



A GERMAN WEDDING IN REGINA.

The Ceremony May Belong to the Fatherland, But the Bride and the Groom and Their Friends Are All Canadians.

The Western Melting Pot

New Canadians of Many Flags, Languages and Customs

By ISABEL C. ARMSTRONG

WE haven't any foreigners in the west, immigration figures to the contrary. We are all Canadians.

The Easterner, and particularly the newcomer from Ontario or the Maritime Provinces, is struck with the variety of types of human beings seen in the street and the variety of tongues and accents. There is a certain tea-room where the trim waitresses in black frocks and dainty white aprons only address customers in the broad Scotch tongue. The proprietor is Scotch and he makes a point of securing Scotch girls for his service, with the best imaginable results. The Englishman is omnipresent, from the Oxford and Cambridge graduate, the charming fellow who has seen service in India and has a penchant for amateur theatricals to the coster, minus the "pearlies." There's a liberal sprinkling of very polite people, betrayed by a brogue, be it ever so slight. The states to the South are well represented and there are citizens all the way from the antipodes. These all know the tune of "God Save the King," even if they have been accustomed to different words.

The conformation to a single type known in many places in older Canada is entirely lacking here.

From the "British" or "American" born, the visitor turns to look with interest at a group of men in sheep-skin caps and coats, notwithstanding the fact that it is getting well on in the spring. A man on a waggon is shouting in a strange tongue at the horses that find it difficult to pull the load on the slippery street. Two women come out of a store, women with kerchiefs on their heads and shawls on their shoulders, the broad-shouldered, robust-looking women of a European race. One, perhaps, is wearing an apron or shawl, gaily embroidered in the "Bulgarian" hues, so popular this season. The women of the country from which she has come and also adjoining countries are clever with their needles, and in her little east-end home, no doubt, there are piles of linen, woven by her own hands; exquisite embroideries and laces that represent many hours of toil.

SCHOOLS just let loose and scores of small girls, replicas of their mothers, are chattering together. There are small boys by the dozens, who, except in stature, are as like their fathers as they possibly can be. Then there are babies. One only needs to take a walk through the "East End" some fine Sunday in summer, to get some estimate of how many babies there are at the present time and how many there have been within the past few years.

Two or three years ago these citizens were all classed as "Germans" by the unthinking and the ignorant who had not taken the trouble to learn that in one class in one school twenty-two nationalities were represented. "Germantown" is now "the east end," and the residents thereof, "foreign-speaking citizens," not by any chance "foreigners."

In the past year, in Regina, no organization has experienced greater success and progress than the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Two new flourishing branches have been added to the

original Union, the largest in the two provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, and four Loyal Temperance Legions, now numbering over three hundred members, have been organized among the boys and girls.

But for a long time previous to these twelve months of prosperity, there was a desire to reach with temperance education the east end, where local option was defeated.

When the Dominion president of the W. C. T. U. visited the west, last fall, one thing impressed itself upon her, namely, the impossibility of giving instruction along the lines of temperance to the newcomers without first teaching them the English language. When she made her report to the board, it was decided to appoint as soon as the right person could be found, a representative to organize educational classes among the foreign-speaking citizens in a number of the western towns and cities. The choice fell upon Miss Forman, of Stratford, Ontario, who early in the winter spent several weeks in Winnipeg, studying the methods used there in settlement work.

Her first independent effort was in Brandon, where, in six weeks, she organized large classes among both men and women.

IT was late January when she reached her large constituency in Regina. But the work here was to be divided. Just at the time of her arrival, successful steps were taken by the Young Men's Christian Association to organize classes among the foreign-speaking men. Quarters were secured which proved cramped the first night, and so inadequate the second, it was necessary to carry out all the furniture but the stove.

To Miss Forman and the W. C. T. U. was left the work among the women and girls. The pioneer work consisted in calling upon the women in their

homes, the stranger women who never have their names in calling lists in a society page and who, almost without exception, welcome visitors with open arms. Usually an interpreter could be found near at hand who would make it clear that "a class was to be held in the Earl Grey School, Tuesday night, eight o'clock. Teach English." The "teach English" was an open sesame in most of cases.

Not only was there to be an educational class Tuesday night, but another on Thursday night; a "Kitchen Garden" for the little girls on Monday and Wednesday afternoons after four; a Saturday afternoon class for the girls in service in restaurants, hotels, etc.; and a Friday night regular romp for the women. Two busy women, who knew Kitchen Garden methods from A to Z, each gave up an afternoon a week to training classes.

As a grand windup for the season, the other night, the City Fathers granted to the W. C. T. U. the use of the City Hall auditorium for a benefit in aid of the east end educational work. The event was a specially significant one from the fact that for the first time in the history of the capital city, and, as far as is known, of the province, the "Little New Canadians" had an equal part in the programme with boys and girls of English, Scotch, Irish and Canadian origin.

The small sons and daughters of foreign-speaking parents occupied rows of chairs on the platform. Their part was to give a "Kitchen Garden" demonstration, and very demure little maidens they were, in their best frocks, protected by fascinating little white aprons, diminutive white muslin caps completing their costumes.

In class, a day or so before, the question had been asked of one dark-eyed little girl who had been born in Roumania, "What are you?" Promptly the reply came, "I'm a Canadian." And from the vivacious little Jewish Sarah; the little daughter of Russia with the long braid; the flaxen-haired Gretchen and the wee child of Ruthenian parents, had come always the answer, "I'm a Canadian."

It was with great fervour and tunefulness that these little ones and their class-mates sang "O! Canada" as an opening number.

A GOOD many people who went to that Benefit Concert scarcely knew what to expect. They were undecided whether a Kitchen Garden was a flower garden, a vegetable garden, or a box of parsley growing in the kitchen window. Before the evening was far advanced they learned that a Kitchen Garden is to Domestic Science what the Kindergarten is to more advanced schools. To the accompaniment of songs to impress the different processes, work is made play, and almost before she knows it, a small girl learns exactly how to set a table; to serve; to clear a table; to wash dishes; to sweep; to dust; to make a bed (after being most particular about airing it); to wash and to perform all the duties of a household according to the customs of Canadians and the most up-to-date and scientific methods.

These newcomers have a large share of artistic appreciation, and if opportunity is given them they may yet give us riches of poetry, music and art. If the strangers who are thronging to our shores and on to our wide prairies are to contribute to the wealth of the nation and the strength and beauty of the Empire, we must deal with them as brothers and sisters. In their numbers, they are a force to be reckoned with. In the west we are realizing this. We haven't any foreigners. We have New Canadians.



MOST OF THE CIVILIZED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, IN A SINGLE WESTERN SCHOOL. Here Are 22 Nationalities From the Earl Grey School in Regina; "and it Was With Great Fervour and Tunefulness That These Little Ones and Their Classmates Sang 'O Canada!'"