

WAR CALL BROKE UP ALBERTA SETTLEMENTS

Reservists of Various Nations Hurried Homeward

GERMANS CAUGHT ON SEA

**Picturesque Story of Lives of Settlers
Who Were Well on in Assimilation
Process When the World-wide Rup-
ture Came.**

(Staff Correspondence of The Globe.)
Calgary, Sept. 28.—The west has often been termed "the melting-pot": the crucible into which during the past decade thousands of settlers of diverse nationality have been thrown, to be moulded into the form of Canadian citizens. But the coming of the present old-world conflict, with its demand for fighting men reaching far into the uttermost parts of the earth, has revealed to Canada in a very striking way the incompleteness of that peaceful process of assimilation in her new western country. Before the call to arms summoned Britisher, Frenchman, German, Austrian and Belgian to the scene of war in Europe, the western Provinces treated all alike, and in many instances one nationality was the neighbor of the other. The supremacy of Britain at sea, the glory and chivalry of early France, or the military efficiency of Germany were topics which had comparatively little interest for the agricultural commonwealth of western Canada. But in one short week communities were split up, harvest fields were forsaken for the fields of war, and, figuratively speaking, many of our foreign immigrants went from the ploughshare and the pruning hook to the sword and the spear.

German Colonists Held Up.

Sixty miles east of Calgary, at the little town of Hussar, a settlement of Germans from the valley of the Rhine was established last April. Among the seventy-five people who journeyed northward from Bassano and formed the colony at Hussar were several titled gentlemen from the ranks of the German nobility. Their project was to farm thirty thousand acres, a large part of which they attempted to place under crop this year. Altogether the party of Germans were said to have purchased ninety thousand acres from the land department of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It was their purpose to colonize that part of Alberta and improve the country by scientific agriculture. But the majority of the men were reservists, and when the call came from the Fatherland they attempted to leave for Germany. Thirty-three of them, despite the vigilance of the Mounted Police, escaped into the United States and landed from New York, but with the seizure of their transport, the Potsdam, the party of loyal Germans became prisoners of war, and, according to latest advices, are still being cared for by the British Government.

French Settlers at Trochu.

Sixty miles north of Calgary is the French colony at Trochu. The story of that settlement is one of Alberta's most interesting bits of history. The name Trochu alone is redolent of the days of Paris in the time of the Franco-Prussian war. Colonel Trochu, who headed a party of French military men in a land-seeking expedition into the unsettled regions of central Alberta eight years ago, and who later gave his name to the village through which the new line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad was to pass, was the nephew of the famous commanding officer in Paris at the time of the siege in 1871. With Colonel Trochu in his pioneering venture were several young cavalry officers and soldiers from the French army. They came to Calgary and went north on the C. P. R. as far as the town of Olds, and from there they rode eastward for fifty miles before locating the ranch which in later years developed into the site of a town, and became the centre of a prosperous farming community.

Another "New France."

In the winter time they hauled logs all the way from the Red Deer River to build their shacks and stables, and encountered many of the hardships that were experienced by their fellow-countrymen in "New France" over two centuries ago. It was discovered that the district in which they settled was located ideally for the raising of horses, and the new colony in Alberta soon attracted other French

men from the old land. Priests were brought from France, and church and school were set up at Trochu. A general store was opened, and then a small hotel. It soon became apparent that Trochu was to become a place of considerable importance, and with the passing through of the railroad the village rapidly grew until it boasted of a population of some four hundred inhabitants. French capital was the dominating influence in the district, and French names appeared on the real estate signs placed in conspicuous places bordering on the railroad track near the depot. One name on one of the signs was particularly noticeable because it is the same as that of the commanding officer of the aeroplane department in the French army. The owners of the two names, one in France and the other in Canada, are cousins.

Effects of the War on Trochu.

The war burst upon Trochu, just as it did upon Hussar, a little farther south, as the crops were ripening and were almost ready to cut. But the call was irresistible, and the old French soldiers left the harvest to be gathered by other hands. Strangest of all their fates was that of the eager Major Feline, known on this continent as well as in Britain and France as an expert judge of horses. Major Feline has been a familiar figure at the Olympia Horse Show, and he has been in the arenas at Toronto and in the cities of the west. When war was declared he was in France, and immediately joined his old regiment of Cuirassiers. He had gone to France in the early summer, and, as was his custom whenever he traveled abroad, he carried his cavalry equipment with him. To his friends in Alberta Major Feline often expressed his belief that a war between France and Germany was not unlikely any time. He had no sooner rejoined his regiment than the French Government sent for him and instructed him, much to his disgust, to leave for Canada to purchase cavalry horses. And so during the past months, while the war has been raging in France, the noted horseman has been obliged to content himself with the less exciting commercial aspect of the conflict.

Hopes for the Future.

Alberta is the poorer for the loss of many of her French and German settlers. Their colonies have been disrupted, and the peaceful relationships of the foreigners while engaged in the gentle science of farming have been broken. People say that the west will receive certain benefits as a direct result of the present war, the greatest of all being the influx of settlers from Europe after peace is declared. If this prediction be true, Alberta could wish for no better direct result than the return of her French and German friends to a peaceful and prosperous life on the land.

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