

## Toronto Colony Has Dwindled in the Past Few Weeks.

Where are the Bulgarians of yesterday? Although number of Greeks and Macedonians in the colony on King street east, Toronto, stated recently that Bulgarians would under no circumstances return to their country to take part in another war, the restaurants which once were frequented by gambler Ferdinand's subjects were empty when a reporter called, says The Toronto Globe. These Greeks and Macedonians, who all could speak English, could only volunteer opinions regarding the absence of possible enemies. They said that the construction camps and lumbering had taken many men away. Others, they claimed, last spring left for the United States when work was hard to obtain.

Police officials who have for years been forced to rely upon men who could be picked up in the colony as interpreters, state that it is almost impossible to obtain a man who can give satisfaction and who can be thoroughly trusted. Their stories, they say, should be discounted.

Plainclothesmen whose work carries them into the colony informed the reporter that the number of foreigners had dwindled conspicuously. They took into consideration when making the statement the fact that these men are transients.

A few whose interests are financially in Canada, who have wives and families here, and who are Bulgarian in language and religion, however, show no great regard to assist their country in any manner, displaying in a measure the mercenary attitude of their Czar. They ask why should they exchange their property and their wealth for desolate fields, wrecked homes and starvation. One man stated that he would be forced to pay four or five times greater taxes in his native country if conducting his business there. He has freedom here not obtainable in Bulgaria, and does not have to work for a pittance.

Another man who has become a naturalized citizen states that should Bulgaria enter the arena there is danger of a revolution. He is somewhat of a Socialist. He receives letters from his parents, whom he assists, and who advise him not to return. Now a Greek, he was thoroughly Canadian and pro-ally. His story was told to a Macedonian in another restaurant. This third man thought his opinions might be right, but he has some of his own. He does not hold the same high regard for British institutions, is not pro-German, and in race and religion was the same as the Socialist. Both men were in that part of the Balkan peninsula, they said, which Bulgaria lost when the late Balkan war came to a close. The third man claimed that the Greeks were bitter, and from the tenor of his remarks he was no friend of the man who had become a devout admirer of Canada and its customs.

The foreigners claim that in Toronto at present there are no more than 200 Bulgarians. When Mr. Stefan Panateroff, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to America, visited Toronto recently he placed the number of his fellow-countrymen here at two thousand. Bulgaria has no Consular agent in Canada, no Minister or Ambassador. In the event of war the call for what few reservists are in this country would possibly be made, it is claimed, through some of the merchants.

At present there are only a very few Bulgarians in the colony. Where the remainder are, men of other nationalities do not know, and do not seem to care. In broken English, by their statements they give an observer the impression that there is still the possibility of the different Balkan States flying at each other's throats. One man indeed stated that there was no danger of Bulgaria siding with Germany, and that she would prefer to fight with Greece.