

SOCIAL SETTLEMENT AMONG FOREIGNERS IN SASKATCHEWAN

**Methodist Mission Board Vote
\$5,000 to Try Experiment in
Neighboring Province**

WILL TEACH NEWCOMERS

**In Some Mennonite Districts the
German Language is Only One
Used—English Not Spoken**

With a view to inculcating Canadian ideas of civilization and citizenship in the minds of non-English settlers the General Board of Missions of the Methodist Church have authorized the establishment of a social settlement in the Insinger municipality in Saskatchewan, and voted \$5,000 to carry on the work. The municipality has a large foreign population. In a section including seven and a half townships approximately 500 families live. Of this number twenty-one are English-speaking. About 300 are Russian, 100 are Bukowinian and Galician, and the rest are Polish and Scandinavian. In this district the social centre will be located upon land which will be granted by settlers. Through it the non-English people will be given a view of the better type of Canadian life and will be instructed in English, domestic science, the selection of seed and agriculture. The settlement is being established as an experiment, which it is hoped will lead the Saskatchewan Government to undertake similar work in various districts, with a view to the assimilation of foreign elements in the population.

The action of the Board of Missions was the result of the report of Mr. J. A. Doyle, superintendent of missions for Northern Saskatchewan, who was appointed a year ago to make a survey in the province to ascertain the number of non-English people in Saskatchewan, conditions in respect to education, morals and religion, and the prospect for making good citizens of the newcomers. Mr. Doyle reported that out of a population of 600,000 in Saskatchewan, 240,000 persons were non-English-speaking. There were 70,000 Germans, of whom many came from the United States, and some had been in Canada for a number of years, but were just as German as when they left their Fatherland.

Educational Equipment.

Mr. Doyle found that among the Mennonites and to some extent among the German Roman Catholics the educational facilities were not of the best. In a number of private schools conducted by the Mennonite Church, only German was used, and English was not taught. In some places public schools had been closed, and had been replaced by private ones which were not inspected by the Provincial Government. These facts had been brought to the attention of the Government, which had promised to undertake the complete revision of the School Act.

A detailed survey in the Insinger municipality revealed that the Ruthenian schools were hampered by the fact that young men without adequate qualification and with imperfect knowledge of English were allowed to teach.

Mr. Doyle found among the Ruth-

enians that few of the older people spoke English. The younger generation was learning in the Public schools. The great majority of Ruthenians, however, were unable to read English. Their morals generally were good. Where the Ruthenians lived in isolated communities, however, their mode of life and their agricultural methods were primitive. Mr. Doyle took a most optimistic view of their future in Canada, however, if they were given the right kind of schools and surrounded by the right influences, because they were eager to learn, and when they came in contact with the right type of Canadian citizens they developed rapidly. Hence Mr. Doyle favored the establishment of the social centre among them.

Mr. Doyle mentioned in his address that there were about 13,000 Doukhobors in Saskatchewan, and that about sixty per cent. of them had broken away from their community system, and had struck out for themselves.