

9,000 RUTHENIANS NOW IN TORONTO

Of These 2,000 Are Women— Rev. Paul Crath Tells of Work

The names Ruthenian and Ukrainian, as far as Canada is concerned, are apt to be suggestive of the West, but though these people are naturally agriculturists, many of them, finding themselves on infertile tracts of land in Manitoba, and in a climate of unaccustomed severity, drifted back to the cities and we have now about 6,000 Austrian Ruthenians and 3,000 Russian Ruthenians in Toronto, 2,000 of whom are women.

They fled from Galicia, says Rev. Paul Crath, a Presbyterian missionary working among them, to escape economic and religious oppression. A man was paid, in that country a sum amounting to four Canadian cents for eighteen hours' work, while a woman got only half that sum.

It was not to the advantage of the aristocracy for whom they slaved that these people should be educated. They came to Canada quite ignorant. There are only ten or twelve educated Ukrainians in this country. The others were an easy prey to every crook and unscrupulous politician, and this accounts for many of the troubles into which they have unwittingly fallen, troubles which might have been avoided had the idea of teaching them occurred earlier.

As it was, Mr. Crath says, they were naturalized at once, usually within ten days of their arrival, so that they might the earlier exercise their franchise.

"Well, what can we do?" asked a woman in the little group interrogating Mr. Crath, and he answered:

"Get hold of a few women. Help them and they will help others."

Someone suggested Social Service and a Neighborhood House. In the meantime a few organizations have sprung up among the Ruthenians. Forty boys have a brass band. A number of young girls have a social and musical club which bears the imposing title, "The National Democrats."

In Mr. Crath's congregation, which worships in a hall on the corner of Queen and Bathurst streets, about fifteen women have begun a missionary organization, of which the President is Mrs. Predkovsky, and in which Mrs. Crath and the deaconess, Mrs. Whitehead, are active workers. A substantial part of the missionary work consists in the teaching of sewing, domestic science and other practical subjects, which will help to make good Canadian wives and mothers of these strangers within our gates.