

SOME PRAYED AND SOME MADE MERRY

Yesterday Was New Year for Members of Greek Ortho- dox Church

Most people were under the impression that yesterday was January 14, but not so the members of the Greek Orthodox Church, who duly celebrated their New Year's Day yesterday after their own fashion, and according to their different tastes. The Julian calendar is that favored by some ten thousand residents of Montreal, consisting of Galicians, Ruthenians, Roumanians, Greeks, Russians, and a section of the Syrian colony. Four different calendars are in use in this city, including that commonly used, the Jewish calendar, the Chinese and the Julian. The latter made yesterday January 1st.

Symptoms of the celebration were noticeable at the bureau for the registration of alien enemies, for a minimum number of men reported to Mr. Silas H. Carpenter yesterday, since the opening of the bureau, only twenty-five men having appeared at the St. Antoine street office. Christmas Day was celebrated by the members of the Greek Orthodox Church on January 7, and the result was noticeable in a number of bandaged heads among those who have been reporting for registration during the last few days, for most of the members of the Greek Orthodox Church who leave their native countries for Canada are of the uneducated classes, and go to make up the supply of labor on construction works, and these men, having few sources of amusement, generally celebrate festivals of the kind by making merry.*

Registrar Carpenter said yesterday that one man had come to his office with his head all bound up in bandages. The man explained his plight by saying he had had an unbidden guest at his New Year feast. The self-invited guest had been too free in his use of beer, and when a protest was lodged he took up a frying pan from the range, with its simmering contents of bacon and eggs which his wife had been cooking, and slammed it eggs downward on the host's head. The man got away, but he with the bandaged head bore him ill-will apparently.

While many celebrate the holidays in feasting and drinking, the habits of the educated classes of the Greek Orthodox Church are much more sober, and in the four church buildings of this denomination in Montreal there were unusually long services on the night of January 13, for their religion involves long periods of worship on these holidays, and the masses last from 10 o'clock at night till 3 o'clock in the morning. These are not a series of services, but single ones, and the devout thus spend five hours of the night in prayer.