

RUSSIANS POURING IN

MANY ARE COMING FROM THE U. S. TO WESTERN CANADA.

New Settlers in the North-West have Spent a Considerable Time Across the Line, and Will Make Fine Citizens—The Western People Expect to Benefit Greatly From Increased Trade With the Russian Empire.

IT seems more than likely that we shall soon have a great deal more to do with our friends, the Russians, than we had a year or two ago, says Aubrey Fullerton in *The Toronto Star Weekly*. Partly as a result of the war and partly from other causes, we will feel this new contact in at least two ways—in increased trade relations with our big ally over the sea, and in an early increase of Russian immigration. Even now it is time for us to get better acquainted with our new friends, both as prospective customers and probable neighbors.

As a matter of fact, Russian immigration into the Canadian West has already begun. Twenty families, of usual generous proportions, are now locating in the farming country of Northern Alberta, where they find conditions much to their liking, and this first movement is to be followed by others now preparing. These new settlers are not coming, to be sure, from Russia itself, but from the United States. The twenty families, who intend settling in a colony of their own, moved in from California in December, and presumably have been several years out from the mother country. Further arrivals are expected from various Russian settlements in the Eastern States, the news having spread to them all that Canada has free lands to give. But while this first immigration is therefore not by way of escape or relief from war-swept Europe, there is no doubt that it is being quickened very considerably by the fact that Russia and Canada are partners in the war, and the good feeling thus resulting between them brings results of its own.

War or no war, Russian farmers make very good settlers, and the West can safely receive a reasonable number of them. As with every other nationality, the experiment of Canadianizing the Russians works out more smoothly and satisfactorily on the farm than in the city, and there have already been some cases of signal success in that direction in the West.

There is, for instance, the record of a certain big Russian farmer not far from Calgary. Cav. Uff L. Fuanelli is his name, and he has associated with him one Perelstrous, as un-Canadian names as one could wish to work on. Fuanelli was an engineer in his own country, and when he came to Canada a few years ago he at once proceeded to apply to the business of farming the same big push that he had formerly applied to railroading and bridge-building. He bought some 4,000 acres of land in the Bassano district, gave his farm a good Russian name to remind him of home, and then fell to making a Canadian citizen of himself.

That farm of Fuanelli's is almost in the demonstration class. It has an equipment of buildings and machinery that would make the average Canadian farmer twice happy: model barns, model chicken houses, water supply piped everywhere from a gasoline-driven pump, electricity for all the buildings generated on the property, and every description of farming implement for year-round work. The farm hands, most of whom are Russians also, live on the farm, in neat cottages, of a mixed Russian and Canadian type, and for their greater comfort and homeliness there is even a large Russian bath-house.

It is, of course, quite true that only an exceptional Russian settler in Canada has either the means or the inclination to do farming on a scale like this, but something of the same pluck, enterprise, and adaptability characterizes nearly all of the better class Russian immigrants who go on farms. If they have only a homestead in the bush, or a stretch of bald prairie, they have the knack—if they are the right kind—of schooling themselves thereupon into future citizens. As to the quality of the new immigration now setting in, it seems to be reasonably safeguarded by the good standing of the men who are acting as promoters and organizers.

On the other contact between Canada and Russia, that of increased trade relations, C. F. Just is the chief authority. Soon after the outbreak of the war he made a tour of Russia as trade commissioner from Canada, and his reports to Ottawa indicate very excellent opportunities for new business after the war, or even now. It will pay us well, thinks Mr. Just, to keep our eyes on this new trade prospect, out of which a great and profitable market may come.

The same West that will receive several thousand new Russian settlers is interested in this prospective trade question, but from a different angle than the rest of Canada. If eastern manufactures, for instance, are in demand in Russia after the war, they will most naturally seek a market in European Russia, and will be shipped across the Atlantic. But the West is looking more particularly to Siberia, which it will reach by the trans-Pacific route. That vast, half-known, but now awakening country will give a market, it is believed, which disorganized Europe cannot hope to supply, but which America can very well supply.

In some physical respects, Northern Siberia corresponds very closely with North-Western Canada, and a better trade understanding will follow on that account. Some of the things that Siberia wants and will presently ask for in greater quantities than ever before, are directly in the lines that the Western Provinces can supply particularly well.