

Messenger and Visitor.

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The Galicians. The Galicians who have been coming during the past few years into our Canadian Northwest are certainly not possessed of all the virtues which are to be desired in Canadian citizens, but they appear to be growing in favor with those who have made their acquaintance. Their physical vigor, thriftiness and power of adaptation to new surroundings are excellent qualities, and if only the most salutary influences are brought to bear upon them, there seems reason to believe that they and their descendants will constitute a valuable element in the population of the country. "Lally Bernard," the correspondent of the Toronto Globe, has recently paid a visit to some of these people in Manitoba, and gives a very interesting and favorable account of them, paying particular attention to the Galician women. While many of the men are away working on the railroads, the women display industry and skill in out-door as well as in-door labors. The gardens which surround their small white-washed houses were found to be "marvels of tidiness" and indicated not only great industry but a thorough knowledge of gardening. All kinds of roots were grown, as well as cucumbers, tomatoes and pumpkins, which were thriving excellently; among other plants tobacco, hemp, and even coffee plants were in a healthy condition. The older women retain their peculiar costume, but the younger ones quickly adopt the Canadian style of dress, and in other respects show a disposition to adapt themselves to their new surroundings. "Not far from 'Dominion City,' in Manitoba," says this correspondent, "are settled over two thousand Galicians, and one of the principal residents of that district gave the writer a graphic account of the incoming of these people, and the horror with which he regarded their influx into an Anglo-Saxon community. That was three years ago, and today he cannot say enough in favor of the people as settlers. Their industry and thrift know no bounds, and they have turned what was apparently bad land into flourishing gardens. A great part of their money they put into cattle, and my informant (who had started a cattle ranch) found them excellent customers. This piece of information did not surprise me, for while at the Balmoral Hotel in Yorkton, a young Galician girl who acted as waitress at the hotel told me the history of her coming to the country, three years ago. Her people took up land about twenty miles east of Yorkton, and, as they had no money, the girl at once sought a situation. In less than three months she had discarded the native dress and learned to speak English fairly well. When I saw her she was plainly but neatly dressed, and made an excellent little waitress. For three years she had earned \$10 per month. 'What did she do with it! Not spent on fine clothes, I hoped.' 'No, bought three cows, sent them to her people to keep for her until she got married. Father have share of calves, she have perhaps three young heifers.' This was an excellent start to make in life, and one which showed that the Galician women, at least, had an eye to business. My young friend was only about 18 years of age and had already put into the pockets of some rancher over a hundred dollars. Then, again, all the women of the Slav race are clever with their needles, and on many a lonely ranch the rancher's wife and children sat and worked with these industrious needlewomen, and the very effort made to exchange ideas and learn the dialect spoken by the strangers widened the horizon which used to hem in that little home in the prairie. One energetic, bright Canadian woman said to me, 'You can't imagine how it helps one to feel you can be of such use to these women and children; and just because I was kind to Agata last winter, all summer long she has brought us fresh vegetables from the garden she dug and planted herself. We didn't get time to make anything of a garden, for I was never much of a hand at it myself, but these women can do all a man's work, and more kinds of woman's work than I can. I used to have a squaw to work, but she was so 'sloppy' and uncertain, and now if I am a bit pressed, I just send for Agata, and she does all my baking and washing, and kind of brightens up the house, she is so merry and light-hearted.'"

The Johannesburg Plot. Lord Roberts' despatch to the War Office in London in reference to the Johannesburg plot has been published, and gives details which are of interest. The police and the military governor had

received information that on July 14th an attempt would be made to overpower the garrison and murder the British officers. A race meeting was to take place that day, and it was assumed that a large proportion of the officers would attend it unarmed. The bolder spirits among the plotters were to go to the races armed, and murder the officers, while a pretended French national gathering was to be a rallying point for the low class, who were to murder all the police and then take possession of the government offices. A Boer commando at Zwart Kop, to the north of the town, was in direct communication with the plotters. The police had, however, got on the track of the plotters, and by July 13th were in possession of sufficient evidence to justify numerous arrests which were accordingly made that night. At noon on the 14th, the Consuls of Germany, France, Sweden and the United States, of which nations some subjects had been arrested, met the Commissioners of Police and discussed the question. Each Consul concerned was furnished with a statement of the facts of the case. The interview was wholly satisfactory, the Consuls expressing entire concurrence with the action taken and promising to render every assistance. Between 400 and 500 arrests were made, but of these 75 were subsequently released on being vouched for by their respective Consuls. Lord Roberts at once gave orders for the deportation of all foreigners, arrested in connection with the plot, for whose behaviour the Consul of their country would not vouch. The prompt measures taken, Lord Roberts states, met with the approval of people of all nationalities residing at Johannesburg, and this approval found expression openly and in some cases officially.

New Method of Refrigeration. A new process for the refrigeration of meat has recently been patented by a German firm, which, the Scientific American says, is vastly superior to the process of freezing meat now generally in vogue. Preservation by the new method is accomplished by means of sterilized air. A vessel lately arrived in England from the River Plate with a consignment of meat preserved by the new system. At the port of shipment some carcasses of bullocks and sheep were placed in a prepared chamber, the air of which was subsequently freed from all impurities by means of a special process, and the temperature reduced to 20 degrees below freezing point. The chamber was then sealed, and when opened at Liverpool, after a voyage of thirty-four days, the meat was found to be in perfect condition, and when cooked is said to have been as fresh and savory as if from an animal that had been killed only a few hours, and with no trace of the peculiar taste so noticeable in meat frozen by the ordinary process. It is said to be the opinion in England that the new process is destined to revolutionize the freezing and preserving business.

China. The reports as to the situation in China may be said to encourage the hope, rather than to justify the assertion, that some progress is being made toward such a settlement of the existing troubles as shall preserve the unity of the Empire and secure the punishment of the leaders chiefly responsible for the indignities and outrages which foreigners and the representatives of foreign powers in China have suffered at the hands of the Chinese. So far as bringing the guilty to punishment is concerned, exception must be made in the case of the Empress Dowager who, considering her position and authority, is without doubt more responsible for the anti-foreign outbreak than any other person in the Empire. However it appears that the Empress has become convinced of the necessity of her retirement, for the present at least, from the place of chief authority. Accordingly the Emperor Kwang Su is again recognized as the official head, and edicts are being issued in his name. According to a late Peking despatch, in an edict issued September 25, at Tai Yuen Fu, the Emperor denounces the Boxers and designates for punishment nine ring-leaders. These are Prince Tuan, Prince Chung, Prince Tsai Lien, Prince Tsai Ying, Duke San Kang, Ying Nien, president of the Censorate, and Chao Shu Chiao, president of the Board of Punishments, all of whom are deprived of their titles, removed from office and turned over to the

various trial boards for further penalties. The Emperor also, it is said, acknowledges fault on his own part, but places the chief blame upon the princes and nobles who participated in the anti-foreign movement and protracted it. Apparently the decree says nothing as to the responsibility of the Empress. It is well understood that the Emperor was favorable to the progressive movement, and that this caused his deposition and the enthronement of the Empress Dowager. If the Emperor has really been reinstated and the plans to which he is favorable are to be carried out, there would seem to be much hope of a favorable settlement, but if the Emperor's name is only being used to shield the Empress Dowager, while she remains the real ruler, that is quite a different matter. What the fact is, is for the present a matter of doubt, but it is to be noted that some despatches from the East express the opinion that the object of the recent edicts regarding the degradation of Chinese personages of high rank is merely to gain time and to enable China to be in a better position to defy the powers. The Shanghai correspondent of the London Post says that the Chinese firmly believe in the existence of a Russo-German agreement under which Russia will take all the territory north of the great wall, and Germany the provinces of Chi-Li and Shan Tung.

Maritime Presbyterians in Council. The Synod of the Maritime Provinces of the Presbyterian church of Canada assembled last week at Chatham, N. B. The customary annual sermon was preached by the retiring Moderator, Rev. M. G. Henry. On the motion of Rev. Thos. Cummings, who had been nominated by four Presbyterians for the position of Moderator, the Synod voted to confer that honor on Rev. Dr. Morton, pioneer missionary in Trinidad. One of the matters of interest considered by the Synod was the proposal remitted by the General Assembly respecting the appointment of a Sabbath School Synodical Field Secretary. The aim is to arouse the church to greater activity in S. S. work. This is felt to be especially needful in view of the fact that there has been of late some falling off both in the number of schools and in the aggregate attendance. The proposed synodical secretary would see to the organizing of schools where necessary and to the improvement of existing schools. The training of teachers is felt to be especially needful. After somewhat prolonged discussion the Synod voted approval of the proposition. A proposal was submitted by the College Board looking to the consolidation of all the different funds, so that all the schemes of the church would share in the revenue of the consolidated fund. The proposal was approved by the Synod and will be sent to the General Assembly for confirmation. In case of its final adoption, each of the funds would have an increased security, as a loss to any one of the funds would be shared by all. The report respecting the Theological College at Halifax showed that the number of men studying for the ministry is not equal to the demand. Next year a class of 16 will graduate, but the two following years will have but five graduates each, and there have been many mission fields vacant the past summer for lack of men. Principal Pollok in this connection pointed out that the Arts classes in Dalhousie were larger than ever and urged ministers to press upon young men the needs of their church and their native land. The matter of religious instruction in the public schools was also under consideration, and the Synod agreed to urge the people as far as practicable to secure the legal amount of religious instruction, and to instruct ministers to further the matter by consulting with the ministers of the other denominations. The report on Home Missions showed that the liberality of the people toward this object has grown steadily, being now 54 cents per family, but there is a lack of ministers for the fields. The report of the Foreign Mission was of an interesting character. Our Presbyterian friends are ahead of all others in providing for the temporal needs of their ministers. Through the Augmentation Fund weak churches are assisted and the aim is to assure every minister a minimum salary of \$750. The Synod asks for \$10,000 for that work this year. Then there is the Widows and Orphans Fund, by which ministers are able on favorable terms to insure their families against want, and also an Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund with 28 annuitants. Its income for the year was \$4,200, which was insufficient to meet the demand.