

GALICIAN SETTLERS IN THE WEST

Some Departmental Reports on these as Immigrants.

The accompanying illustrations give the reader an idea of some of the characteristics of the Galician settlers who have recently made their homes in Western Canada in large numbers and have been much discussed in the newspapers and elsewhere with regard to their suitability as settlers in such a country as this. The cuts shown give an idea of the peculiar garb and general appearance of the Galician on his arrival here, and also of the kind of house which he first erects for his home on his prairie farm. The costume soon disappears after he has had a little experience of Canadian ways and

who for the most part settled on homesteads at once. Some of them purchased land in Winnipeg while others went to the older settlements of their own people. The total number of arrivals during the first six months of the year was 1,582, and the destinations were as follows—

Edmonton, Alberta	1,358
Rosthern, Saskatchewan	627
Yorkton, Assinibola	822
Dauphin, Manitoba	337
Shoal Lake, Manitoba	332
Stuartburn, Manitoba	25
Pleasant Home, Manitoba	218
Whitemouth, Gonor, Brokenhead,	
Cook's Creek, Manitoba	363
Total	4,582



Galicians in Native Costumes.

we may fully expect that the house to which will soon give place to another, which more nearly conforms to the accepted ideas of dwelling houses in this country. A good deal has been said against the Galicians as immigrants to this country principally in the line of objection to his habits and ancestry. So far as his work and abilities as a farmer go no serious exception has yet been taken to the Galician.

The report of the department of the interior of Canada gives some interesting information about the Galician settlements in Western Canada. The deputy minister in his report says of these people: "As for the Galician settler, it has been remarked that he is naturally so much attached to his farm that once he has secured the means of remaining upon it, he will on no consideration leave it to hire out if he can possibly avoid it. This characteristic is certainly much to his advantage, as it will ensure his permanent settlement upon the land and minimize the likelihood of his drifting to the city or becoming unable to provide for himself." The deputy minister states that these people continue to make satisfactory progress towards their permanent settlement and are altogether prosperous and contented. They are on the whole thrifty, intelligent and honest and in most cases possessed of the necessary agricultural knowledge and experience to enable them to become successful farmers. They are rapidly adapting themselves to the manners of the country, especially in regard to language, which is no doubt the first and most important step towards their becoming true Canadians. Many of them already have a fair working knowledge of the English tongue.

The Galician interpreters report, which is given in the same blue book with the above, states that all of these people who arrived in the country last year were farmers or farm laborers.

These figures include the Galicians and Bukowinians, the two people being practically the same. They are sometimes grouped under the head Ruthenians.

Another report on the Galician settlers which gives a favorable account of them for last year is that of General Colonization Agent Speers, who says that in January, 1900, he inspected the colonies in the Prince Albert, Fish Creek and Rosthern districts and found that they had made excellent

state of the first nine Galicians settled in Canada and found that their possessions are now worth \$31,278 as against \$1,291 worth when they settled in the Edmonton country in 1891. Speaking of his visit to the Beaver Hills and Crooked Lake colonies of Galicians and also the colony at Saltcoats, Assinibola, this same officer reports that he found 400 families in these. They own about 350 head of cattle, have established some public schools.

Gerhard Ens, immigration officer at Rosthern, Saskatchewan, says of the colony there: "About 100 families of the Galicians have been settled near Fish Creek and in the Carrot river

To Aid Beet Sugar Industry.

Toronto, Feb. 8.—A large deputation representing the Ontario beet sugar waited on the Ontario government yesterday to ask assistance for the industry and several boards of trade beet sugar industry in the province. It was urged that much of the sugar consumed in Canada, 300,000,000 lbs, now chiefly imported could be raised in Ontario from the beet if proper assistance were given to develop the industry, and a grant of \$100,000 was asked.

In reply Premier Ross referred to the successful experiments made by the department of agriculture. As a result of these experiments and the report of the commissioners sent to



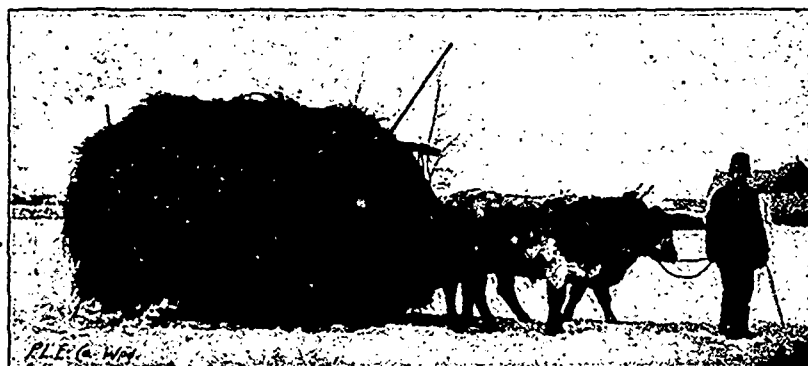
Galician Immigrants at Shoal Lake, Man.

district this summer, who had about \$10,000 when they came. They have all taken up homesteads, built their houses and shelter for their cattle and are now out working for the C. P. R. and among the farmers earning money to bring them through the coming winter. The Galicians, as a whole, are prosperous settlers and doing well. Most of last year's settlers and those of the year before have good crops now and also good gardens, with potatoes and other vegetables. Some of them brought winter wheat and winter rye from Galicia and sowed it on their farms in the Fish Creek settlement. The wheat will return 35 to 40 bushels to the acre and rye about 20 to 25 bushels. All their other crops are good. They are very careful of their cattle which are in extra good condition."

These are the principal features of the official reports on Galician settlements for 1900. They are certainly favorable so far as the progress of the

Michigan, as well as the growing demand from farmers the government had decided to aid the industry. A bill will be brought down soon. He did not know that the grant to be made would be so high as \$100,000 as had been asked for, and suggested in several of the resolutions. A bonus could not be given direct to the farmer, but the government would safeguard the interest of that class. He thought they should provide for factories paying the farmer \$4 per ton for beets for the first year of the period over which government aid was given, and after that \$1 per ton and pro rata for the amount of saccharine matter. Other questions would also have to be considered, but in any event he thought the government's measures, when fully announced in the bill to be brought down, would be found to be satisfactory.

The total number of failures in Canada last week was 35, against 35 previous week and 33 last year.



Galician Hauling Hay.

progress. Most of them had improved their dwellings, had good cooking stoves and proper cooking utensils. Most of the young people could speak English. Other colonies were visited later on by this officer with the same results. Those at Edmonton had purchased \$40,000 worth of machinery from local agents since arrival. He further reports having looked into the

people is concerned. The question as to their fitness for assimilation with the population of this country is still an open one. There certainly seems to be considerable objection to them on this score on the part of the many people who have been thrown in contact with them, but this may die out as they become better known and understood.

The general expression among the sealers, says the United States consul at Victoria, is that the fur seal is steadily disappearing, and that the time is soon coming when the business will cease to be profitable. For that reason the owners of the vessels are perfectly willing to sell on the basis proposed two years ago.