

## REPATRIATED RUTHENIANS.

The Mennonite argument—that they will pull up stakes if they are deprived of what they call their bilingual privileges—has been used with even less effect by the Ruthenian bilingual agitators. Mr. Ferley and his friends threaten that after the war these people will leave Canada. We have seen something of the same kind hinted at in the columns of "Svoboda," the Ukrainian newspaper published in New Jersey, and subsidized by Dr. Cemen Demydzuk, representing the Austrian Government.

So far as Mr. Ferley or his associates are concerned, they would be taken more seriously perhaps if there was any evidence that they speak for anything more than a section of the Ukrainian people. These noisy agitators speak for themselves and for certain clerical and political influences—they do not represent the industrious Ukrainian farming community of Western Canada, which desires nothing more than to bring up its children as good Canadian citizens, thoroughly equipped by an English education.

These Ukrainian farmers are a superior class in their own land. They have been forced out from there by the lack of land, and also to escape military service. In Canada they have satisfied their ideals, and it will take something more than a pulpit and pamphlet campaign to make them loosen their hold on the measure of freedom and independence they have attained in Canada, and return to their own country.

Dr. Demydzuk, referred to above, is delegate of the Pan-Ukrainian Council in Vienna to the Ruthenians of America, and he has been sent to America in order to win over the million or so Ruthenians on this continent to the Teutonic side. In this he has the active support of the Greek Catholic church. To some extent he has used the Ukrainian Nationalists to his ends, but he has been opposed all along the line by the Ukrainian Social Democrats, who cannot see a national regeneration under the bloody standards of Austria.

Ukrainians are being told that after the war "Galicia will be the 'best Canada'—a land flowing with milk and honey, from which all the former proprietors have perished by the sword or gibbet, and the Ukrainians of the United States and Canada have only to go in to possess it. They will be asked to sell out their prosperous western farms and employ their capital in building up again the unhappy devastated land of their nativity. The Ukrainian University of Lemberg, so long promised, will be established, and become the capital of a new Ukraina, comprising the east half of Galicia, Bukowina, and a large slice of the Russian Ukraine, which is to be torn off for that purpose. Odessa will be the port of this autonomous Austrian Province.

All this sounds very fine, and it is the kind of appeal that may strike home to many of the poorer classes of Ruthenians engaged in mines and factory work in the United States. But before the Ukrainian farmers of Canada sell out their shining acres they will want something better than words—they will want title-deeds of Galician soil; they will want a charter of liberty such as they now enjoy in Canada; they will want the right to come and go as they please, each man his own master, owing no obelance to the lord of the manor. But when they begin to look into these things they will find out the terrible hoax that Austrian agents seek to play on them in order to make use of their bodies and of their goods when the time of reconstruction shall come.

What has happened in Ruthenian Galicia? What are the facts?

At the opening of the war several thousand Ruthenians volunteered to form national Ruthenian regiments; their services were accepted, and they did vallant work. But after a few months the Austrian Government changed this policy; the Ruthenians were trusted no longer. Their cadres were broken up and the individuals distributed throughout the army—among Germans, Czechs, Slovonians, and so on.

Not so were the Poles of Galicia treated. These have now a distinct army of ~~two~~ hundred thousand men

fighting under the national Polish colors, practically independent of the Austrian army, though largely officered by Germans. This Polish army is in active possession of all of Galicia and Bukowina that is not held by the Russians. Galicia has become a Polish Province, and it is said that the Polish nation has received guarantees from the most august sources that Galicia is to be incorporated as part of the autonomous buffer state of Poland, under a Germanic Prince.

Thus crumbles the fabric of an independent Ukraine. Austrian agents and clerical agents, working to re-populate devastated Ruthenia with repatriated American and Canadian Ruthenians, hold out the prospect of free lands and autonomous government; but the fact is that the Poles are in the saddle in Galicia, and Ruthenians returning there return to the serfdom from which their fathers fled. This truth will become known among Ukrainians in Canada, and not all the vaporings of Mr. Ferley and his friends, nor the more insidious work of enemy agents, will avail to shake the faith of these citizens in the land of their adoption.