

RUTHENIANS ARE MATERIALISTIC

Rev. W. Simons of Alberta
Speaks of the Foreigner in
Old St. Andrew's Church

"Educational Work Among the Ruthenians and Foreigners Generally of the Canadian West" was the subject of an illuminating address given yesterday afternoon before the Women's Missionary Auxillary of Old St. Andrew's Church by the Rev. W. Simons, Superintendent of Presbyterian Missions in Alberta.

Mr. Simons explained that people were inclined to classify under the name of Gallician or Ruthenian nearly all the foreign elements from the south of Europe. The religions of these people are almost as varied as their nationalities, but broadly speaking they may be divided into three denominations: the Roman Catholics of the intense and rabid type, the Orthodox Greek Church and the Greek Catholic Church.

Latterly there has sprung into existence the Independent Greek Church, from which a number of young men, unable to finance their new organization or to qualify for missionaries, approached the Faculty of Manitoba College asking for assistance. The Presbyterian Church consented to admit these men to classes in the college and have contributed money to the upkeep of this new denomination, which is conducted along many of the same lines as the original Church except for a modified ritual.

In referring to the Ruthenians Mr. Simons described the older people as extremely illiterate, superstitious and suspicious, having always been exposed to the tyranny of the Church of Rome in some form or other. Socially speaking, there seems to be an improvement in their manner of living. Their homes, in many cases, are well kept, even those lying in the humblest houses taking pains to keep clean their mud floors. The Gallician woman he described as a drudge and not a housekeeper. She never knits or sews, but seems to enjoy chopping wood, or using the spade, hoe or shovel. The young women, as a rule, go into domestic service and reproduce in their own houses what they have learned in the homes of their superiors.