

A Manitoba Mennonite Village

We present this week a fine view of the Mennonite village of Rhinefeldt, situated near the little town of Winkler, in southern Manitoba. The term Mennonite is applied in Manitoba to a class of settlers of Dutch and German extraction, but the word more properly belongs to the religion of the people and not to their nationality. The origin of the sect is a matter of some controversy, but it is generally conceded that the name is derived from one of their early and influential leaders—Menno Simon, who in the second quarter of the 16th century taught the doctrines still held by the Mennonite church. Their religious teaching is strongly opposed to war, legal contests, the taking of an oath, etc., and in general they are constrained from mixing up in the affairs of civil government.

Holland appears to have been the birthplace of the sect, but it also gained an early foothold in northern Germany. The people were scattered

vious conferences with Canadian officials, and in 1874 the first party of about 200 families arrived in Manitoba. They were guaranteed exemption from military service and the privilege of affirming. They were also given free land grants and certain financial assistance; and were allowed their own schools.

The Mennonites in Manitoba now have several flourishing settlements, their principal settlement being in the vicinity of Gretna and east of Morden, in the southern portion of the Red river valley. There is also a considerable settlement east of the Red river, in the Niverville district. A new colony has been started within the last few years in the Prince Albert district, owing to the land in the older settlements being well taken up.

The Mennonites in Manitoba have remained a purely agricultural and pastoral people. Their residence in Russia did not change their language and customs at all, and they remained a separate people, but under our institutions they are more pro-

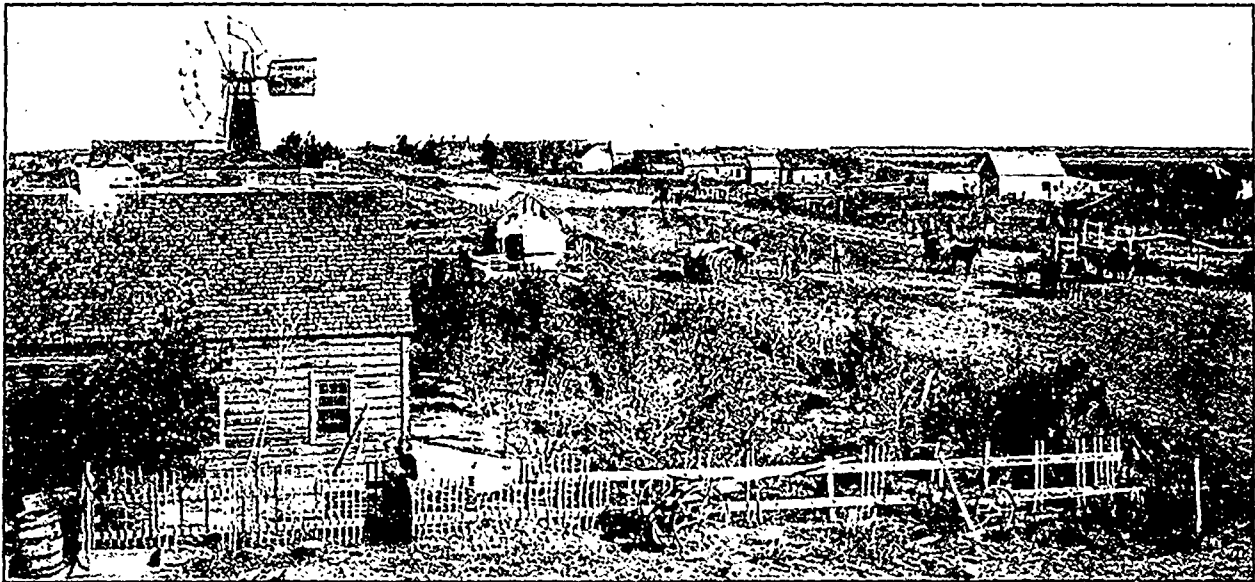
The Lumber Trade.

California redwood lumber has declined \$1 to \$2 at the coast.

Geo. Aske, of the Assiniboine Lumber Co., Brandon, says they have 1,000,000 feet of logs on hand for spring sawing, and 8,000,000 feet to bring down stream this year.

Though the budget speech made no mention of any change in the tariff in lumber, the lumber interest has apparently not given up hope of securing a duty on lumber. At a meeting of the Ontario Lumbermen's association a resolution was again passed favoring the imposition of a duty of \$2 per thousand on lumber imported from United States. The annual fee of the association was reduced from \$5 to \$2. John Bertram, of Toronto, was elected president; James Scott, first vice-president.

Another advance has been made in red cedar shingles by the United States Pacific coast mills, stars now being held at \$1.35 to \$1.40 at the mills. A Seattle report says the high prices are largely due to the high price of



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abroad by persecution, and several colonies have been founded in America at different periods, both in old Canada and the United States. Their opposition to military service has been the cause of much of the troubles of these people in Europe. Driven out of Holland, and later out of Prussia they finally founded a settlement in southern Russia, under a special agreement whereby they were guaranteed religious liberty, were exempted from military service, and were to be allowed to affirm, instead of being compelled to take an oath. Other favorable terms were also granted them by the Russian government, owing no doubt to the fact that the Mennonites were regarded as skillful agriculturists, and Russia was desirous of securing agricultural settlers to develop newly acquired territory in the region of the Black Sea. For three quarters of a century they remained unmolested in Russia, but since 1870 their privileges have been curtailed, and they have consequently been looking for new homes. Early in the seventies some of their delegates arrived in Canada, after pro-

gressive. They are now adopting the public school system, and are taking an interest in politics, both federal and provincial. Within a few years they will no doubt become thoroughly nationalized in their customs, as the older settlements in the east have become. Their twenty-five years in Manitoba is said to have made a far greater change in the customs of these people than their eighty years in Russia.

The Mennonites, on their arrival, in Manitoba, formed themselves into village communities such as they had done in Russia. These little villages are or were scattered all over the Mennonite districts. The village system, however, is becoming a thing of the past, and will in time disappear, along with some of the other peculiarities of these interesting people.

The few facts regarding the Mennonites here given are taken from an article prepared by Miss E. Cora Hind, of Winnipeg, who has written several articles dealing very fully with the Mennonites in Manitoba, as well as with the past history of the sect.

cedar logs. The mill men and the wholesalers are not making the profit. Fir lumber is stiffer than it has been for three or four years and is getting stiffer every week. This brings the jobbing price at points south up to \$2.25, or an advance of 25c on the opening price of jobbers of \$2 at Minneapolis.

The Waterous Engine Works Co. have recently filled a number of important orders for machinery for western mills, including a carload of machinery for the Rat Portage Lumber Co. This company is putting in one new steam kicker and two steam log rollers. Graham, Horne & Co., of Fort William, have also given the Waterous company an order for a new carriage, and from Hughes, Long and Buckman, of Rainy River, an order for a band re-saw has been secured. This machinery has all been delivered.

A Toronto report says. The stocks of canned tomatoes here are getting into small compass. Sales among jobbers are reported and some wholesale dealings have been from retailers.