

## Christmas Recital at Vancouver AUUC

— Photo: Dan Fung



Gathering to sing carols is always a highlight of the Christmas recital. This year was no exception, as the AUUC Vancouver School of Dance drew a large audience of family, friends and supporters to the Ukrainian Cultural Centre on the afternoon of December 13. A report with photographs appears on Page 6.

## The Next Issue

The next issue of the “UCH” will be dated April, 2016. Announcements of events in April or early May, 2016, or articles for the April issue should be in our office by March 10. Thank you for your consideration.

## Where Have All the Experts Gone?

The United States has a serious problem: Russia’s global importance is growing, but the US understanding of Russia is so low as to become a critical national security risk. The US does not have enough knowledge to anticipate Russian actions; nor does it have the ability to gather the information it needs.

Once upon a time, particularly during the Cold War, the Sovietologists were everywhere, right up to the top levels of decision making. Now the Russian specialists are far more junior, without much influence on policy making.

After September 11, 2001, the concentration has moved to the Middle East, leaving the quality of Eurasian analysis “shallower”.

According to an article by Karoun Demirjian of *The Washington Post*, the number of troops and support personnel devoted to studying and responding to threats from the Kremlin has decreased.

In the United States, among the signs of neglect leading to a shortage of Russia specialists is lack of funding for uni-

versity foreign language programs, reduced funding for cultural exchange programs with former Soviet states, and “evisceration of a grant program for advanced study on Russia and its neighbors”.

American security community members excuse their ignorance by noting that Russia is a hard target: electronically sophisticated, with good operational security, and a very small circle of decision makers.

Private sector experts suggest that the problem is not gathering information, but analysing available information for valid conclusions.

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## No-Fly List Concerns

No-Fly lists seem to be creating increasing concern, and some of the problems are really incomprehensible.

Among the strangest cases are infants in arms and young children who are treated as security threats because of their names. An example is Syed Adam Ahmed.

Adam is six years old and Canadian born, and each time he travels he runs into problems at security. He has had this problem since he was born.

Other children in Adam’s family have also had problems, including a cousin who is now 15, and another cousin, Mustafa, who was 11 months old the first time.

Another example is Naseer Muhammad Ali, who had his diaper patted down at ten months old at a Jamaican airport en route to Toronto. His family is not allowed to check in on-line, or pick seats in advance.

The United States apparently has a system for taking wrongly identified people of their no-fly list, but Canada does not appear to have such an option. Passage of Bill C-51 by the Harper government made more difficult appealing one’s listing on Canada’s Passenger Protection Program list (another example of the former government’s double-speak).

Officials of the current Canadian government have indicated that minors need not be treated as security risk suspects

Not quite as strange, but no less concerning is the seeming increase in travel bans on Muslims in the United Kingdom. In a recent case, a family group of 11 people was denied travel to visit Disneyland. On December 17, Ajmal Masroor was told that his business visa, on which he had travelled earlier, was revoked.

The frequency with which British Muslims have been refused travel to the USA may have increased after Donald Trump proposed a temporary ban on admission of Muslims. There is some thought that Mr. Trump’s proposal, though publicly rejected may be being quietly and unofficially implemented.

Authorities seldom provide reasons for travel bans.

The Muslim Council of Britain spoke to the distress caused to Muslims by last minute denial of boarding privileges.

The National Council for Canadian Muslims has also taken up the cause, following the experiences of Adam’s family.

The organization has requested the people who have been unfairly targeted or listed to fill out an incident report form. Seven adults are reported to have contacted the NCCM in 2015. The Council has requested an audience with Minister of Public Safety Ralph Goodale to discuss this and other issues.

Mr. Goodale has said that his department was examining possible changes to the Secure Air Travel Regulations, and that the Passenger Protection Program would be part of “broad public consultations on Canada’s overall security framework”.

It is unknown when the government might bring in proposals to change these laws.

## Death in Iraq

A United Nations report issued on January 19 says that civilian deaths have increased sharply in Iraq since Da’esh occupied large areas of the country in the summer of 2014.

Between the start of 2014 and October 31, 2015, at least 18,802 civilians have been killed, with another 36,245 wounded.

While the numbers are lower **that** those recorded during the previous war (34,000 civilians were killed in 2006), they are higher than in the years of relative stability (in 2011, the year with fewest civilian deaths, fewer than 2,800 were killed).

The UN report also documents human rights abuses, such as conscription of 3,500 people into slavery.

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## Current Eclectic

### Employment in Canada

Once again it sounds good, and once again it hides growing impoverishment of Canada's working people. It is the employment report for December, 2015, released on January 8, 2016.

The leading sentence is, "Employment edged up 23,000 (+0.1%) in December and the unemployment rate was 7.1%, unchanged from the previous month."

On previous occasions when we looked at this report, it would continue with information about changes in permanent employment, temporary employment and self-employment. This time, that specific information was not

clearly given. Instead the report spoke about annual results, and other results, often without giving the numbers.

A bit of additional hunting, however, produced the numbers. The reality is that in the month of December the economy lost 6400 full time job, and gained 29,200 part time jobs. Of these part time jobs, 29,000 went to workers 55 or more years old.

The number of employees fell by 17,500 in that month, while the number of self-employed rose by 40,300.

Business pages in the commercial media were mostly satisfied to report the addition of 22,800 jobs. See, for exam-

ple Lisa Write's article in the *Toronto Star* on January 9.

The report released on January 8 also reviewed the employment results for 2015, compared to 2014.

The report showed that the labour force grew by 268,300 in the year, but employment grew only by 158,100. The number of unemployed, therefore, rose by 110,200.

Only the older workers (55 and up) gained employment in 2015, with 220,000 more jobs of all kinds

Young workers, ages 15 to 24, suffered disastrous job losses down by 48,000 jobs of all kinds. Their official unemployment rate in December, 2015, was 13.0%, as many of the young people have given up looking for work. (This is called a lower participation rate, and represents the demoralization of young people, who see little hope for a positive future.)

### At the World Economic Forum

In January, the World Economic Forum met in Davos, Switzerland. Among the topics discussed was a report which predicted that there will be more plastic by weight than fish in the world's oceans by 2015.

In the past 50 years, the use of plastics has increased 20 fold, and it is expected to double in the next 20 years. About a third of all the plastic which is produced escapes collection

systems, ending up polluting the oceans, where it is ingested by birds or fish or causes the wildlife injury in some other way.

Plastic production uses 6% of oil consumption in the world, and is expected to reach 20% by 2050. This increase will be very significant in the growth of mankind's carbon footprint, and efforts to contain global warming.

Currently the damage

cause by plastics in water systems causes losses of USD 13 billion annually to tourism, shipping and fishing. It threatens the food security of people who depend on subsistence fishing.

More than 70% of the plastic which is produced ends up in landfill or is lost into waterways or other parts of the environment. More than half of sea turtles have it in their stomachs, as do almost all sea birds.

The report suggests ways that the growing problem of plastic waste can be brought under control.

Another report at the WEF is less disquieting. A study of 60 countries using 24 categories, conducted by the U.S. News and World Report, the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, and BAV Consulting, ranked Canada the world's second best country, behind Germany.

The United Kingdom was third, the USA was fourth, and Sweden was fifth.

Those who produced it think the study was worthwhile, but such studies are largely meaningless. Feature writer Jim Coyle, writing in the *Toronto Star* on January 21, wrote about it somewhat tongue-in-cheek. As a diversion, the report is worth a read.

### Possibly, Probably, Maybe

The UK Inquiry into the poisoning of Alexander Litvinenko in November, 2006, headed by Sir Robert Owen, has published its report. The Inquiry found that, "When Mr Lugovoy poisoned Mr Litvinenko (as I have found that he did), it is probable that

### Volatility Indeed!

On January 20, Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz announced that the bank rate would be kept steady at 0.5%. At the same time, he said that Canada's economic prospects had declined since October, and might not recover before the end of 2017.

Commodity prices, including oil had been declining since October, as had the Canadian dollar's value against the American dollar, which reached a 13-year low. On the day of the announcement, the Toronto Stock Exchange benchmark index dropped again, to almost 9% below its level at the start of the year, and oil prices fell by another 4%.

Markets in New York, Europe and Asia were also down.

On paper, at least, many millionaires were taking a bath.

The bright spot that day was that the Canadian dollar, down 16% over the previous 12 months, was up by a third of a cent, the first time this year its value had increased.

The Bank of Canada foresaw a decline in the growth rate of Canada's economy in 2016, base on an expectation that the economy had stalled

in the last quarter of 2015, and a further slowdown in 2017.

Mr. Poloz appeared to take heart from glimmers of positive economic news, such as a slight increase in some non-energy exports, and marginally higher rise in manufacturers' sales.

Many private-sector economists, like Doug Porter of the Bank of Montreal, think that Mr. Poloz is being too optimistic. They expect that a rate drop will be needed in a few months.

In his comments, Mr. Poloz noted that the federal government's budget could have an important impact on the rate of recovery.

As business reporter Sunny Freeman wrote in the *Toronto Star* on January 21, however, we appear to be in an era of volatility. Both the Canadian dollar and the price of oil rose that day, and the price of cauliflower in Canadian supermarkets dropped substantially on January 20.

At the same time, the week was marked by news of job cuts at the *Toronto Star*, in the Postmedia empire, Canadian Pacific Railway and in other sectors.

### Violation of Work Place Laws

An Ontario Ministry of Labour inspection blitz concentrating on precarious employment has found 78% of work places to be in violation of the Employment Standards Act. While the study was done in Ontario, there is no reason to think that employers in other provinces behave any better.

Nor is there any reason to imagine that the work places which were not inspected are any better, or that they voluntarily cleaned up their act.

During the blitz, 47 \$295 tickets were issued to employers with violations. In most instances, in other words, there was no penalty. Over the years, those breaking the law have cheated workers out of far more than that puny fine, which amounts to permission to continue

The results were reported in the *Toronto Star* on January 20 by work and wealth reporter Sara Mojtehdzadeh.

The *Toronto Star* has done several investigative-journalism studies in recent years, revealing some very troubling situations in such fields as health, public housing and others.

The Ministry of Labour inspected 304 locations around the province. Some 238 were found in violation of the law. Violations included shoddy record keeping, requiring employees to work excess hours, and failing to give overtime, public holiday and vacation pay.

When caught in the blitz, 96% of companies voluntarily rectified the problems. However, labour activists commented on the widespread rights violations in precarious work places, suggesting that such violations are becoming the norm.

In the Greater Toronto area and Hamilton, 52% of jobs are considered to be precarious employment

he did so under the direction of the FSB. I would add that I regard that as a strong probability.

"I have found that Mr Kovtun also took part in the poisoning; I conclude therefore that he was also acting under FSB direction, possibly indirectly through Mr Lugovoy but probably to his knowledge."

"9.215 Taking full account of all the evidence and analy-

sis available to me, I find that the FSB operation to kill Mr Litvinenko was probably approved by Mr Patrushev and also by President Putin."

As is evident, the report is careful in stating what is known and what is guessed. Others, including British politicians and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress National are less circumspect, treating the report as proof positive of their anti-Putin assertions.

### Celebration of Canada Cancelled

It was a grand idea, but organizers of the Canada 150 Give Back project have throw in the towel. Organizers of the project, including corporate and political leaders announced in January that Canada's poor economy made the project's vision unattainable.

The announcement was made by Maple Leaf Strategies representative Phil von Finckenstein. Maple Leaf Strategies thought up the idea some two years earlier.

The decision to cancel was reached when decisions had to be made about investing in infrastructure to support the growing campaign.

Mr. Von Fincklenstein recognized that the withdrawal of corporate Canada did not spell the end of Canada's celebration of its sesquicentennial in 2017. "Great, amazing Canadians and a lot of cool stuff that's underway" would carry on, and the federal government would probably put on a "pretty good program".

All we know is that the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians is laying plans for a celebration.

### Bank Prediction Confirmed

In the January, 2016, issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, in the front-page article on the record profit levels of Canada's largest banks, we stated, "The 'UCH' dares to predict that, in 2016, the banks will once again do better than the year before, and we'll all pay more to make it happen."

Within days of sending that issue of the paper to the print shop, we received notice from one of the banks with which we deal that several fees were being increased.

While we would love to claim that we are prescient, the sad fact is that no special power is needed to foresee this action by a bank on the heels of record profits. All that is required is a look at the historical record.

Without resorting to extrasensory perception or other superpower, we have no hesitation in predicting that banks which have not already done so will soon be announcing fee increases. We expect other profit-boosting measures as well.



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## Policing Gone Awry

**AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY**

A young man on a bus has allowed all the passengers to leave. Now he stands alone in the bus, knife in hand, facing a lone policeman who has a gun in hand. The young man seems indecisive, but he is not obeying the orders barked by the policeman.

The policeman fires three times, hitting vital organs and shattering the man's spine. Then he fires six more times, as he still fears for his life – at least, that is his story, and he's sticking to it.

At this writing, the jury is still out. Whatever their findings, however, there is something wrong with that all-too-common picture.

Why are so many people (mostly men) armed with a pen, or pair of scissors, or a hammer, shot to death by policemen, armed with guns, who fear for their lives?

Two possible sources of police violence come to mind in considering these lethal confrontations. One is that some policemen are truly afraid: afraid of people of colour, afraid of young people; afraid of people suffering mental illness; afraid of anyone who is different or not understood. The other is that, armed and in uniform, some policemen can not abide anything but immediate and total subservience, interpreting it as a dangerous challenge.

For an officer who has utterly disabled another person to fire six more times out of fear represents an irrationality more suited to horror movies in which the villain or the monster comes back to life in full vigour after a thorough thrashing, even dismemberment.

It is scandalous that other police officers give sworn testimony that can be nothing but fabrications to support their colleague who has killed someone.

There is reason to think that part of the problem is with the training police officers receive, which may over-stress staying safe without providing confidence-building tools. Part of the problem may be a them-against-us culture in policing which makes all civilians appear as potential threats and considers backing ones fellow officer the supreme virtue. Part of the problem may be racism. And part of the problem may be that some recruits just like to be part of the biggest, toughest motorcycle gang in town.

Experience in some other parts of the world (London, England comes to mind) shows that there are other possible and effective methods of policing, with better outcomes for everyone. In a society where Dirty Harry is a hero, where the "good guys" in television shows behave just like the "bad guys", and the world is full of zombies are less violent and more compassionate approaches to policing probable?

## COMMENTARY

### Musings on Chance

All the excitement generated by Powerball in early January, and the ultimate outcome, must inevitably awaken thoughts about chance.

Chance can have spectacular consequences, such as the slow evolution of life into the variety and complexity we see today; it can also have such spectacular consequences as a tsunami which devastates a region, with huge loss of life. Most often, of course, it will have much less spectacular, and even (perhaps most often) insignificant results.

There may be an objection from some quarter that one or the other, or perhaps both, of the extreme examples cited above are not cases of chance at all. Both evolution of species and tidal waves, after all, are governed by natural laws, and the difficulty in predicting them is with our lack of information. If we could gather enough information, we could make accurate predictions about either of the two events.

That raises the first thorny question: what is chance?

The answer that comes to mind immediately is that everyone knows what chance is, sort of, but nobody can define it. This vague sense of chance means that many people can give synonyms and almost-synonyms for chance: random, accidental, unforeseen, probability, luck, serendipity, and so on.

Dictionaries will give the synonyms, and often add examples. Synonyms, unfortunately, even accompanied by examples, may provide a sense of greater understanding, but they do not usually lead to more precise knowledge.

In many sciences, in philosophy, in mathematics, and in many other areas of human thought, there are formal definitions of chance. These definitions are formulated to serve the purposes of the particular field of endeavour.

Sometimes, they have been formulated to serve the pur-

poses of a particular practitioner, particularly in the early stages of such activities as philosophy. Practitioners of a particular activity will not object to a definition, as long as it is stated explicitly. They may, however, comment on its utility, and will certainly critique its application.

Statistics is a branch of mathematics devoted to the study of probability and its application in both the hard and soft sciences. Statistical methods are now used in almost every area of human activity.

In areas such as medicine, education or political polling for example, statistical models are constructed to establish the parameters for "expected" or "normal" results. These lead to statements like, "The result will be 9.8, plus or minus 0.7, 19 times out of 20." If the answer in a particular case happens to be 11 (or something else too far from 9.8), the next step may be to try to determine whether the reason is purely chance or the result of some significant influence.

In medicine, the significant influence could be the emergence of a more virulent strain of cold virus, in education it could be a change in teaching environment, and in political polling it could be silly utterance while campaigning. Because chance can produce the "unexpected" result, we can not know with any certainty whether to order more ASA, give a teacher merit pay, or call for a party leadership convention until we probe deeper to learn the real story.

The point about statistical models is that they are all about chance. Consequently, they tell you, but they do not tell you much, to borrow a phrase, without additional investigation.

Chance appears in the strangest places, like your car tire. Inside that tire are a very large number of molecules bouncing around, bumping into

each other and into the tire walls. Their bumping into the tire walls in great numbers and with a certain energy is what keeps the tire inflated.

With so many molecules whizzing around at random, the situation is pretty stable. There is, however, a very small (but not zero) chance that no molecules (or not enough molecules) will hit the tire wall or some part of it. No, do not worry about it – a chance that size is called negligible. That is the beauty of large numbers.

On the other hand, there are small numbers. Flip a coin and bet on the result: heads or tails. In the long run, it will be heads about half the time and tails about half the time. The longer the run the more probably it will be about half and half. However, many gamblers have lost heavily expecting half and half in the short run.

That is called bad luck, and it arises because any particular toss can go either way. With bad luck, you can end up betting heads when the toss will give a thousand tails in a row – yes, with an honest coin. Bet tails the next time and – oops, there's your heads. Bad luck.

So, back to Powerball. Everybody knows that someone will win it sooner or later. For a long time, nobody does win, and the jackpot goes to \$1.5 billion. Food money and mortgage money and money for the baby's new shoes are used to buy tickets. Millions of people dream about becoming the next billionaire.

And then, bad luck! All those times with no winners, and when somebody wins, it's not you. That's a definite downer.

If you're a winner, it is still bad luck! After all those times with no winner, suddenly there are three. Instead of a billionaire, you are only a multimillionaire, and that's a definite downer.

Nobody will get sympathy who complains about winning "only" multi-millions. However, the gap between the hope and the reality can leave a bitter taste. Just imagine.

Yes, chance sure can be a downer.

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# 125th Ukrainian Canadian Anniversary

The first Ukrainian wave of Ukrainian settlement in Canada started in 1891, 125 years ago. As part of the commemoration of this event, which we pinpoint as September 7, 1891, the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* will publish an 8-installment series of articles this year, discussing aspects of the Ukrainian Canadian experience. In this issue, we discuss the context into which the Ukrainian immigrants came, including the displacement and colonization of First Nations, well advanced, but far from completed by 1891. The article is by Glenn Michalchuk.

## Ukrainian immigration and the denial of First Nations

By the title our readers may be thinking – what does all this have to do with celebrating the arrival of the first wave of immigrants? After all, those first immigrants were leaving their country because of hardship and came here with little knowledge about the Canadian prairies. They laid the groundwork for a large, vibrant Ukrainian Canadian community which participated and contributed to the political, economic, social and cultural life of Canada. It gave rise to progressive organizations and in turn suffered persecution.

The commemoration of historical events can be just that – marking a point in time whether it is a day, a month or a year. However, a commemoration can also be much more. It can be an examination of circumstances, both then and now, and in doing so it can be important to shaping identity. Thus, a commemoration can be transformative, leading to new understanding and even rejuvenation.

The first wave of Ukrainian immigration (along with many other nationalities) was destined for the west, which was just being incorporated into the new nation of

Canada. Immigration was the tool by which the west was settled and populated, bringing new territories under the control of the Canadian state established in 1867.

There are two things to look at when considering the period of the first wave of Ukrainian immigrants. The first, as was done in the first article of this series, is to take into account the social and economic conditions in Ukraine and Canada which drove and facilitated the movement of Ukrainians from their native homeland to their new country, Canada. The second, is to take into account what has been an unresolved part of Canadian history – the oppression by the Canadian state of First Nations.

It is this important point which is to be discussed in this article.

A commemoration of Ukrainian immigration to Canada would not be complete, nor do justice to history (and the present), if it did not acknowledge the role immigration played in the formation of the modern Canadian state – a state formed on the basis of excluding the aboriginal peoples and their Nations. By excluding First Nations, the stage was set for the massive abuse and degradation which followed and their being shut out of the power structures

governing Canada.

Lindy Ledohowski, in an essay titled “The Aboriginal Ukrainian” (published in *Re-Imagining Ukrainian Canadians/History, Politics, Identity*, edited by Rhonda L. Hinthorpe and Jim Mochoruk), observes the following about modern Ukrainian Canadian prairie writers:

“Suknaski’s poetry acknowledges this strange double bind facing the Ukrainian Canadian of the Prairies. His 1976 collection *Wood Mountain Poems* is both profoundly regional in its focus and profoundly concerned with issues of multiculturalism, not the least of which being how to honour one’s own ethnic heritage while recognizing the role one’s forebears played in displacing and marginalizing Canada’s First Nations under a colonial power structure.” (Page 90.)

While it is an observation about Ukrainian Canadian literature, it also speaks to the broader nature of Ukraine Canadian identity as influenced by this history.

## Grist for the Mill

Following Confederation in 1867, the newly minted Canadian state was part of the British Empire’s project for growth. Canada, as a new country within the British Empire, fit the bill with industries from farming to forestry to manufacturing. The lands to the west of the new Confederation were now sought after as part of this growth.

The First Nations of the Prairies and the immigrants were to be grist for its mill.

The forces at work in the displacement and marginalization of First Nations were also responsible for searching out the immigrants from Europe to occupy the land. It was to be a nation-building project not of equals but on colonial terms. Canada had gained nationhood in 1867, but the power structures of its colonial past continued. The power structure that led to Confederation emerged out of British and French colonialism.

In his political analysis of early Canadian history, *Unequal Union*, Stanley Ryerson quotes the following from an article by Alfred Dubuc:

“The Canadian state was to be a bourgeois and capitalist state; through their lobbies the great financial institutions and the great industrial enterprises

would dominate the political parties as much as the various ministries.... Confederation, in the form it took, was made possible through the domination of the financial and commercial upper middle class over the lower middle class.

“The privileged sector was to be that of the railroads. It was precisely the interests of the groups associated with the railroads which inspired Confederation.”

The first among the privileged sector was to be the Canadian Pacific Railway. It was to be the main instrument for the physical expansion westward of the Canadian state. The CPR became the largest land and settlement agency. It was privately owned, and it was given power, authority, funding and enormous land grants in the west by Parliament.

The unequal union that was eastern Canada was now poised to move west. In its path stood the Red River settlement and the First Nations of the prairies.

## The First Wave of Ukrainian Settlement

The first Ukrainian immigrants made their way to the Prairies by 1891. By that time the plains had been pacified and a region dominated by First Nations was a thing of the past.

At the beginning of the 1870s, First Nations still presented a sufficiently powerful military force to threaten colonial expansion. First Nations in the western interior numbered between 25,000 and 35,000 and there were another 10,000 Métis. Meanwhile, there were fewer than 2,000 Europeans and Canadians.

The pace of change was to be swift and all encompassing. The Red River Settlement had been accepted into Confederation in 1870, when the province of Manitoba was

created. The North-West Mounted Police was formed in 1873, and began to exert Federal control on the prairies.

Beginning in 1871, a series of treaties completed the negotiations between First Nations of the plains and the Federal Government. By September, 1877, Treaty Number 7, the final treaty with First Nations on the plains, was in place.

The Indian Act was proclaimed in 1876, and gave the Federal Government control over every aspect of aboriginal life – economic, political, cultural and religious. The final act was the defeat of the Northwest Rebellion in 1885, which saw the use of the recently completed CPR to transport troops to the battlefield.

These events set the course for First Nations until the most recent period. By the 1880s the Canadian state had ensured that First Nations would have no place as equal partners as Canada moved forward.

Into these lands would now be needed the reserves of immigrants. The first wave of Ukrainians left regions that were just beginning the process of forming the Ukraine nation out of the old empires of Europe.

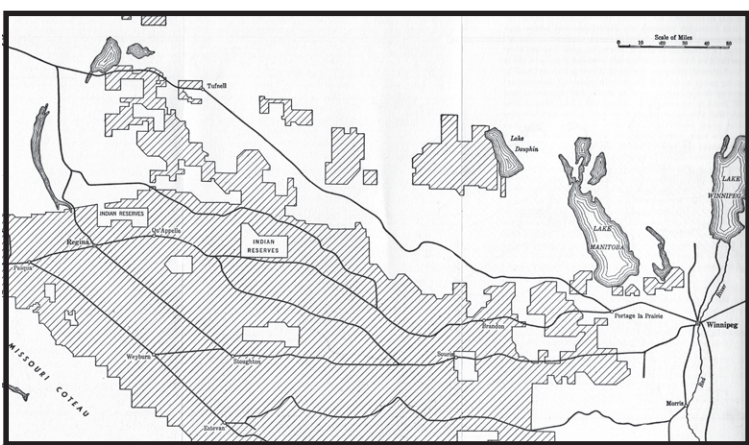
It is an irony of history that, as the conditions were developing to create the modern nation of Ukraine, the first wave of Ukrainian immigrants were coming to the lands of the now displaced First Nations.

## The Colonization Project

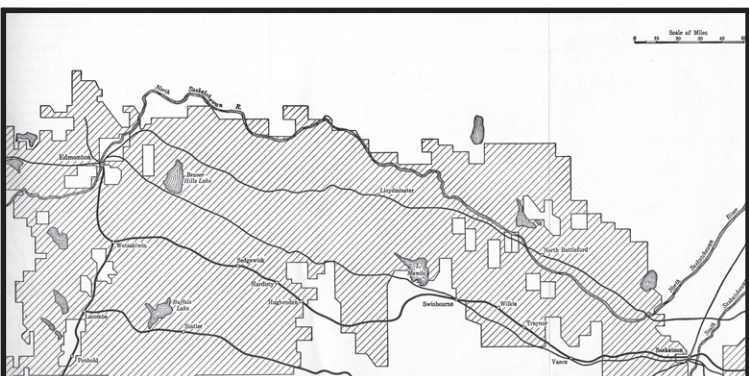
With the First Nations forced on to reserves, the colonization of their traditional lands in the west began in earnest. Railways were to facilitate this through the privilege given to them to purchase land for every mile of track laid.

Even before the completion of the CPR, the Federal government was establishing colonization railways. The first such colonization railway was the Manitoba Southwestern Colonization Railway which was chartered in 1879. It was authorized to construct a line from Winnipeg southwesterly to a point near the western boundary of Manitoba. It

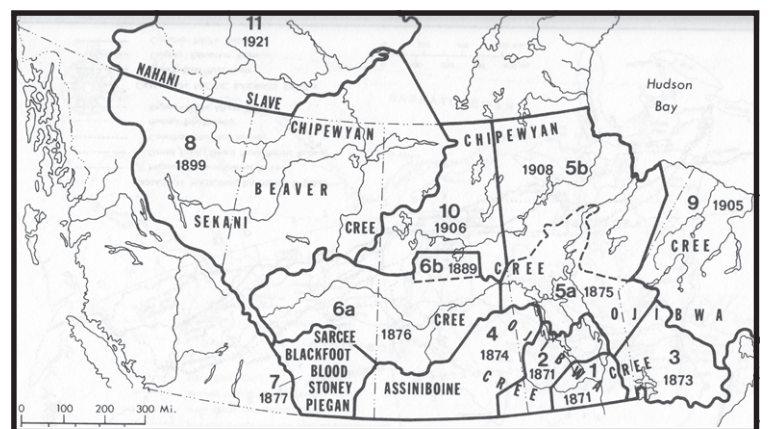
(Continued on Page 12.)



Canadian Pacific lands in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Within the shaded areas the railway owned the odd numbered sections. (*Building the Canadian West*, James B. Hedges)



Canadian Pacific lands in western Saskatchewan and Northern Alberta. Within the shaded areas the railway owned the odd numbered sections or 19 million acres. It contained some of the best agricultural land in Canada. (*Building the Canadian West*, James B. Hedges)



The numbered treaties of western Canada (*The Canadian Prairies/A History*, Gerald Friesen)



# Christmas Recital by AUUC Vancouver School

## Introduction

Dance recitals take dedication and planning – and a level of enthusiasm and collaboration that continues to inspire me as I work with instructors, dancers and parents, and all those who offer technical support during concerts. I am eager to offer you, the reader, differing perspectives on our recent Christmas Recital. I hope you enjoy it!

– Laurel Lawry

*Laurel Lawry is Artistic Director of AUUC Vancouver School of Dance.*

— Story photos: Dan Fung



The Vancouver AUUC School of Dance held its Christmas Recital for 2015 at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre on the afternoon of Sunday, December 13.

## It was rewarding....

Behind the scenes of the AUUC School of Dance's 2015 Winter recital, long before the concert itself began, preparations were in full swing. The excitement was

palpable from performers and parents alike as they rushed to make sure that no final touches were forgotten – belts were pinned on, hair was put back, and dances were run to make sure no one forgot the steps. As me as a teacher, it was wonderful to see the concentration and excitement

on the face of each and every child, even the preschool class – a sign that they were all dedicated to making this the best performance possible.

Once all the dancers had made it to the wings and the concert had begun, the backstage area became a flurry of movement. Costumes were changed, performers moved on and off the stage, and students tried to catch a glimpse of the performances they had never seen before.

Some of the show's highlights included the Zaychyky's mushroom dance, in which many children performed for the very first time; multiple song performances from students in addition to their dances; and a finale in which all the students got together and sang "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".

After the concert, the guests moved downstairs to eat and sing Christmas carols, and the children were visited by Dyid Moroz (Grandfather Frost).

At the end of the night, the dancers left with full stomachs, new toys, and a sense of pride at what they had accomplished throughout the day. It was rewarding to know that the kids had had fun, that they had ended the day with a love of performing and of Ukrainian dance, and that they were excited to return to class in the new year.

— Tatyana Beck  
(Tatyana Beck is a Dovbush Dancer and a dance teacher.)

## The applause is deafening....

Though there is no snow on  
(Continued on Page 7.)



The Veselka Dancers performed a broom dance, sweeping their way into the hearts of the audience.



The Druzhba Dancers performed the tambourine dance, a very popular part of their repertoire.



The Zirka Dancers performed a "Kozachok", a lively and very popular dance.



Preschool dancers Zaychyky performed "Pidpenky Tanok". As usual, the youngest ones stole the show.



The Bilka Dancers were a hit with their girls' polka.



The Druzhba Dancers performed Dzhyhunets. Particularly in recent years, the quality of performance in the dance school has been very high.



Beverly Dobrinsky of the Barvinok Choir led the youngsters in song.



Contemporary dancers performed "Sculpturesque".



# Edmonton Seniors Mark Christmas

## A SHEAF OF WHEAT BINDS ALL

Edmonton birthday celebrants – Eva Doskoch, Victor Horon, Rose Keryliuk and William Uhryn – were the honourees for the month of January.

A good party was had by all except our dear Victor Horon, who was unable to attend due to his mighty negative flu shot reaction and complications, a severe case of shingles, and the death from an aneurysm on January 17 of his brother Peter Horon.

As the guests arrived they were greeted with tapes of

traditional Ukrainian Christmas music and camaraderie!

In keeping with the pagan Ukrainian Christmas, the evil spirits were invited by Shirley Uhryn to join the assembly or forever leave those in attendance with peace and goodness in the New Year! None came!

Anne Husar, with her daughter Cherry Capowski, brought in the sheaf of wheat bound by a *rushnyk* (an embroidered Ukrainian runner), which they carefully placed on the table of honour.

On the tips of each of the heads of wheat were the spirits of our ancestors. A moment of silence ensued when people bowed their heads in remembrance and praise of our ancestors.

William Uhryn, with his daughter Tamara Cochrane, reflected on what it means to age like the coming of a day, its sunrise and later its sunset.

Keeping the tradition, with a handful of wheat from the farm days in Volyn, Alberta, William Uhryn, in Ukrainian, as an eighty-five-year-old elder, asked for goodness and bounty for all in attendance: a

cow with twins, a horse and her colt, a large family of rabbits, and a stork to fly over all the young in the gathering to bring them twins.

Paul Greene translated this greeting into English to the delight of the audience, especially the stork's blessings!

The meal to serve the audience of more than fifty people consisted of several traditional dishes donated by many of those in attendance: ritual wheat *kutya* (with honey, poppy seed, walnuts and apple) started our meal.

Appetizers included pickled herring and pickled beets.

Entrees were juicy roasted Pacific coast salmon with lemon wedges; *perohy* of sauerkraut, onion and bacon bits, and cottage cheese; *nalysnyky* in cream and dill sauce; *nachinka*; then meat balls in gravy and home made *pelmeni* (*perohy* with a variety of meats for the filling); as well as pans of sour-leaved cabbage rolls in tomato sauce. Pans of *studenetz* also were featured on the banquet table.

For dessert there was compote of stewed fruits as well as a large variety of dessert sweet breads, a tray of assorted fresh fruits, and boxes of dark chocolates.

Our meal featured a variety of hearty breads made from wheat. There is no longer anyone among us who is able to make the kolach for this meal, let alone have it blessed by the local priest the night before. However, our meal featured slices highlighting a wide variety of nutritious bread from wheat and flax and nuts.

William and his son served wine and vodka to salute the birthday celebrants and their meal.

After the meal, Mike Uhryn with his trusty accordion, along with his brother William and his sons, provided music from Latin America, Ukraine and England.

The tables were decorated with place mats which contained a writing by Lucy Antoniwi, "Rites of Tradition: Wheat".

— Shirley Uhryn

## PETER HORON

Peter Horon passed away on January 17, surrounded by his loving family.

Peter was born on September 16, 1940, in the farming district of New Kiew, north of Lavoy AB, to Tom and Anne Horon. He grew up on the family farm and attended the Krasne district school. Peter went on to graduate from Two Hills High School.

Having completed a Uni-

versity Education degree, Peter was a teacher for 36 years, beginning in Innisfree and then in Edmonton, where he made his home with his family. After retiring from teaching, he continued with full-time hobby farming there until his passing.

In Edmonton, he was an active member of many organizations, most importantly the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians; he was the current Branch President. He participated for many years in the Trembita Ukrain-

ian Choir.

He was also President of the Alberta Ukrainian Heritage Foundation.

Peter served a term on the AUUC National Committee.

He is survived by his loving wife Elsie, two daughters Sheryl (Ken) and Leanne (Chris, Tristan), four sisters Olga, Lillie, Vera (Roy), Veronica (David), and one brother Victor (Olga). Our condolences go to the family.

A full obituary will appear in the next issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*.

## Christmas Recital

(Continued from Page 6.)

the ground despite it being December, it is still cold. However, this does not deter the people who have business in the Ukrainian Hall. Up the stairs and through the doors, give up your ticket and take up your seat.

It is warm in the Hall, and filled with a quiet sort of loudness found in places where many people gather in anticipation. All the chairs in the Hall face the stage, which is hidden behind great red curtains.

After some time and once most of the seats are filled, music finally arrives, swelling and smothering the chatter; the concert has begun.

Through the doors they come, small and nervous beside their tall and proud teach-

ers, dressed in bright costumes. The audience twists in their seats to watch as they march down the aisle, the smallest performers in front, followed by the older and taller performers.

Once they have all filed by, a hush takes over and the MC for the night steps out from the wings of the stage. With paper and microphone in hand he goes about welcoming everyone to the Hall, and thanking those that had helped prepare everything needed to pull off the performance.

Once the MC finishes speaking the curtains open, music starts once again, and out come the first performers, the youngest, along with their teachers to guide them through the steps. The audience chuckles and laughs and

reaches for their cameras as that night's tiniest performers dance about the stage, setting the mood for the rest of the concert.

As the night goes on the performers grow in age, doing more complicated and difficult dances, each one practised all year long. Some dancers dance contemporary instead of folk, and some performers aren't there to dance, but to play their instruments and sing.

Each break is full of excited chatter at all they have seen and all that they hoped to see later in the evening.

Now the eldest dancers perform, awing the audience with their smiles and skilful movements.

Eventually the curtains close and open one last time, to reveal the full cast of performers, all proud and beaming, who take their final bow of the night and run off to the wings.

The applause is deafening, but is soon drowned out by the cacophony of voices that rise from the audience with delight and wonder at the concert's entertainment.

And so the people who were once an audience get up to leave, but not to brave the frigid air outdoors – not yet – but to go down into the Hall for the feast that will truly mark the end of the festivities.

— Cohen Parasiuk  
(Cohen Parasiuk is a *Dovbush Dancer and School of Dance alumnus.*)



Loving teachers who are dedicated to passing their knowledge on to the next generation, so to speak, are the heart of the dance program.

## Rites of Tradition: Wheat

“Centuries of peasant lives  
in countless villages  
on the fertile plains  
in Eastern Europe  
depended on good harvests of one staple grain—  
wheat  
sown and tended, harvested on small plots of land  
allowed to each family  
by the landlord  
other grains were planted  
in the limited spaces  
rye, oats, barley, flax  
these were also necessary  
rye for hearty dark daily bread,  
flax for oil, fibres for cloth,  
oats and barley to feed the few animals

but wheat  
milled into white flour  
was precious  
coveted for special occasions  
white, light dough  
shaped and woven into intricate shapes—

The round kolach with glowing centre candle for Christmas Eve...

Easter Sunday morning  
the family shares a paska,  
a light airy egg dough  
round bread decorated with a symbolic cross  
often having been blessed at midnight service,  
a Greek Orthodox rite

the most elaborate round bread,  
dove and greenery decorated  
the traditional wedding centrepiece  
the korovai  
all good wishes for the new couple  
all good wishes kneaded into the very rich dough  
shaped pairs of doves on the glazed crusty tops  
amid sprigs of myrtle and periwinkle  
for love and prosperity and fertility—  
in fields and family

the early pioneers of Canadian prairies  
brought with them these traditions...  
symbols of past generations...

— Lucy Antoniwi, 2013  
Edmonton, Alberta



# Global Wealth Report

The top 1% of wealth holders now own half of all household wealth. We are repeatedly reminded of this truth. What does this abstraction mean?

Think of 100 people and 100 oranges. Give one person (the top 1%) 50 oranges; let the other 99 people share 50 oranges. That is what the abstraction means.

However, life is not that kind. As we shall learn, the poorest 10 people have to share less than a half an orange.

As human beings, particularly in parts of the world saturated by information media, we are constantly bombarded by reports about economic activity, be it local regional or global. Much of the information seems disconnected and even contradictory; making sense of it is not always easy, so tools which help us organize this knowledge are very welcome.

One such tool is provided by Credit Suisse, which issued the 6th edition of its *Global Wealth Report* in October, 2015, offering a comprehensive portrait of global wealth, covering all regions and countries, and all parts of the wealth spectrum.

The wealth estimates in the report are based on the end of June, 2015. "This year" means 2015. In the intervening time to the present, some changes will have occurred, but the information is substantially valid.

In reading the report, some of which is presented here, one becomes aware of the extent to which averages can hide significant aspects of reality. At one point, the report speaks of the median as representing the average. Of course, the median is a sort of average, as is the mean, as are several other possible measures. It is important to know what sort of average each term is, if one wants to understand the information.

The mean is what most people usually call the average (find the total and divide by the number of cases). The median is the value right in the middle, with half the values higher, and half the values lower.

What difference does that make?

Consider three people who sleep eight hours a day. The average (mean) amount they sleep is 8 hours. This is calculated as  $(8+8+8)/3$ . The median is also 8. This is calculated by lining up the numbers (8,8,8), and the middle one is 8. Each one gets a reasonable amount of sleep.

Consider three other people, one of whom sleeps 14 hours, one sleeps 8 hours, and one sleeps 2 hours daily. The average is still 8, as calculated

by  $(14+8+2)/3$ , and the median is still 8, because the number right in the middle is 8. However, now one is sleeping his life away, one may be leading a healthy life, and one is about to collapse from exhaustion.

Many other variations are possible, which must be remembered when reading statistics, especially economic reports.

In its introduction, the *Global Wealth Report* notes that today wealth is still predominantly concentrated in Europe and the United States. However, the growth of wealth in emerging markets has been most impressive, including a five-fold rise in China since the beginning of the century.

That financial assets accounted for most of the wealth growth in China highlights the relevance of financial markets in the creation of wealth, but also points to short-term vulnerabilities of wealth to financial shocks.

In China, at the very top of the pyramid, there are now over 120,000 UHNWIs (ultra-high net worth individuals), each worth more than USD 50 million. This is 8% of all UHNWIs in the world.

While the distribution of wealth is skewed towards the wealthy, the considerable economic importance of the base and middle sections should not be overlooked. Together, these sections account for USD 39 trillion in wealth, driving a significant part of demand for a wide range of consumer goods and financial services.

Middle-class wealth globally has grown at a slower pace than wealth at the top end. This has reversed the pre-crisis (that is, before the crisis of 2008) trend, which saw the share of middle-class wealth remaining fairly stable over time. Wealth inequality has widened in most countries in the years after the 2008 crisis.

Still, the middle class is expected to continue to expand in emerging economies overall, with a lion's share of that growth to occur in Asia.

(Up to this point, and for many more pages, the *Global Wealth Report* does not define "middle class".)

For the year to mid-2015, the United States again led the world with a substantial rise in household wealth of USD 4.6 trillion. This continues a remarkable streak since the financial crisis, which has seen seven successive years of wealth gains and new record levels of household net worth for the past three years.

China also posted a large annual rise of USD 1.5 trillion. Elsewhere, the underlying wealth trends have been generally positive, but the gains

valued in domestic currencies have been more than offset by adverse exchange rate movements against the US dollar. As a consequence, total global wealth, which would have risen by USD 13 trillion between mid-2014 and mid-2015 if valued at constant exchange rates, fell instead by USD 12.4 trillion.

What does that mean?

Most currencies have lost value compared to the American dollar and the Chinese yuan. Taking Canada as an example, the value of every thing in Canada is lower just because our dollar is worth less compared to the US dollar. Thus our multi-billionaires (unless they hold their wealth in American dollars) are poorer, compared to American and Chinese multi-billionaires just because their Canadian dollars are worth less.

At USD 250.1 trillion, total global household wealth just kept ahead of the USD 250 trillion threshold which was passed for the first time in 2013. However, wealth per adult fell by 6.2% to USD 52,400 and is now below the level of two years ago. What this means is that the population grew, but the amount of wealth did grow to the same extent. Remember that these are averages: most people in the world do not have USD 52,400.

## The regional distribution of wealth

North America and Europe together account for 67% of total household wealth but contain only 18% of the adult population. The shares of global wealth in the two regions have been quite similar recently, with Europe's greater population compensating for much higher average wealth in North America. This is no longer the case: the divergence in growth performance this year has propelled North America further ahead with a current share of 37% compared to 30% for Europe.

To understand this, go back to oranges. Of every 100 adult people in the world, only 18 live in North America and Europe, but they get 67 out of every 100 oranges in the world. The other 82 people only get 33 oranges.

Though Europe has more of the 18 people, North America gets more of the 37 oranges.

In each of the other regions, the share of wealth fails to match the population share. The deficiency is modest in the Asia-Pacific region (excluding China and India), where 24% of global adults account for 18% of global wealth; but elsewhere, the disparity between population and wealth is increasingly apparent. Despite enormous

gains this century, China accounts for 21% of the adult population of the world, yet only 9% of global wealth (21 people get only 9 oranges). The ratio is similar for Latin America: 8% to 3%.

However, for Africa and India, the population share exceeds the wealth share by a factor of more than ten (perhaps 11 people share one orange).

## Winners and losers among countries

The United States again tops the list of countries with wealth rises, with an increase of USD 4.6 trillion. This is well below the USD 9 trillion gained the year before, but still substantial in the global context.

Wealth also increased in China by a significant USD 1.5 trillion and in the United Kingdom by a more modest USD 360 billion.

However, no other country gained more than USD 100 billion. In contrast, wealth fell by USD 100 billion or more in 27 countries and in excess of USD 500 billion in nine countries.

Some of these – most notably France, Germany, Italy and Spain – were Eurozone countries which exchange rate fluctuations had favoured a year ago.

Australia and Canada also shed more than USD 1.5 trillion between them and wealth fell substantially again in Japan, this time by USD 3.5 trillion.

The larger, richer countries are better placed to absorb these losses, especially when they reflect exchange rate movements which impinge little on daily life. Expressing the wealth changes in percentage terms focuses attention on smaller countries, for which the gains and losses may have greater significance.

The large absolute gain in the United States translates into a relatively modest rise of 6%, a little more than Saudi Arabia (which is pegged to the US dollar) but less than China, which registered a rise of 7%.

Hong Kong SAR topped the list by a small margin with an increase of 8%, reflecting solid rises in equity values and house prices combined with a dollar peg.

Significant percentage losses were common this year. Greece had adverse equity and house price movements, combined with a depreciating euro. However, the resultant 17% drop in household wealth was in the midst of many other Eurozone countries: Austria, Finland, France, Italy and Portugal, and better than Norway, Turkey and Brazil, none of whose economic setbacks received the same attention as

those of Greece.

Russia and Ukraine fared significantly worse than any other country, shedding around 40% of net worth, mainly due to adverse exchange rate movements.

## Wealth per adult across countries

The report's discussion of wealth per adult presents a very interesting lesson in the way that income disparity can lead to misleading views of wealth. For example, the United States is in fourth place in the world in average income per adult, behind Switzerland, New Zealand and Australia. In terms of median income, the income right in the middle, the US ranks below ten other countries, and is on a par with Spain and Denmark, but ahead of Germany.

That reflects a relatively high income disparity in the United States.

Considering individual wealth and wealth inequality, the report says that, once debts have been subtracted, a person needed only USD 3,210 to be among the wealthiest half of world citizens in mid-2015. However, USD 68,800 is required to be a member of the top 10% of global wealth holders, and USD 759,900 to belong to the top 1%.

The bottom half of adults collectively own less than 1% of total wealth, which means that the poorest 50 of every 100 adults have less than one of our 100 oranges to share.

The ten richest people of every hundred have 87.7 (or almost 88) oranges. As the richest one has 50, the other nine share almost 38, which is only a bit more than 4 each. We can see how quickly the share available to each person drops as we go down the poverty scale.

The shares of the top 1% and top 10% in world wealth fell during 2000–2007, that of the top percentile from 48.9% to 44.8%, for example. However, the trend has reversed since 2008 and the additional rise this year takes the share of the top percentile to a level not observed since 2000 and possibly not seen for almost a century.

The richest person **may richer** than ever, but the nine below the richest one have not fully recovered from their 2001–2007 losses. Cry for them: they peaked in 2000.

## India and China

The report draws a contrast between India and China. Relatively few adults in China are found in the bottom half of the global wealth distribu-

(Continued on Page 10.)



## Ukrainian Miscellany

### Recruitment Problems

The *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* has in the past noted the difficulties the government in Kyiv was having in its efforts to conscript recruits into its armed forces. However, the situation described below exceeds our wildest imagination.

According to the [web site](#) Timer-Odessa.net, reporting on December 29, 2015, during the autumn of 2015, the army recruitment office for the Reni district of Odessa Region found only one inductee.

This information was attributed to Sergey Lazarev, the department head for military enlistment in the area.

“According to the conscription plan for the Ukrainian military, the Reni district should have contributed ten conscripts suitable for enlistment into military service. However, there was only one inductee. That is, the plan was met by ten per cent only,” Mr. Lazarev reported.

“When contacting candidates or their relatives, re-

cruiters find that people are not at home or they do not open their door,” said Mr. Lazarev. “Due to the difficult financial situation, many citizens of military age have gone to work outside the region and even the country.”

The official added that his military enlistment office had asked police to assist in the search for 414 citizens called up for military service, but not one has been found and delivered to the military commissariat.

The problem is being discussed at the board of the district administration in Reni.

“People on military service are unable to work or study,” noted the head of the district, Sergei Belyuk.

The spring, 2016, military call-up is projecting 195 young residents from Reni district.

### Why Not Renew Your Sub Now?

### Ukraine Defaults on Loan

In 2013, when Viktor Yanukovich was president of Ukraine, Ukraine issued a bond to borrow \$3 billion from Russia. After President Yanukovich was deposed, Ukraine went into an economic downturn, and found itself unable to repay the loan, as well as others, taken from private lenders.

After reaching an agreement with the private lenders, Ukraine refused point-blank to negotiate with Russia about its loan. Instead, it made Russia a take it or leave it offer, demanding that Russia accept repayment on the same terms as Ukraine’s commercial lenders.

In December, the government in Kyiv announced a moratorium on repayment of the \$3 billion debt held by the government of Russia.

On December 31, Ukraine failed to repay the loan. The Ministry of Finance of Russia announced that it would soon file a suit against Ukraine in the Court of International Arbitration in London.

The Court of International Arbitration is a tribunal established in the 19th century to deal with international commercial disputes. Its procedures are generally faster and simpler, but its laws are the same as those of the British High Court and its decisions are readily converted into High Court judgements.

Writing in *Russia Insider* on January 7, Alexander Mercouris noted that Russia might find it easy to get a judgement in its favour, but harder to enforce the judgement.

Mr. Mercouris notes that the IMF decision to continue

lending money to Ukraine in spite of the default on the debt to Russia, a Paris Club member, is a major departure from normal procedure, and could have serious repercussions for the IMF.

“... barring Western courts from enforcing debts that take the form of government bonds – like the \$3 billion Ukrainian Eurobond – simply because China or Russia are the bondholders, would be a radically new departure and a very extreme step,” Mr. Mercouris writes.

“Given that government bonds have been around since the seventeenth century (some say the sixteenth century) that would be a fundamental change in the law, with huge implications, striking at the very root of modern international commercial and banking law. It would in fact be at one and the same time a legalised form of mass default and a declaration of economic war against two of the world’s most powerful economies.”

Therefore, it is probable that the IMF will pressure Ukraine to reach an agreement with Russia. It is also probable that the IMF will enforce any judgement Russia wins, and may even threaten to withhold further loans to Ukraine if Ukraine refuses to settle.

On January 1, *Deutsche Welle* at DW.com reported that Russia has not ruled out negotiations on terms of repayment. Russia’s membership in the Paris Club provides a framework for such negotiations, which could proceed simultaneously with the court action.

### Farmers’ Protests

The changes in law reduced the portion of the VAT transferred to farmers, and it almost doubled the tax on arable land, pastures, hayfields, perennials and water used in irrigation.

According to protesters, the new arrangement deprives small and medium farmers and their associations and cooperatives of the possibility of prompt and full receipt of VAT refunds on exports of products other than grain and industrial crops. It also preserves opportunities for extortion and corruption in the registry.

“Today, Ukrainian farmers are almost devoid of any mechanisms of state support,” a spokesman for the Ukrainian Agrarian Board is reported to have said. “This law will bankrupt many farms. The agricultural industry employs millions of people and exports of agricultural products provide 30 per cent of foreign exchange earnings to the country. Destruction of farmers means not only the loss of jobs and export earnings but also it will destroy the Ukrainian village....”

Protest organizers apologized to all Ukrainian drivers for the inconvenience during protests. It said blocking the traffic on roads in Ukraine is a desperate step because all other attempts at dialogue with the government ended in nothing.

To permit them to take alternate routes, drivers were informed where the road block would be.

### Record Inflation

On January 6, *Ukraine Today* carried a report on the rate of inflation in Ukraine. Drawing on new figures from the state statistics office, the publication reported that inflation in Ukraine reached a 20-year high of 43.3% in 2015, representing an increase of nearly 20% on the figure of 24.9% in 2014.

Items which saw the biggest jumps include gas (which rose in price 400%), hot water and heating (whose prices increased by nearly 80%), and vegetables (which were almost 70% more expensive in 2015 than they were in 2014).

In annual terms, no item decreased in price between 2014 and 2015.

Ukraine’s state statistics service says the figures do not include the Crimean peninsula nor those parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of eastern Ukraine which are occupied by Russian-backed anti-government militants.

### Most Corrupt in Europe

According to an article by Mikhail Molchanov in *Russia Direct* on January 7, corruption in Ukraine has actually worsened since the departure of the notoriously corrupt President Viktor Yanukovich, who was ousted as a result of the Euromaidan revolution.

That information should not come as a surprise to anyone. What is interesting in his article is the evidence presented by Dr. Molchanov, professor and former chair of the Department of Political Science at St. Thomas University in Canada.

He reports that Transparency International ranked Ukraine 134 out of 178 coun-

tries in Viktor Yanukovich’s first year as president, 2010, 20 positions higher than Russia in its Corruption Perception indices. However, in Petro Poroshenko’s first year in office, 2014, Ukraine ranked 142, which was on a par with Uganda, 6 positions lower than Russia and 23 positions lower than Belarus.

According to Transparency International, Ukraine is now the most corrupt country in Europe. The European Union demands that Kiev intensify its fight against corruption and institute a special anti-corruption prosecution bureau before the coveted visa-free regime with Europe is implemented.

support of the international community you have to do more, as well. The big part of moving forward with your IMF program — it requires difficult reforms. And they are difficult.

“Let me say parenthetically here, all the experts from our State Department and all the think tanks, and they come and tell you, that you know what you should do is you should deal with pensions. You should deal with — as if it’s easy to do. Hell, we’re having trouble in America dealing with it. We’re having trouble. To vote to raise the pension age is to write your political obituary in many places.

“Don’t misunderstand that those of us who serve in other democratic institutions don’t understand how hard the conditions are, how difficult it is to cast some of the votes to meet the obligations committed to under the IMF. It requires sacrifices that might not be politically expedient or popular. But they’re critical to putting Ukraine on the path to a future that is economically secure. And I urge you to stay the course as hard as it is.

“Ukraine needs a budget that’s consistent with your IMF commitments.”

### VP Biden Sells Austerity

Writing in *Consortium News* on January 6, 2016, Robert Parry noted that Ukraine’s Gross Domestic Product (a measure of the economy) has fallen in every quarter since the February 22, 2014, putsch that deposed elected President Viktor Yanukovich. Since then, the average Ukrainian also has faced economic “reforms”, austerity measures to slash pensions, energy subsidies and other social programs, as demanded by the International Monetary Fund.

He noted that the hard lives of most Ukrainians have gotten significantly harder, while the elites continue to skim off whatever cream is left, including access to billions of dollars in the West’s foreign assistance that is keeping the economy afloat.

In the article which referred to a visit to Ukraine by US Vice-President Joe Biden, Mr. Parry reported that Mr. Biden delivered an appeal for Ukraine’s parliament to continue implementing IMF reforms, including demands that old people work longer into their old age.

As reported, Mr. Biden said:

“For Ukraine to continue to make progress and to keep the



# Global Wealth Report

(Continued from Page 8.) tion, meaning that few Chinese people are among the poorest in the world.

However, Chinese people dominate the upper-middle section, accounting for 43% of worldwide membership of deciles 6–8 (the upper middle class of wealth holders). That represents a growth of average wealth, combined with a growing, but still relatively low, wealth inequality.

China now has more people in the top 10% of global wealth holders than any other country except for the United States and Japan. It has more people in the top 10% than France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom.

In contrast, residents of India are heavily among the poorest, accounting for over a quarter of people in the bottom half of the distribution. However, wealth inequality is very high, so India has a significant number of members in the top wealth echelons.

Residents of high-income Asian countries, such as Hong Kong SAR, Japan and Singapore, are heavily concentrated at the top end: half of all adults in high-income Asian countries are in the top global wealth decile (which means that half of the adults in those countries are among the richest people in the world).

In contrast, inhabitants of lower-income countries in Asia, such as Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam, tend to be found lower down in the wealth distribution. In fact, when high-income countries are excluded from the Asia-Pacific group, the wealth pattern within the remaining countries resembles that of India.

These poorer Asian countries and India, together, account for half of the world's poorest people.

Africa is even more concentrated in the bottom end of the wealth spectrum: more than 40% of African adults belong to the two lowest global wealth deciles. At the same time, wealth inequality is so high in Africa that some individuals are found among the top global wealth decile, and even among the top percentile.

North America and Europe also contribute many members to the bottom wealth decile, a reflection of the greater ease with which individuals – especially younger individuals – can acquire debt in these regions.

## Summary

In a sort of summary section, the report concludes: The United States again led the world in wealth advancement, aided by China which added USD 1.8 trillion to the stock

of global financial assets.

The top ten countries in the wealth-per-adult league include many smaller, dynamic economies – Belgium, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland – as well as Australia, France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Notable cases of emerging wealth are found in Chile, the Czech Republic, Lebanon, Slovenia and Uruguay, while “frontier” wealth is evident in Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Tunisia.

For a number of reasons, wealth varies greatly across individuals. Estimates suggest that the lower half of the global population collectively own less than 1% of global wealth, while the richest 10% of adults own 88% of all wealth and the top 1% account for half of all assets in the world.

(This repeats the information that the richest person of every hundred owns 50 of our 100 oranges, and the next 9 own another 38 oranges, while the poorest 50 people have only one orange to share.

The trend in recent years has been towards increasing inequality, propelled in part by the rising share of financial assets, which are disproportionately held by the more wealthy individuals. (What this means is that inequality is growing: the richest are growing richer, and the poor are relatively poorer.)

## About Millionaires

One of the surprises when talking about millionaires is that there are millions of them. Another surprise, because we seldom think about it, is that a couple of million or so millionaires come and go every year.

After the financial crisis of 2007–2008, in all regions except Europe, there are more millionaires than there were before the crisis.

North America started the century with half of all the world's millionaires, more than double the number in Europe. The number of millionaires grew much faster in Europe up to 2009, so that the numbers were almost identical in the two regions in 2009. Then North America surged ahead and has re-established a commanding lead. As in the year 2000, North America now has half of all the millionaires in the world; and far more than Europe has.

China, Africa and India, all began the millennium with between 30,000 and 45,000 millionaire numbers. Numbers in these three regions have since grown significantly faster than the global average: by a factor of four in Africa to 126,000,

and by a factor of six in India to 185,000. However, China now has 1.3 million millionaires, ten times the number in the whole of Africa.

In 2014, it was reported that robust underlying wealth growth, combined with currency appreciation, combined to add almost four million more millionaires, with the United States accounting for 1.6 million new members and the Eurozone for another 850,000.

Underlying growth was not so different in 2015, but exchange rate swings have reduced the number of millionaires by 2.4 million.

Japan (down 680,000) registering the greatest loss for a single country.

However, Europe was the region which lost most members (down 2 million), including 1.5 million from the four largest Eurozone countries: France (down 630,000), Germany (down 390,000), Italy (down 380,000) and Spain (down 90,000).

Australia and Canada also shed 410,000 millionaires between them.

Not everyone lost millionaires. The United States (up 900,000) added by far the largest number of any country, although in percentage terms China (up 150,000) did better.

While the number of millionaires has risen quickly, median wealth has stagnated since the financial crisis. That is another way of saying that the rich are getting richer and the poor are not (getting richer, that is).

Of every 100 millionaires in the world, 46 are Americans.

## The Man in the Middle

Median wealth refers to the circumstances of the person right on the middle of wealth. An increase in median wealth may mean an over-all improvement in wealth, but that is not necessarily the case.

Although Asia-Pacific and Europe contain the countries with the highest median wealth, North America leads the regional ranking by a huge margin. Median wealth in North America is currently about four times the level in Europe, eight times the level in China and almost 100 times the level in Africa.

Global median wealth per adult rose continuously during the early years of the century, doubling in value from USD 1,700 in 2000 to USD 4,200 in 2007, before dropping to USD 3,300 in 2008.

It recovered briefly, but fell year-on-year from 2010 onwards down to USD 3,200, below the low point recorded after the financial crisis.

That means that the man (or woman) in the middle is worse off now than during the financial crisis, and far worse

than just before the crisis.

Part of the decline is due to adverse exchange rate movements, but rising inequality is the principal reason why the global trend in median wealth has not followed the path of mean wealth per adult.

Again, that is another way of saying that the rich are getting richer, etc.

Up to the financial crisis, the trend within each region broadly echoed the global pattern, although the rise was notably faster in Europe, aided by currency appreciation versus the US dollar.

Most regions have also followed the global trend downwards since 2010 and median wealth is now close to the value recorded a decade ago. The two exception to this drop in median income are China and North America, where median incomes have risen more or less continuously since 2008, and where the levels achieved during the past three years are significantly above the pre-crisis peak values.

## Global trends in household wealth

This chapter in the report examines how household wealth and its components have changed over time.

Total household wealth has doubled this century in the world as a whole, and wealth has roughly doubled – or more than doubled – in every single region apart from Asia-Pacific, where the subdued performance of Japan has prevented the region from matching the global standard.

Remember again that the rich are getting richer, but not the rest of us, so all this extra wealth has gone to them.

Exchange rate movements sometimes obscure events, but the underlying trend indicates that net worth has grown every year this century, except for the financial crisis period 2007–2008.

Annual changes in wealth inequality changed direction in 2007–2008, switching from a falling to a rising trend. (That is, income inequality was going down, but has grown since the economic crisis of 2007–2008.)

The global wealth picture has been significantly affected recently by fluctuations in exchange rates. A year ago widespread appreciation against the US dollar contributed to the record rise in household wealth. This year the dollar rebounded and, when valued in current USD, net worth fell in every region except China and North America.

Total global wealth decreased by USD 12.4 trillion to USD 250.1 trillion, the first decline since the economic

crisis in 2007–2008.

However, a different picture emerges if exchange rate fluctuations are factored out. Using constant exchange rates, growth during the past year is in line with the average rise experienced since 2000.

## Exceptional progress of China

Since 2000, wealth in China has grown almost fivefold. Wealth has also grown much faster than average in India, even correcting for population growth.

China leads overall, the only country this century to grow faster than 5% p.a.

Malaysia did almost as well and, like China, appears among the top ten performers in both 2000–2005 and 2005–2010, although it has dropped to among the ten worst performers since 2010.

Russia did likewise, but fluctuated even more wildly, achieving the highest real wealth growth of any country in the period up to 2010, and then recording the second highest rate of real wealth loss. Even so, it places sixth overall in real wealth gains this century.

Wealth growth in India and Africa was not far behind China during 2000–2005, but China increased its lead from 2005 to 2010. This is surprising because China suffered disproportionately during 2007–2008. However, China bounced back immediately afterwards and continued gaining ground year-on-year.

Equally importantly, its currency link with the US dollar means that its performance was not unduly affected by currency movements.

This contrasts sharply with Africa and India, where depreciating currencies have offset underlying wealth growth since 2010.

While wealth growth in Africa appears faster than for the world as a whole, the excess is entirely due to higher population growth.

Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region (excluding China and India) have also recorded losses since 2010 when wealth is valued in current US dollars.

Equally troubling is the downward trend of wealth growth for the world as a whole and for Europe in particular.

North America is the only region for which wealth growth displays no downward trend over time; but it is also the region which suffered most during the crisis years, so its recent performance may simply reflect greater opportunities to recover.

Japan's inclusion in the worst performers' list is due to poor results in 2000–2005.



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## JoKe TiMe

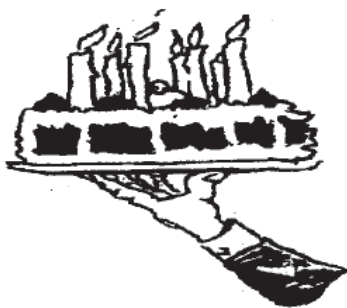
Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip. As they lay down for the night, Holmes said, "Watson, look up into the sky and tell me what you see."

Watson answered, "I see millions and millions of stars."

"And what does that tell you?" Holmes asked

Watson replied, "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets."

## Happy Birthday, Friends!



The **Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizens' Club** wishes a happy birthday to the celebrants of February and March:

Lucy Antoniw  
Clarence Capowski  
Fanny Hruschak

May you have good health, happiness and a daily sense of accomplishment as you go through life.

The **Toronto Senior Citizens Club** extends best birthday wishes to February and March celebrants:

Patricia Dzatko  
Alexandra Tomaszewski

May good health and happiness be yours in the coming year!

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** wishes the best of health and happiness in the coming year to February and March celebrants:

Margaret Hallstrom  
Dianna Kleparchuk  
Leona Levchuk  
Dora Stewart

Enjoy your day with family and friends!

The **Welland Shevchenko Seniors** extend a happy birthday wish to February and March celebrants:

Margaret Card  
Joy Edwards  
Bill Lukan  
Wanda Lukan  
Olga Young

May the coming year bring you all the best in health and happiness!

Theologically, it tells me that God is great and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it tells me that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you?"

Holmes observed, "Somebody stole our tent."

\* \* \*

Two confirmed bachelors were sitting and talking. Their conversation drifted from politics to cooking. "I got a cookbook once," said the first, "but I could never do anything with it."

"Too much fancy cooking?" asked the second.

"You said it. Every one of the recipes began the same way - 'Take a clean dish and...'"

\* \* \*

A young man asked an old rich man how he made his money. The old guy fingered his expensive wool vest and said, "Well, son, it was 1932. The depth of the Great Depression. I was down to my last nickel.

"I invested that nickel in an apple. I spent the entire day polishing the apple and, at the end of the day, I sold the apple for ten cents.

"The next morning, I invested those ten cents in two apples. I spent the entire day polishing them and sold them at 5:00 pm for 20 cents. I continued this system for a month, by the end of which I'd accumulated a fortune of \$9.80.

"Then my wife's father died and left us two million dollars."

## Who, What, When, Where

**Regina — Concert-Recital** featuring 125 performers from the **AUUC Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts** and the **Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance**, will be staged on Saturday, **February 6**, at the **Regina Performing Arts Centre (RPAC)**, 1077 Angus at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. For tickets call the **RPAC Box Office** at (306) 779-2277.

\* \* \*

**Winnipeg — The Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra** of the AUUC will perform at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, 591 Pritchard Avenue (corner of Pritchard and MacGregor) at **7:15 p.m.** on Saturday, **March 12**, and **2:15 p.m.** on Sunday, **March 13**.

These are pre-concerts for "**Nortendluvsongs**" by Camerata Nova at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, billed as a true celebration of the North End with Ukrainian, Aboriginal, Filipino, Jewish, Russian, Scottish and Polish music, ranging from glorious Ukrainian choral concertos to songs in praise of curling, hockey and perogies! Conducted by Mel Braun, the concert will feature guest artists and storytellers, including poet **Katherena Vermette**, composer/actor **Danny Schur**, guitarist/composer **Vince Fontaine**, a klezmer group featuring **Daniel Koulack**, and children string players from the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's **Sistema Winnipeg** program.

\* \* \*

**Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch** will host **Love and Laughter** at the **AUUC Cultural Centre**, 1604 Bloor Street West, starting at **2:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **February 14**. Among the planned activities are a **joke contest**. **Admission: \$10.00/person.**

\* \* \*

**Readers of the Ukrainian Canadian Herald are invited to submit items of interest to the progressive Ukrainian Canadian community for free listing in this column. The deadline for material is the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication.**

## Sustaining Fund Donations

AUUC Vancouver Branch, Vancouver BC	
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**WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS AND THANK THE DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY. IF YOUR DONATION HAS NOT APPEARED ON THE PAGES OF THE "UCH", WATCH FOR IT IN FUTURE ISSUES.**



## 125th Anniversary

(Continued from Page 5.) was eventually permitted to purchase 6.4 acres of land at \$1 per acre for each mile of track, which soon became the amount allotted to the numerous colonization railways created to open the prairies.

Ultimately controlled by the CPR, the Manitoba Southwestern was able to gain control of 1.4 million acres of land in southwestern Manitoba.

Numerous other colonization railways were to arise: The Great Northwest Central, the Saskatchewan and Western, the Alberta Railway and Coal Company, and the Northwest Coal and Navigation Company. Either in whole or in part these colonization railways came under the control of the CPR, and added to its land holdings.

By December 31, 1937, the CPR reported that it had controlled and sold just over 20 million acres of land, 16 million of which was the grant it had received for building the main line through the west.

If one superimposes a map of the rail network the CPR constructed and the land grants it received over a corresponding map of the territories traditional to the First Nations what is immediately apparent is the extent to which this land grab diminished the land rights of First Nations.

The arrival of thousands of immigrants, the pressure from settlers, the railways, and town-site developers all put enormous pressure on the First Nations and the lands they acquired under the treaties. With no adequate economy to support the bands on the reserves, it was an option to sell off these so-called empty reserve lands.

For example, of land allotted by Treaty 4 in southern Saskatchewan, 270,000 of

520,000 acres were sold by 1928.

The Blackfoot reserve east of Calgary sold 125,000 acres to provide a trust fund to guarantee a social security system, weekly food rations, medical care, housing and farm equipment.

By the end of the nineteenth century, the autonomous First Nations of only 40 years earlier were confined to reservations across the prairies, a small portion of the land that they had previously used for thousands of years to support their way of life. Around them was a land boom for railways and land companies, farming and town economies, and the exploitation of resources.

Thus we have the role assigned to the immigrants – to

occupy the land that was the previously that of the First Nations.

O.T. Martynowych describes the transformation of the west, and who benefited, this way: "...between 1870 and 1920 the Canadian prairies were transformed from a sparsely populated fur trading region into one of the world's major grain exporting agricultural regions. This transformation had benefited eastern Canadian commercial capitalists and industrialists more than it had benefited the Native population or the homesteaders recruited to farm the Prairies. From the outset, Prairie society was a colony within a colony, a hinterland subordinated to the interests of a colonial elite, which was itself subservient to a metropolitan elite in Britain." (O.T. Martynowych, *The Ukrainian Bloc Settlement in East*

*Central Alberta 1890 – 1930: A History*. Historic Sites Services, Occasional Paper No. 10, March, 1985)

### The Unresolved Question

The first wave of Ukrainian immigrants were injected into the unequal union of the Canadian colonial project. It undoubtedly shaped their experience, and lasts to this day as part of the history of Ukrainian immigration to Canada. As we have seen, it plays a role in the on-going analysis of Ukrainian Canadian history in Canada.

Those first immigrants were themselves to experience the limits of Canadian democracy. During World War I, Ukrainian immigrants coming for the Austro-Hungarian empire were considered enemy aliens and sub-

jected to internment, deportation, loss of property, compulsory reporting and other restrictive measures.

As we commemorate this 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada, it is important that we also recognize all the conditions and circumstances which surround that event. The history of the first immigrants to the west is entwined with what happened to First Nations.

As we move forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the unequal union with First Nations remains an issue that demands resolution. First Nations have increased their activity on this front with movements such as Idle No More. Present day political thought and social action of the Ukrainian Canadian community is conditioned by many factors not the least of which is the understanding of this history.

## The North-West Rebellion

In the article "North-West Rebellion" the Canadian Encyclopedia (on-line edition) tells us that:

"By the late 1870s, the proud Plains tribes of the West — the Cree, Blackfoot, Blood, Peigan, and Saulteaux — were facing disaster: The great bison herds had disappeared, pushing people to near starvation; much of their land had also been signed away in treaties, and they were now seeing towns, farm fences and railways appearing on the once wild and expansive prairies. In 1880, Cree chief Big Bear, and Crowfoot, leading chief of the Blackfoot, founded an Aboriginal confederacy to try to solve their people's grievances."

The article also tells us that: "... the Métis people ... had grievances of their own. Their

old life as fur traders and carriers for the Hudson's Bay Company was disappearing, along with the bison on which they too depended. They were also waiting ... for reassurance that title to their riverlot homesteads and farms would be guaranteed."

Furthermore, "White settlers in Saskatchewan who had purchased land expecting that the Canadian Pacific Railway line would run northwest from Winnipeg to Edmonton learned ... in 1882 that the CPR would now go further south. Poor harvests in 1883 and 1884 added to their problems, along with an unsympathetic Dominion government back East."

Again according to the encyclopedia, "In the summer ... of 1884, Louis Riel (came) ... back to Canada from exile in the United States. ..."

After a series of unproductive political approaches to the Conservative government headed by Prime Minister John A. Macdonald, in 1885, "On 18 and 19 March, an armed force of Métis formed a provisional government, seized the parish church at Batoche, and demanded the surrender of the nearby Hudson's Bay Company post at Fort Carlton."

The North-West Rebellion was under way.

"The last shots of the rebellion," the encyclopedia tells us, "were fired on 3 June (1885) at Loon Lake ... where a few mounted men under NWMP Superintendent Sam Steele skirmished with the retreating Frog Lake Cree."

The encyclopedia notes that:

"The rebellion had not been a concerted effort by all groups in the North-West. Even most Métis communities stayed out of the fighting. The

people of the South Branch communities of the Saskatchewan River valley, centered (sic) at Batoche, had been the principal combatants. The Plains Cree of Big Bear's band had participated, but the neighbouring Woods Cree had not. Some Cree from the Batoche area fought with the Métis, as did Dakota warriors from a reserve from south of present-day Saskatoon. The Blackfoot had remained neutral, the Blood refusing to abandon their traditional animosity towards the Cree.

"Meanwhile, almost every settler had rallied to the government cause, despite the fact that their vocal anti-government agitation before the shooting started had helped to create the environment that made the rebellion possible."

The encyclopedia remarks that:

"The rebellion had profound effects on Western Canada. It was the climax of the federal government's efforts to control the Aboriginal communities as well as the settler population of the West. Aboriginal persons who had thought themselves oppressed after the treaties of the 1870s became subjugated and administered people."

With the defeat of the North-West Rebellion, the Canadian state secured its dominance over the Prairies, and as a result of the conflict the completion of the railroad was hastened.

But the victory was not without cost. The conflict left a disaffected Métis population in the west, confined Aboriginal people to shrinking reservations, left the white settlers dissatisfied with the indifference of the government of Canada, and added to the animosity between French Cana-

dians (particularly in Quebec) and the rest of Canada.

One of the repressive measures applied on the prairies as the rebellion grew was recently documented in the film called *The Pass System*, by director Alex Williams, as reported in the *Toronto Star* on January 10.

This was a requirement imposed by the government in 1985, without the basis in law represented by Parliamentary approval, which forbade First Nations on the Prairies to leave their reserves unless they had the signature of the local Indian agent on a permission slip issued by the Department of Indian Affairs. This "temporary" measure remained in place for almost 60 years, until it was officially lifted in June, 1941.

Even after the official end of the policy, as remembered by First Nations people, restrictions on movement continued for years.

Like many of the measures passed by Ottawa over the years, enforcement was local and, therefore, inconsistent. Local agents decided whether to issue the permit, so their individual preferences (or prejudices) determined who could and who could not travel.

In addition, enforcement of the rule was not always easy, and the North-West Mounted Police were not always cooperative about enforcing a rule that was not based on law.

That was the situation on the prairies as Ukrainian settlers started to arrive in growing numbers as part of the plan of the government of Canada to establish its claim to the land and its riches against the threat of American expansionism.

In the next issue of the "UCH" there will be an article discussing the first wave of Ukrainian immigration to Canada, from September 1891 to the break caused by World War I.



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