

HOW THESE STRANGE COLONISTS ARE BUILDING CANADA'S RAILROADS.

They Now Own 350,000 Acres And Are Growing Rich-Doukhobor Mills And Factories-Steam Plows And Threshing Machines-The Russian Village System-Their Queer Homes And Public Bath Houses-Gangs Of Naked Pilgrims And How They Disturb The Government-The Icelanders Of Canada And a Word About The Galicians.

Copyright, 1965, Frank G. Carpenter.) Canada about eight years ago and from ASHINGTON, D. C .- I have letters from the British

northwest describing the work of the Doukhobors on rallroads now building throughout the wheat belt. They are argely employed on the Grand Trunk Pacific and are using their own horses. the chiefs of the railroad construction unke their contracts with Verigin, and the worlt is generally directed by Verigin, who is the head of these strange coloubits. The earnings of the men are all paid to him and are transferred to the common treasury of each village. mongh being set aside to pay the expenses of the hands while at work. This is the way all Doukhobor labor is hird. The people have a sort of communal system, such as is in vogue ibroughout Russia, and they work by elliages rather than as individuals.

THE RUSSIAN VILLAGE SYSTEM IN CANADA.

These Daukhobors are introducing the Russian village system into the British northwest; and that much to the ish northwest, and that minch to the disgust of the Canadian government. The sepecial arrangement made up-by an especial arrangement made up-in and his associates they were is and their lands in a block or swarded their lands in a block or blocks, and they have divided them we among their villages, each village holding a certain amount of land in common. The ordinary village con-tains about 40 families, or, altogether, about 200 souls, and they have a com-nent tile to the land. Each village has built its own granary, where its cats, whest and other crops are stored. It has a common treasury, and it buys is agricultural implements and other things as a whole. It may give an or-der for a dozen plows at a time, or for ter for a dozen plows at a time, or for enough threshing machines to harvest the village wheat crop. The people the village wheat crop. The people work together. Both men and women go out to the fields, and they have about the same customs and habits as are to be found in the hundred thouand and more villages which make up the Russian empire.

DOES NOT SUIT THE CANUCKS.

This situation is not pleasing to the rest of the Canadians. It destroys in-dividuality, and it makes a foreign body in the heart of the new Canada. Dominion government wants every of its settlers to be a citizen inrested in the building up of Canada, objects to a lot of Russian fanatics It objects to a lot of Russian fanatics who are interested only in their own fowns and religion, and who care but little for the general weifare of the country. The matter will be brought up before parliament, and attempts will be made to force the Doukhobors to take their lands in severalty. So far they seem to have no desire to do this. They are contented with Peter Verigin as a manager and with their community system. I am told they look upon Versystem. I am told they look upon Ver-ism as a sort of a czar and priest; and that he could, if he wished, cast their

the first trouble with the governcame when the census was tak-The Doukhobors refused to give information as to their numbers, us or sexes, and were apparently staid they might be subject to miliany conscription. Some of them have runsed to register births, marriages and deaths, and most of them object to the public school system. When they were told that their children needed education they replied that they did not believe in our system of teaching and that they preferred to educate their own children in their own way.

SPIRIT WRESTLERS

time to time others have come, until there are now 8,000 or 16,000 of them in the country. It is probable that half of all the Doukhobors of the world live In Canada, the Russian colonies of the aucasus being the only others. In their coming the Doukhobors were

aided by the Quakers. A subscrip-tion to the amount of \$30,000 was raised tion to the amount of \$30,000 was raised in Philadelphia, and in London the So-clety of Friends subscribed \$80,000 more. The Canadian government spent about \$55,000 in the way of bonuses and in transportation, and other subscrip-tions were made by well-known Rus-slans. Count Tolstol, for instance, gave \$17,600, and one of the parties which came was in charge of Sergius Tolstol. Prince Hillkoff, the nephew of the Russian minister of railroads, was one of the men who came here to look up a location, and altogether they was one of the men who came here to look up a location, and altogether they have been alded greatly. Their ships started out from the Black sea and came through the Strait of Gibraltar and across the Atlantic. When they landed in Canada the railroads made them a rate of 36 for the long ride iq Winnipeg, and when they reached there the Canadian department of the interi-or paid each of them a bonus of 35 for coming. There were more than 7,000

coming. There were more than 7,000 arrivals within a short time and more than \$35,000 was so paid out.

OVER 350,000 ACRES OF LAND.

These Doukhobors now own almost These Doukhabors now own almost 400,000 acres of some of the best soil in Canada. They were first granted 257,000 acres, but later this was in-creased to 320,000, and in addition they have already purchased over 30,000 acres more. A small amount of the land is recorded in the name of Peter Veright, but most of it, as I have said, is half be the villages as such and is held by the villages as such, and



PETER VERGIN. The Czar of the Doukhobors.

shoes because certain animals had been robbed of their skins to make them. It was along in May, 1993, that 45 Doukhobors got a revelation that Christ would appear somewhere in the neigh-borhood of Winnipeg. I have never heard why Winnipeg was the chosen point, athough, I imagine that city needs regresseration coults as much as they will not consent to its subdivision Incy will not consent to its subdivision. In other parts of Canada the govern-ment only grants alternate homesteads, but the Doukhobors were able to have their lands given them in blocks, the Canadian officials not realizing the dangers of the communal system as to a group of foreigners like these. point, achough, 1 imagine that city needs regeneration quite as much as any place else. At any rate, those 45 Doukhobors, consisting of men, women, and children, stripped off their clothes and made a stark naked march through IN THE DOUKHOBOR VILLAGES.

and made a stars nased march through the 16 Doukhobor villages, gathering up recruits. The story of the march, written by one of the pilgrims, was published in a Russian paper, and a few extracts from this will give us some idea of it from a Doukhobor standpoint. These Doukhobor villages look like a slice of Russia cut out of the Black Plain and dropped down upon North America, save that the houses are bet-ter and the people more thrifty. The average village is one long road with Says the pligrim: a row of cottages on each side. The buildings are of wood and frame, but the roofs are often of thatch or turf. Many of the houses are made of logs, Many of the houses are made of logs, well chinked and plastered. The win-dows are of small panes with heavy wooden shutters, which are closed at night. Plenty of whitewash is used and everything glares. The average house is of one story, and it has sel-dom more than two rooms. The prin-cipal room serves as dining room, bed room and kitchen. It has a great chinney at one side, with a bake oven connection: a wide bench runs around the walls for use as chairs during the day and beds at night, and a table is in most cases the rest of the furniture. A OUPEER BATH HOUSE. A QUEER BATH HOUSE. The house are much better kept than in Russia. I have traveled thousands of miles through the czar's farming regions, seldom finding a peasant home that was sanitary or clean. The Cantruth adian Doukhobor women scrub almost adian Doukhobor women scrub almost as much as the Dutch, and all the peo-ple take regular sweat baths. Every village has its bath house. This is a little log cabin containing a brick oven. It is entered by a low door, but has no windows or other openings. When the bath house is to be used the oven is heated red hot, and then the bathers enter stark naked, each carry-ing a bucket or so of water. They ing a bucket or so of water. They throw these on the red hot stones, and throw these on the red hot stones, and within a few moments the house is filled with steam. Each bather has a bunch of willow twigs with which he whips and rubs every part of his body. In a short time he begins to perspire, and it is not long before he is thoroughly cleansed.



A VILLAGE GANG OF THE DOUKHCBORS LUNCHING IN THE FIELD.

meat, and even to wear woolen cloth-ing, as the sheep had to be robbed of their coats before it could be made.

Some resort to the state of Adam and Eve, and go naked. I have seen photo-graphs of Doukhobors taken at the time of such revivals. Both men and women were snapped in a nude state, and the photographs form the most disgusting groups of living statuary ever taken by a camera. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE

ciples, and try to subsist entirely on roots and vegetables, turning their live stock out on the prairies to be taken possession of by whomsoever pleases. They imagine that it is wrong to eat THE GALICIANS OF CANADA.

learning, a short time ago, that roast bear ligured on the menu of a city res-taurant; and yet equally scrange foods are common enough within the rour-mile radius. If you have a weakness for roin-deer flesh you can take home a joint from Leadenhalf market in the proper scason; you can buy indian bulkeck meat in fins; or if you are more fastificus you can feast on roast peaceck, with fit succan feast on roast peacock, with its suc-culent stuffing of truffles, or on roast SWAD.

curent sturning of truthes, or on poast swan. Snails you can purchase, ready for eat-ing, at the modest flaute of last a dozent or if you prefer frogs you can have them timmed whenever you please, or freeh during the winter months, You can buy kangaroo tails in Smithfield and make delclous somp from them. birds nests, all the way from China, are to be had for izs or so an come, and wild bear's head is a popular dish in London, and cheap enough for modest purses. You can enoy cayfare which has come straight from the Volga; sausages of ev-ery degree of mystery from Germany, italy, and France, peach-fed hams from America, smoked cod's roe, and the desic-cated spine of the sturgeon. If you care for peacocks' tongues, a

scores of others equally delightful but better known, such as the pine-flavored mangoes from Bombay and guavas from Madeira. If your tastes are very esthetic you can teast daintily on crystallized flowers of violets and carnations; you may eat rose-ied jam, or sip rose petals in syrups. Or if your appetite is very he thy you may explore the Russian and Polish dis-tricts in the east of London and sample several varieties of edible seawed, us-caying vegetables with an accompaniment of rared oil, or fish in an advanced and appetizing stage of decomposition.

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SPIRIT WRESTLERS. During my stay in Canada this year liearned a great deal about the Douk-hobors and had frequent talks with government officials as to their condi-tion and prospects. They are one of the queerest of all the communities which have settled on the North Amer-ican continent, and they rank, in some respects, with the communities found, here and there, in the United States. The basis of their organization is re-ligion. They are an off-shoot of the orthodox Russian church and their name. Doukhobor, is said to have orig-inated becau - they are wrestling with orime by the aid of the Holy Spirit. The word "Doukhobor" is said to mean "birit wrestler." and some say they originally got this name because they wrestled against the Holy Spirit in-taed of with Him. These people were persecuted in Rus-ta. It is a name of the Holy Spirit in-

stead of with Him. These people were persecuted in Rus-sia, It is a part of their religion to refuse military service, and the Rus-sian officials and others have op-pressed and tortured them in various ways. Peter the Great banished them to the Caucasus mountains, where they formed a colony of 20,000 or more and from where they came to the Unit-states. The first colony landed in

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PREECOUPON. A your name and address on ines beinw and mail to Prof. Midgley, 581 Midgley Block, Zeo, Mich., and by return mail tell you free how to cure con-a without medicine. A THRIFTY COMMUNITY.

The Doukhobors are rapidly amass-ing wealth. I was told in Winnipeg that they had brought in as much as \$200,000 at one time, and that they are steadly improving their property and towns. They are now building eleva-tion for their one mer weath and they are

steadily improving their property and towns. They are now building eleva-tors for their own grain and have put up mills to grind their own flour. Some of their villages have constructed flax mills and ifnseed oil mills and some will put up woolen mills. As it is now the Doukhobors have their own sheep and spin the cloth for their clothes. Much of their machinery is being driven by steam and they have some steam plows. I understand their hand, and that they expect to put up a brick plant and have brick dwellings for the future. They also talk of a narrow-gage railway to connect their villages: and they will probably intro-duce the telephone soon. Their com-munal system gives them a large cap-its to work with; and they take ad-ventage of this by buying their sup-plies in quantity and at low rates. As it is now, each village has one large stable for its horses, another for its cattle and a shed for its agricultural implements. This is in striking con-trast with the average Canadian set-tier, who leaves his machinery and often his stock out of doors, at the mercy of both wind and weather.

mercy of both wind and weather.

THE NAKED FANATICS.

THE NAKED FANATICS. It will be seen from the above that the average Doukhobor is a good clti-see, Indeed, were it not for his com-munal interests be would be far bet-ter than most of the other Europeans who are now coming into Canada, There are many exceptions, however, and especially the fanatics. The Douk-hobors have among them, a number of motors have among them, a number of on the subject of religion, and who every now and then break out in what might be called a spiritual revival, which is far more radical than any revivals in the United States. At such times they say Christ is about to ap-pear on the earth a second time, and thin. They then go back to first prin-

"After the 12th of May we went in the manner of the first man, Adam, to where the second town. That night we lay on the ground clustered into one heap. It rained and snowed. The people who guarded us put on their sheepskin coats; but we re-mained naked, and it was really wonderful that in such a wind we were not frozen. The cold was great, but not one of the naked was frozen."

PILGRIMAGES.

The Canadian government has been

Farther on in his writing the pilgrim tells how the gang was captured by the mounted colice and put in prison for three months at Regina. He says that they were tortured while in prison, but I doubt whether in this he tells the truth

THE ICELANDERS OF CANADA.

The Canadian government is doing The Canadian government is doing all it can to encourage immigration. It had about 150,000 new settlers last year, of whom more than 40,000 came from the United States, and about 65,000 from Great Britain. There were something like 40,000 from other parts of Europe. The only restriction in such matters is as to the Chinese, who are taxed \$500 per head upon landing. In 1905 almost 5,000,000 acres of free lands were grant-ed to settlers.

ed to settlers. Amongst the best of the foreign im-migrants are the icelanders. We often think of that country of cold and snow as inhabited by Eskimos or Indians, but the truth is it is a colony of Denmark, and its people are among the thriftiest and best looking of the Danes. The men are strong and intelligent and the wom-en are beautiful. The first colony of Icelanders came to Canada about 20 years ago. They were assisted by the

Icelanders came to Canada about 20 years ago, They were assisted by the Dominion government and settled on the west shores of Lake Winnipeg, where they first engaged in farroing and fishing. Other Icelanders have settled in southern Manitoba, and from time to time many have moved to Winnipeg. They are now also found scattered over the what helt. There are allocather They are now also found scattered over the wheat belt. There are altogether about 10,000 of these people in Canada, and there are two Icelahdic newspapers published in Winnipeg. In the larger settlements these people retain their own language, and as a rule they prefer

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