

IF UKRAINIA MAKES PEACE RUSSIA IS GREAT LOSER

There is much more than passing interest for Canada in the report that the Ukraine has concluded a separate peace with the Austrians and Germans. The Ukraine is a section of southwestern Russia from whence have come 250,000 people to settle in Canada, mostly in the West, where they are among the most adaptable and enterprising of foreign peoples. They are locally known as Ruthenians, Galicians or Little Russians, and their arrival in sheepskins and the scantiest of equipment is soon followed by Canadian clothing which, though perhaps not so picturesque, is part of their rapid process of assimilation. The attention of the present writer, while walking in Edmonton a few years ago, was drawn to a group of young women.

Making Canadians of Them.

"What nationality do you think they are?" he was asked.

"Canadian, of course."

"No, they are Galicians, two years out."

It was almost unbelievable, for they wore the prevailing Canadian clothing, were neat and attractive in appearance.

On another day Galician schools in Alberta were visited, and here the young Russians of a short time before were struggling with the English language and text-books, and rapidly becoming Canadianized. Their homes, likewise, showed the making-over process. There were the first crude huts of mud, then more elaborate wooden buildings, and often the thatched roof of straw—picturesque as well as economical in a land where straw is usually burned.

Do Not Love Teutons.

Now the Ukraine is a Republic—declared on November 24 last—and apparently intends to conduct itself as it pleases, even to making peace with Russia's former enemies. Also important is the detachment of this great rich region from Russia itself, a loss which will make it impossible for Russia to remain a great power. The Ukrainian population in Europe, in an area of 220,000 square miles, is 30,000,000, of whom five millions are Austrians and the balance Russians. Canadian immigration has come largely from the former. "But they are not pro-Austrian or pro-German," The Winnipeg Free Press declares. "They are for the Ukraine, that ancient Republic of the fourteenth century, which was swallowed up by its more powerful neighbors. On the basis of self-determination the Ukrainian race occupies territory in southeastern Europe greater than that of Austria-Hungary, and far richer in natural resources. Much as they have fretted under Russian autocracy, the Ukrainians have no greater love for Austria, and they both hate and fear Germany. The Central powers recognize the right of

the thirty million Ukrainians of southwest Russia to erect themselves into a Republic. But they deny the same right to the five million Ukrainians or Ruthenians of eastern Galicia and Bukovina. There in lie the seeds of distrust and feud. If from this war there emerges a condition of peace giving subject nationalities the right of self-determination, then assuredly Austria-Hungary will lose her two Ruthenian provinces, and will find on her flank a wealthy, courageous and ambitious State, whose population and resources will be but little inferior to her own.

A Rich Territory.

In natural wealth the Ukraine stands high, and it is little wonder the envy of the Central powers is aroused. Prof. Stefan Rudnitsky of Lemberg University, in Galicia, has written a pamphlet since the war began which tells impressively of the wealth of this region. "Russia has become what she is owing to her possession of the Ukraine," he says. "The overwhelming predominance of Russia in Europe can only be broken by separating the Ukraine from its connection with the Russian State."

In greater detail he points out: "The Ukraine has 110,000 square kilometres of exploitable forest lands. Farming land in the Ukraine amounts to more than 45,000,000 hectares, or 32 per cent. of all the farm land of European Russia, while the total area of the Ukraine to that of Russia is as one to six. Of the total area of the Ukraine, 53 per cent. is farmed; in Europe, only France has a higher percentage, 51 per cent. The annual production of the Ukraine in wheat, rye and barley alone, in spite of very primitive methods of exploitation, amounts to 150,000,000 quintals, 550,000,000 bushels, or one-third of Russia's output. Other farm products are just as generously abundant. The sugar beet production of the Ukraine is five-sixths that of all Russia. And of tobacco the Ukraine produces over 700,000 quintals a year. It possesses the largest and finest orchards and vineyards of Russia. As to stock-raising, the Ukraine has 30,000,000 head of cattle, one-third of all European Russia; and she has 50 per cent. of Russia's supply of sheep, goats, pigs and poultry."

Wealthy in Minerals.

While the Ukraine is producing more grain than all Canada, it occupies the same relative position to the rest of Russia in iron, coal, oil and other minerals. It furnishes 69 per cent. of Russian iron, 32 per cent. of manganese, which, incidentally, is one-sixth of the world's production of this metal, invaluable for tempered steel, and especially for gun and armor-plating foundries; all Russian mercury, 99 per cent. of Russian anthracite, and so on. The oilfields have been developed by British and American capital.