

lamentable. This is what the Rev. Father Girard, then the Superior, wrote in a report to Archbishop Langevin.

"Until last year, the Catholics disseminated over this vast territory, had been visited only once in a while by a priest and even this irregularly. While three or four priests were necessary, the Rev. Father Page, O.M.I., having no one to assist him, was all alone; though he was sickly, he nevertheless visited the various centres, wherever he was needed, but being poorly lodged and fed, and crippled with rheumatism his strength was not equal to his zeal, and he was soon obliged to resign and to retire as an invalid to a hospital.

"Then the devil, being sole master in the field for many months, sowed the cockle broadcast, and for a while things had gone so far, that the weeds threatened to choke the good seed. Within a few weeks no less than 350 Uniate-Ruthenian families, already wavering as a consequence of their natural prejudice, turned away from the Church, to follow infamous impostors, calling themselves priests of their rite. Others, who did not go quite so far, became so indifferent, that nothing up to the present hour could make them change their mind. Such was the sad state of affairs, when on January 13th 1904 the Redemptorist Fathers, answering a most urgent request of Your Grace, came to reside in Yorkton.

The same writer adds: "At Insinger the missionary was even refused a carriage to convey him from the mission to the railway station. Elsewhere the people refuse obstinately to contribute a cent to the support of the priest, when he is not a Ruthenian and they consider they have done enough, if they only permit him to visit them."

At that time, Yorkton was the stronghold of the Independents. Zaitzeff, one of the leaders, had established there his permanent residence. Almost every day one could see three or four other im-