

FINE ADDRESS BY BISHOP BUDKA AT CHURCH BLESSING

Interesting Ceremony at New Ruthenian Church in Bay View

Sunday at the blessing of the new Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church on Pittsburgh avenue, Bayview, Bishop Budka, of Winnipeg, delivered an address to a large congregation, his remarks bristling with patriotism. The service at 9 a.m. was in charge of Father Gegezczuk, of Sudbury, the local members of the Ruthenian church being within his parish. The new church was opened by Father Gegezczuk some ten months ago.

Bishop Budka spoke for about an hour in Ruthenian, outlining the circumstances which brought the Ruthenian Greek Catholics together in the present day, and outlining the steps they are taking to come under one government, toward which end they are fighting now in opposition to Bolshevism. He said there were 40,000,000 adherents of the church, 33,000,000 of them being slaves of Russia under the old regime and 6,000,000 slaves of and very badly treated by Austria. Two-thirds under the Russian Govt. are now fighting for liberty against the Bolsheviki under General Petlura, in an endeavor to obtain democratic government which would provide for land ownership by the people themselves, and a system of laws in which they would have a say. In Galicia there are 6,000,000 more, all Catholics and striving to become participants in the benefits to be derived from the system of Government mentioned above. Bishop Budka stated that these latter adherents of the church had been fooled by the Polish, and their case misrepresented to the French Government, but just now they were hand in hand with their compatriots on the Russian side, and realized that their ambitions would never be realized until Bolshevism was stamped out.

The first thing in a man's life, said the bishop, should be his religion, and he should also be a good Canadian, keeping faith with God and the Government under which he was now protected—and shun Bolshevism. He touched upon the advantage of Canada, and exhorted the congregation to be true to it. "You should not divide your patriotism and sentiment between the old and new land," he said. "You cannot have one foot in Canada and the other in the old country. You must educate your children to love this country, make it their country, and thus build up a strong nation." He said there were approximately 1,000,000 Ruthenians in Canada and the United States today, about evenly divided between the two countries. Those in Canada come under the direct influence of the bishop. The congregation in the Sault comprises about 700.

While in the city Bishop Budka and Father Gegezczuk were guests of Father Filatrault at St. Ignatius rectory. The bishop left for Winnipeg by boat at 8 o'clock this morning and will bless another church at Fort William next Sunday.