they are feel the full dignity of the position. not. Church is held irregularly when- Teachers sometimes meet with ex-

> figure, pipe in mouth and branch in hand to repel flies and mosquitoes, turn in at the gate. It was simply one of his trustees arrived to spect the institution. This individual gave a profound bow as he entered seat. The school work continued until noon without interruption, the teacher paying no attention to the dirty, sprawling figure in the back of tobacco smoke. Then after missal he strolled down to him. "Alright!" ejaculated the Galician, call to fight fires along the track. springing to his feet at the teacher's side so suddenly, and with such wild gesticulations, that instinctively the trained boxer swung his left foot forward and settled in th characteristic crouch so well known at the college gym. Somewhat startled, the trustee jerked out, "Goot fine ! dandy ! You de best teacher we haf one, two, tree, four years !" Then carried away by his desire to appear sufficiently enthusiastic, he concluded, "You de best teacher we ever haf." However, as this individual had the reputation of being the champion liar of the community, all Ruthenians being liars of greater or less degree, the teacher paid little attention to his remarks.

The great difficulty in teaching, is, of course, the pupil's lack of knowledge of English. They learn the language, however, with surprising quickness, and in schools of two or three years' duration pupils may be found who might compare favorably with Ontario children of the same

Obviously the task of Canadianizthis Slavic people, of giving them Canadian ideals and mode of living, is largely to be the work of the school teacher. Their colony is to a great extent shut off from any opportunity of intermingling with Canadians, and the few missionaries scattered among them have large areas to cover. Here is an opportunity for Canada's young student manhood to show their patriotism and obtain a summer's experience worth while by spending their vacations in aiding in the naturalization of these thirty thousand foreigners. Strong, practical fellows are needed, not those with poor physiques, or simply a sentimental desire to have experience in the wilds, as the work requires all possible tact, endurance and resource.

Electric Restorer for Men

NEAR DONALD

Reports from Halfourton this morn ing state that the residents in and around Donald fought the bush fires all day Thursday up until an early One guest, who, as she had lived hour this morning. The flames are quite close to the chemical plant, but question us about our not dancing. their progress will be stayed but on-

Everybody in the north is praying All you haf to do is swing a girl for rain. Everything has been baked by the intense heat and a copious

Fire is raging in Haddington dispresent the situation looks very seri-The rain which fell on Sunday stopped the fire for a time, but it has sick. Not wishing to leave her alone this corner af Canada for twenty- started again. The Peterborough Co. schools will favour us with some more rain

quiet this season, so far as this district is conce ned, is on the rampage now, and several fires are raging. Though none are near enough at the time of writing, to cause any alarm, ashes, and cinders are falling in plenty. To make matters worse wells, springs and creeks are drying up everywhere. Springs that have mover been known to fail before are now dry, and water is is many cases hauled long distances even for stock. If fire breaks out in some 'quarters, it will be hard to fight it. Mr. Preston, the Canadian Land Co's ranger, says he has had less fire on their limits than in any season for twenty years.

Peterboro, Aug. 14 .- For the past two or three days the air in this city has been darkened by smoke from forest fires which have been raging in vicinity of Pigeon and Bald Lakes . A party of tourists left an unquenched camp fire that caused a blate which has done great damage. Farther north in the county, in Cavendish township, on the limits of the One day as he was calling in the Peterboro' Lumber Company, fires youngsters from recess, a teacher no- have also occurred. They were ticed a huge, unkempt barefooted thought under control, but last night a call for help came, and the lumber company sent forth from the city fifteen or twenty men by autos. The men took proper apparatus for fighting fire. No reports of the result of their efforts have yet been received. the door, and sidled into a back Great damage must have been done, as dense volumes of smoke have been rolling over the northern lakes for days. Woodlot and field fires are also raging in Cavan township, west of seat, who continued emitting clouds the city. Among the lines of the railways sectionmen have been sleeping in their clothes in readiness for a

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