



## DIRECT FROM THE FIELD



(NOTE: The following letters, together with the article "Among the Ruthenians in Alberta," were sent to Rev. S. T. Tucker, 2nd Vice-President of the Bay of Quinte Conference Epworth League, and while they refer particularly to some phases of the work supported by the Bay Leagues through the Forward Movement for Missions, the perusal of them will be of interest and a stimulus to our readers generally. The letter from Rev. W. E. Smith was written before the rebellion in China, references to which, with its possible consequences, he makes in a personal note to Mr. Tucker.—Ed.)

### Among the Ruthenians in Alberta

REV. J. K. SMITH, CHIPMAN, ALTA.

**T**HE strongest plea for help is that of need. Two hundred thousand Ruthenians have passed several nations and have crossed an ocean to convince us of their need. They need our teaching. Though they are people of strong bodies and good minds, people who work well and learn quickly, yet not half of them can so much as write their own names. For one thousand years learned men have been teaching them, but they have never taught them to read.

They need our friendship. The friendly people of Canada should organize to visit frequently our lonely strangers far from the old homeland. We should go out in visiting companies, into the colonies, into the homes, to bring a welcome and giving our best, till the people are glad they came.

They need our home Gospel. That of the Old Land is one for church only. Their Gospel book is not for poor and simple homes, but is a "holy thing," for a "holy place," to be read only by a "holy man," on "holy days." But ours is a home Gospel, even as Jesus was a visitor of homes. He ate and drank with sinners. The Pharisees were offended. Still He eats and drinks with sinners, and still the Pharisees are offended. Thousands of most lovable strangers are waiting in the lonely places of our great nation for friendly visits from those who will carry the Gospel and give it forth as freely as at first it was given.

The work has great rewards. One reward is to a simple home, sometimes expressed in tears. Another is the opening through the avenue of a new language, of a new thought world, with its strange ways and many good lessons to teach. Another is the new experience of the intimate friendship of one of those Old World lives changed by the good news of our free Gospel. A still greater reward—we receive it with faith—it is real—is the sum total of those changed lives, with all the others more native to this new world, but breathing

one spirit,—that total comprising the greatest homes and pure society of a built-up Christian land. Then there is a greatest reward in this work among our strangers. It is made possible by the bonds that hold a pilgrim to his home, these many thousands of pilgrims to their many homes, the bonds that run out from our land in all directions over the world like the threads of a great web, connecting country to city, new land to old, all lands together. These bonds are not breaking, new blood renews them, intercourse strengthens them. They are busy avenues, bearing back and forth tone and tone of rustling mail telling longed-for news of loved ones gone and loved ones left behind. And upon those home-bond highways many are travelling home and returning. The home movement is natural, constant, and irresistible. It connects us with East and West. What it will carry it will most surely carry to its furthest destination. Will it carry from us word of holy living? Last century it so carried the Gospel from America to Europe that as one result there are now to be counted in Continental Europe 80,000 church members and 95,000 Sunday school scholars of one branch of the Church in America. (See letter of Bishop Burt, *Guardian*, August 2nd.) The movement is now ready to take its share in gospeling Asia also, for this is the time of Asia's awakening, and the Pacific is equipping to connect the life of its two great lively continents. This then is the greatest reward, to see the home movement taking its millions home-bond avenues taking its busy part in gospeling of the world. When a Ruthenian boy of 23, in the first love of new-found life, addresses a New Testament to his brother in Austria, he constitutes a unit in the home movement. Our Master is calling for soul-winners to multiply the units.

PAKAN, ALTA., Aug. 14th, 1911.

Dear Brother,—In accord with your request for a message, I send you the following:—

The Ruthenian work of our Church has passed the experimental stage, and with settled conviction that God has given to us a permanent work for the evangelization of this people, we go steadily forward.

Our trust is in the Lord of Hosts who has bid us go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, and it is in the light of this message our policy is shaped. We verily believe the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, and that the measure of our success in meeting the great need of this people will be just in proportion to the extent we preach the gospel to them in the power of the Spirit of God, in their own language.

Nothing else can take the place of this divinely appointed plan. And the church of God needs to take heed lest she be turned out of the way in this great work.

You will be pleased to know that we have now in this work five men—of our Canadian Ministry—studying the language of the people, their customs, and their thought. And we have also in this time three native workers preaching

and teaching the Scriptures, besides four lady teachers and workers among the children and mothers, especially. We hope to have an additional group of native workers—men whose hearts God has touched and who have heard his call and devoted their lives to this work.

We have taken steps to establish an Austrian newspaper of a Christian character in the principal Austrian centre in the West. We have obtained \$1,300 from business men in this vicinity to help on this, and one of Canada's most noted statesmen, speaking to us of this project, said, "by this newspaper free

from politics you have the opportunity of lifting the people to a higher plane, as you will be free and not obliged to pander to party purposes." To put this on a good business basis for permanent work we need about \$9,000 more. But we are going on with what we have in hand.

There is no part of our work for these

people that promises more in enabling us to bring the Gospel before them than this medium. It will in part enable us to make up for our lack of native preachers, and to bring the truth to many that otherwise would not receive it. These people continue to come to our aid, and doubtless will continue to do so for years to come. They, under our advantages, will be a factor to reckon with for either good or evil, depending very largely on what the churches do for them now.

With Christian love,

Yours faithfully,

C. H. LAWFORD, M.D.



DR. LAWFORD.

### From West China

YUINSHIEN, VIA CHUNGKING, SEE, CHINA, Sept. 11th, 1911.

Dear Friends,—I am able to report a very encouraging feature in our work during the last quarter. The evangelist, Fuh Lih Chen, who is attending college this year, was sent here to supply during the summer vacation, July and August, and as I had planned in the summer to make a visit to all our stations and the Tribes country, I told Mr. Fuh it would be his duty to keep up the interest in the North Gate Church here during my six weeks' absence. He went to work with a will and organized an Epworth League, with four departments, the membership to include all the male portion of both city churches and to meet every Monday night, as follows: The first night in the North Gate Church, Consecration meeting; the second night in the East Gate Church, led by the Lookout Committee; the third night in the new boarding school, led by the Social and Moral Reform Committee; the fourth night in the new dispensary, led by Christian Stewardship and Self-Support Committee. They elected officers and leaders, prepared the programme for six months, and have it printed in updated style by our own mission press. Mr. Liu Swan San, an evangelist, and Mr. Wuh Shu Chen, a University student, whose home is in this city, were



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