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Wheeling and Dealing with Turkey

European countries are shutting their borders to refugees, raising concern about the future of the visa-free travel area.

Part of the effort to stave off the influx of refugees created by NATO policies in North Africa involves returning or sending the refugees to Turkey.

Turkey agreed to take the refugees, but wanted stuff in return. One thing Turkey wanted was money. European countries, particularly Germany, have supplied substantial payments to help with the costs of accommodating the refugees. However, Turkey is looking for more.

More importantly, Europe promised Turkey easier access to Europe, with visa-free travel and eventual membership in the EU. Some Europeans are quite comfortable with such a promise, but others are not, because of concerns about

Turkey's shortcomings on human rights. There is also some problem about Turkey's suspected trading with Daesh.

The governments in Europe are seeing the rise of right-wing anti-immigrant parties as more refugees arrive.

In March, the United Nations refugee agency pulled out of some parts of Greece as the latter began to arrest refugees arriving from Turkey and shipping them back. UNHCR is concerned that Greece does not have adequate resources in place to properly house and care for the migrants and determine their status. At the time, Greece was accommodating some 50,000 refugees and migrants, with additional thousands across the border in Macedonia.

In the meantime, Turkey has been accusing Europe of dragging its feet on accepting Turkey.

The Next Issue

The next issue of the "UCH" will be dated July/August, 2016. Announcements of events in July, August or early September, 2016, or articles for the July/August issue, should be in our office by June 10. Thank you for your consideration.

UNICEF Criticizes Canada

The most recent UNICEF report on the welfare of children ranks Canada 26 out of 35 among the world's richest countries. In 2013, Canada was 17 out of 29 countries.

The report purported to measure how far the poorest 10% of children are below their peers at the median. It looked at four areas: income, health, education and life satisfaction.

UNICEF Canada issued a companion report which said that life is getting harder for the poorest children as inequality has widened.

In Canada, a very high proportion of children are very unhappy. This is a concern

because it is related to poor mental health and risky behaviour.

The report was particularly scathing in reporting on indigenous and racialized communities.

Among other findings, the report said that there was no improvement in Canada in most areas of child welfare over the last decade.

Boys are more likely to fall behind in education; girls in health and life satisfaction (happiness?)

With the focus of Prime Minister Trudeau in the middle class, the next ten years may not be better.

Dying in Detention

Some immigrants are kept in detention very long time sometimes years, as are people waiting to be deported. Many are kept in maximum security.

The result is that some die and some commit suicide, though most are not criminals.

At the time of this writing, detainees at the facility in Lindsay, Ontario, are on a hunger strike to bring this plight to public attention.

Advocates are calling for detention to be in minimum security facilities, with the 90-day limit which many other countries have.

There are concerns that the detainees are sometimes not getting proper health care, especially for mental health issues arising from the indefinite detention itself.

In This Issue

Stopping Tax Erosion

Short weeks after the release of the Panama Papers major international financial and other institutions, like the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), are cooperating on tax issues to develop effective means to halt erosion of tax bases and

tax evasion, and improve the sharing of tax information.

Special attention will be given to developing countries. This will include measures to tap into the informal cash economies in developing countries for taxation purposes.

US Treasury Department Deputy Assistant Secretary Robert Stack said in New York that the release of the Panama Papers will have a

significant impact, at least in the short term, on the issue of transparency. He also noted that the USA, given its own lack of transparency, was in a poor position to criticise Panama.

Governmental financial officials from the Group of 20 threatened to penalize countries which tried to evade efforts to reduce secrecy. Another challenge will be developing effective measures to monitor and tax multinational companies.

At the IMF and World Bank spring meetings in Washington last week pledges were made to crack down on tax evasion and base erosion, as well as to fight the exploitation of tax mismatches and boost the sharing of tax information.

Release of the Panama Papers stirred outrage at the widespread use of tax haven countries and shell companies by wealthy global elites and corporations to hide assets and avoid paying taxes.

An interesting aspect of the revelation of the Panama Papers is that there has not been a howl and cry for the punishment of the person or people who revealed the documents.

The *Toronto Star*, on the first day of its coverage of the Panama Papers, gave information about the number of Canadians revealed in the papers. Then it ignored the Canadian connection almost entirely. Perhaps concern about lawsuits or privacy legislation played a significant role.

Even without any evidence of his involvement, the media were quick and free in raising whatever innuendo could be thrown at Russian President Putin.

The short term reaction notwithstanding, we'll believe in greater transparency when we see it.

Sweden's Lobster Attack

Sweden is concerned about a possible invasion by eastern North American lobsters, and says that the only defence is a total trade ban.

North American scientists are disputing the claim, which could cost Canada millions of dollars annually.

The scientists agree that it is hard to forecast which species will become invasive, meaning so plentiful as to pose a threat.

However, with 32 lobsters caught off Sweden's coast from 2008 to 2015, the scientists say the numbers are too small to be considered a threat.

Sweden is also concerned about the possibility of diseases being introduced by the foreign species.

In 2014, 19 of the foreign lobsters were caught in one fiord. One of the females had hybrid eggs, indicating cross breeding between the North American and the European species.

In March, Sweden's environment ministry asked the European Union to ban the import of live American lobsters to the EU's 28 countries.

Last year, Canada shipped \$75 million of live lobsters to Europe.

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| | |
|--|-------|
| 125th Ukrainian Canadian Anniversary | 7, 10 |
| About Things that Itch | 2 |
| Commentary | 4 |
| Current Eclectic | 3 |
| Display in Winnipeg | 7 |
| Dutch Voters Reject Trade Pact | 9 |
| Editorial | 4 |
| Edmonton Seniors Honour Anne Husar | 6 |
| EU Promotes Decentralization | 3 |
| From <i>Our History</i> | 7 |
| Happy Birthday, Friends . | 11 |
| Heavy Threat, Man | 3 |
| Join Us! | 11 |
| Joke Time | 11 |
| The Main Danger | 4 |
| Mosaic in Vancouver | 5 |
| Moving Beyond the Homestead | 10 |
| Packed Concerts at Winnipeg ULT | 5 |
| People Have Influence | 3 |
| Public Support Declining ... | 9 |
| Reform without Change ... | 3 |
| Sustaining Fund | 12 |
| Swap for Savchenko? | 9 |
| The Fellow Traveller | 2 |
| Ukrainian Miscellany | 9 |
| Visa-Free Travel for Ukrainians | 9 |
| The War on Islam Continues | 4 |
| Who Is Andriy Parubiy? ... | 9 |
| Who, What, When, Where | 11 |
| Yatseniuk Resigns | 9 |

**Sent as a
separate
page.**

Current Eclectic

People Have Influence

On July 5, 2015, a Toronto policeman shot and killed Andrew Loku. The officer claimed that Mr. Loku was advancing on the officer and another policeman with a hammer raised over his head and challenging the police to shoot him.

A neighbour witnessing the event contradicted the police version, claiming that the hammer was not raised over Mr. Loku's head, and that Mr. Loku, a mentally ill Black Sudanese-Canadian man, had no chance to say anything because everything happened too fast.

On March 18, 2016, the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) upheld the police version.

It appeared that the public demand for a coroner's inquest would be ignored.

On March 20, Black Lives Matter organized a protest outside Toronto police headquarters. The police allowed the protesters to continue, as long as they did not light a fire or set up a tent.

Two weeks later, the pro-

testers were still there, and stepping up their protest. On March 31, they took their protest to the home of Premier Kathleen Wynne.

Ms. Wynne was not at home but her partner was reportedly "shaken" by the demonstration. Ms. Wynne expressed understanding of the protesters' concerns, and promised that a Cabinet Minister would meet with them.

On April 1, the demonstration was taken to city hall, where councillors unanimously passed a motion asking the province to review policing and the SIU, with a focus on racism.

Toronto's Mayor John Tory, who called the visit to Ms. Wynne's home "inappropriate" offered a meeting in private which was rejected by the protesters. Police Chief Mark Saunders (through police spokesperson Mark Pugash) also offered to meet in private, with other conditions, and his offer was also rejected.

The demonstrators, now calling for a release of the

name of the policemen who shot Mr. Loku, were well received by the public.

On April 4, the protest at the police headquarters was stopped, when Premier Wynne agreed to meet with the group. After the demonstrators marched to Queens Park, Ms. Wynne and several Cabinet Ministers joined them.

Ms. Wynne asked for their help in the review of the SIU which the province had undertaken, and expressed willingness to meet in public. Ms. Wynne said that there was systemic and anti-Black racism in society.

On April 6, *Toronto Sun* columnist Jerry Agar, part of the Postmedia Network, one of Canada's very right-wing media chains, dug into a February 9 tweet posted by a Black Lives Matter co-founder. In a transparent effort to discredit Black Lives Matter, Post Media and its many tentacles, totally distorting the message of the original tweet, loosed the right-wing trolls against Yusra Khogali.

In response, in an article in the *Toronto Star* on April 10, Ms. Khogali wrote, "Faced with hate, I sought restraint from God and support from my online community." In that article, Ms. Khogali noted that Mr. Agar is "a *Toronto Sun* columnist with a long, well

documented record of enmity to our anti-racist goals".

On April 13, a coroner's inquest was called into the case of Andrew Loku. The inquest will probably take place toward the end of the year, and the police officers involved in the incident will be called to testify, said Dr. Jim Edwards, a Toronto coroner.

Coroner's inquests do not assign blame, but investigate the circumstance to generate recommendations on how to avoid repetitions in the future.

The call for the release of the SIU report continued, as did the call for the disclosure of the police officers involved. A month after the SIU had submitted its report, Attorney General Madeleine Meilleur professed not to have read it, which generated a storm of criticism, including the hypocritical criticisms from Ontario's official opposition, who would, in power, be at least as supportive of the police position.

"Encouraged" by the criticism, perhaps, the Attorney General did read the report, but declined to release it to the public, lest it "confuse the consultations".

On April 21, Premier Wynne said that the SIU report would be made public, but she did not say when and in what form.

Heavy Threat, Man

"They can't throw you in jail for what you're thinking," the old song said.

Well, times have changed. Now, they can indeed throw you into jail for what you're thinking, even if you're not thinking it, as long as they think you may be thinking it, or you may be thinking it in the future.

If you don't believe that, consider the case of Samuel Augustin Aviles and Kadir Abdul. Both men were arrested under a "fear of terrorism" provision brought into the Criminal Code with Bill C-51.

When the report was published, neither man had been charged with anything, probably because they had not committed any crime. Mr. Abdul was arrested because RCMP fear (so much modern policing seems to be based on fear) he may participate in an activity of a terrorist group, travel to participate in an activity of a terrorist group or facilitate terrorist activity. Mr. Aviles, the Mounties fear, may travel to participate in the activity of a terrorist group.

The RCMP alleged that the two tried to travel through Turkey to international conflict zones, to participate in a terrorist group.

Their lawyer also represents another person, Kevin Omar Mohamed, who has also been charged under the "maybe that's what they're thinking" law.

Mr. Abdul and Mr. Aviles were both released on bail, with a May 20 court date.

The media, right on the job, went out and asked the neighbours. Most of the neighbours had nothing useful to say, but sure enough they found someone who was very concerned (fearful?) that two of the three had at one time lived on the same street.

People do travel to Turkey, some of them with no intent to participate in the activity of a terrorist group. So what makes these three such a "maybe" threat?

You're kidding, right? Three young men with names like Mohamed, Abdul and, even Aviles — and check their skin tones — how can they not be trouble? Or at least, maybe trouble. Or at least, if you lock them up they won't be trouble.

Mr. Mohamed, who travelled to Turkey two years ago (to join Jabhat Al-Nusra, the RCMP say) came back a month later (must have failed their physical), and has "participated in, or contributed to the activities of a terrorist group" — in Ontario — over a two-year period. The police were proudly able to "disrupt this security threat to our country, and "at no time was there a risk to public safety".

Reform Without Change

It seems ever so long ago that Canadians voted on a change away from the first-past-the-post electoral system which sometimes settles 100% of the power on parties with 30% (or even less) of the vote, while ensuring that anyone with 20% of the vote does not even get a seat.

Voter participation was low and dropping. To hear them talk, all the parties recognized the need for change. The media ran passionate editorials and cogent commentaries about the need for change.

An elaborate scam was put in place, with a publicly funded process which supposedly gave the country's citizens an opportunity to have a full debate and generate a proposal for a different, more democratic system.

What finally appeared on the ballot was a mixed member proportional representation system.

As the voting day approached the passion and cogency in the media changed. "Yes," they said, "change is needed, but not this change."

"This change is too complicated for anyone to understand," they said, echoing or being echoed by the politicians.

As the vote approached, more stress was placed on the need to be careful when voting because the question was tricky.

If that didn't deter the voter, the bar was raised high enough to make sure that support for the change would fall short.

When push came to shove, nobody was going to share power without robust resistance.

Now the discussions have returned, and once again, everyone agrees that changes

the report.—Sz)

Decentralization is part of the international agreement on ending the fighting in eastern provinces of Ukraine. Such a change, among other effects, could allow areas which so wished to give the Russian language official recognition. For that reason (and others) the radical right in Ukraine opposes decentralization.

Ukraine did nothing (nothing, at least, which has been reported) to comply with the agreement on decentralization. It will be interesting to see whether 97 million Euros results in some action. It will be even more interesting to see whether any action leads to decentralization in areas of interest to the majority of residents of eastern Ukraine.

must be made to "make every vote count", to make outliers feel that their votes count, to make young people believe that they should participate in elections.

But the shell game is being set up. Last time the sham was the consultation and other trappings of participatory democracy. This time it appears the duplicity will be in promoting reform without change.

We are already being told that the new system should be in place in time for the next election. We are also being sold the change which is on the table — preferential (or ranked) ballots.

Ranked ballots are a guarantee that the big parties will keep all the power. The difference will be that, at some point, a candidate who was supported by 30% of voters will end up with at least 50% plus 1.

If you think they overstate their mandate with 30% in a first-past-the-post system, watch them strut with their third and fourth round 50% wins.

The editorial writers will have no problem understanding the system. The air will be filled with assurances that "Your vote will count," with no mention that it will count in support of your third or fourth choice, which is a candidate you would not ever support.

That is what reform without change looks like.

EU Promotes Decentralization

On April 22, in its publication *Crisis in Ukraine: Daily Briefing*, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress reported that the European Union was allocating 97 million Euros to support decentralization in Ukraine, based on a statement from Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers.

The statement said that Ukraine and the EU had signed an agreement on a program to provide the funding to support Ukrainian decentralization.

The program is planned for two years and includes two main areas, the UCC reported: "Enhancement of the ca-

capacity of key actors at central, regional and local levels in order to implement decentralization reform and pursue regional policy: training for local authorities at all levels, thematic consultations, support of professional education for officials of the executive authorities, training on project cycle management; Improving delivery of local administrative services: operation of centers of providing administrative services and raising awareness of citizens on local self-government," Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers stated. (Spelling and grammar as in

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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\$40.00 Foreign subscriptions.**Advertising rates available on request.****PUBLICATIONS MAIL REGISTRATION No. 40009476***Signed articles represent the viewpoint of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.***The Main Danger****AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY**

I do not lose much sleep worrying about possible threats from Islamic terrorism or gang warfare. The threats that do sometimes keep me awake and often make me angry come from our elected officials and the armed gangs they control.

The most recent cause of my concern was related to the Putting Students First Act enacted by Ontario's Provincial Parliament in 2012. On April 21 it was reported that the Ontario Superior Court had ruled that the Act violated teachers' rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This was just the latest in a series of laws, both provincial and federal, which the courts have struck down.

At both levels, governments have legislated for nothing other than political advantage. Even when advised that a particular law was in probable violation of fundamental rights, those government have plunged ahead. In those laws they have included penalties, often quite severe ones, for failure to obey, and they have threatened the use of police, security forces and other violence to enforce the laws.

They have deliberately taken the position that those illegal laws can be appealed, knowing full well that, by the time the courts rule, the harm will have been done to those targeted by the laws.

Tarting up these illegal laws with pretty names like "Putting Students First Act" or "Defence of Families Act", often totally contrary to the intent and effect of the legislation, the governments pose as defenders of social values. When the courts overturn these illegal laws, the governments sometimes accuse the courts of being soft on crime or of other evils.

Neither gangsters nor terrorists have caused me or anyone I know personal grief. The governments, on the other hand have caused my family, my friends, my acquaintances, and me daily harm.

Every time they enact laws contravening the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, they injure us.

Every time we have to pay for a service that hospitals used to provide, we are paying the price.

When they legislate what we may or may not wear, they are threatening us.

When they enable police to kettle innocent bystanders with impunity, or to detain people merely on suspicion of what they might be thinking, they become more of a threat than the gangsters or the terrorists.

When they lie to us, turn us against one another, or deliberately attack us with illegal laws, they harm us, and in the process they create more gangsters and terrorists.

COMMENTARY**The War on Islam Continues**

The official position of governments from North America to Europe and beyond is that there is no war on Islam. The reality is that governmental policies targeting Muslims are spreading, Islamophobia is promoted by politicians and the media, and individual Muslims are increasingly targeted both by the state and by the high-riding and rising xenophobic right-wing political groupings.

Fear of terrorism, fear of economic competition, and fear of the unknown are the common strains as demagogues using exaggerations, half-truths and outright lies seek to turn people against Muslims — not against individual miscreants, but against Muslims collectively.

Interwoven with the Islamophobia is the racism against people perceived as Arabs, which, in the ignorance of its practitioners, covers the people of North Africa, the Middle East, and parts of Asia including Pakistan and much of India.

Western Europe has long presented itself as free, open and tolerant. Among those who have had a different view are, for example, the Algerians and other Arabs in France who, after decades in the country, are still not considered to be French.

France is not alone in Europe in falling short of its democratic ideals. Almost every country has its growing white supremacist groupings.

In early February, coordinated anti-Islam and anti-immigration rallies took place in The Netherlands, Germany, France, Britain, Poland, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Denmark, Finland and Estonia. Many of these rallies were organized by PEGIDA (Patriotic Europeans against the Islamization of the West). In many places, these rallies were met by opposing demonstrations and/or riot police.

In North America, specifically the USA and Canada, the question has always been "Who is the target of the day?" Anti-Black and anti-Native racism has never disappeared, as various Slavs, Jews, and various Asians (among others) took turns as the main villain.

Since September 9, 2001, the focus has been on people perceived as Arabic Muslims. However erroneous, to most people in Canada and the USA, certainly, and perhaps to many in Europe, "Arabic", "Middle Eastern" and "Muslim" are synonyms. Anyone included in this misconstrued category is considered a potential threat. Anyone who is a potential threat must be treated as dangerous and rendered harmless.

Thus, in France, from November, 2015, to mid-February, 2016, authorities staged 3,200 raids, and put almost 400 people under house arrest. The result? Five terrorism-related investigations, with unspecified results, and thousands of terrorized households.

Were the 400 house arrests justified?

At least one was not. In late January, a French judge found that small-business owner Halim Abdelmalik had been wrongly detained. Mr. Abdelmalik was detained for nine weeks, and suffered heavy business losses. The \$2,200 he was to receive as compensation was far from covering his business losses. No amount of money would adequately repay him for the indignity he experienced.

It seems very improbable that many of the other cases of house arrest were any more justified.

Other forms of discrimination against people with "certain shared ethnic characteristics", behaviour or dress include treatment at police checkpoints, where people

meeting these criteria face the equivalent of "driving while Black".

A bizarre form of discrimination is that instituted by a nightclub in Denmark. People speaking Danish, German or English are accepted as guests; others are deemed (unacceptable) refugees. It has been reported that other establishments are considering following this lead.

Canadians should not be complacent. The government led by Stephen Harper put in place legislation which is just as dangerous as anything in Europe, and the current government, led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, has not shown great interest in repealing it.

Beyond that, the Harper government's legislation targeting Muslims (some of it already overturned by the courts), as well as anti-Muslim measures in Quebec, found disturbing levels of popular support.

Like the racist right elsewhere, Mr. Harper, Quebec legislators, and their supporters promoted their measures as defence of shared cultural values against "barbaric cultural practices".

Civil wars in Libya and Syria, encouraged and supported by NATO and the European Union, and strife in other countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, have created millions of refugees, many of them seeking refuge in Europe.

The consequences include fertile ground for xenophobia fomented by groups like PEGIDA, which have seen some growth in recent months.

Professing concern about the resulting social conflict and the threat to the border-free travel zone regime, many European countries are making efforts to stop the flow of refugees. These measures include additional aid to refugee camps in countries like Turkey and military defence of borders in countries like Macedonia.

The government of Canada, having done the minimum required to (almost) meet its election promises, has slowed its acceptance of refugees.

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We invite readers to submit their views in letters to the editor. Letters must be signed. Letters may be edited, but their sense will not be changed.

— Photo: Victor Dobchuk

Packed Concerts at Winnipeg ULT

Winnipeg's Ukrainian Labour Temple was the site of sold-out concerts on Saturday night, March 12 and Sunday afternoon, March 13. The events were part of the annual series of concerts presented by the Winnipeg vocal ensemble, Camerata Nova, which has been an important part of Winnipeg's vibrant professional arts scene for 20 years.

Camerata Nova describes itself as a "vocal ensemble without fear", and indeed, the group has continually demonstrated its unique creative talents over the last two decades, whether performing Renaissance, Aboriginal-infused or contemporary music.

This innovative concert celebrated the people and places of Winnipeg's North End, where the Labour Temple is situated. To quote from the program notes – "Winnipeg's North End...an area of town that means a lot of things to a lot of people and whatever the emotions it brings up, while often wide-ranging, they're always strong... What better way to mark our 20th anniversary than to create a concert to celebrate our crazy and colourful North End?"

Our own Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra was invited to present a pre-concert show at both performances. This was a special event for the orchestra, which introduced it to a largely new audience.

Conductor Annis Kozub chose a varied and entertaining half hour of music, and the audience responded enthusiastically. There were many positive comments by people who had never heard the orchestra, and were interested in attending future performances, such as the upcoming Festival of Mandolins on May 14.

Both halves of the concert opened with First Nations voices; in fact, the concert project was inspired by the book *North End Love Songs*

by Métis poet Katherena Vermette.

The first choral piece, *Selkirk Avenue*, was written by Camerata Nova's artistic director, Andrew Balfour. *The Immigrant Suite*, arranged by conductor Mel Braun, was a reflection of North End streets, combining Ukrainian, Philippine and Russian folk songs with selections from Danny Schur's musical *Strike!*

The first half closed with a performance by the young musicians from two inner city schools – King Edward and Elwick – who are part of the Sistema Winnipeg program, an after-school program run by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, in partnership with the Seven Oaks and Winnipeg School Divisions.

(*El Sistema* was founded in Venezuela in 1975 by educator, musician and activist Jose Antonio Abreu. The program provided free classical musical education to poor children. There are now dozens of these programs in several countries).

After intermission, First Nations singer Vince Fontaine performed two original songs, along with Pamela Davis and Rena Semenko of *Indian City*.

Next came the very entertaining *The Curler's Cantata* (or *Curling Cantata in 10 Ends*), written by Mel Braun. Mel collected all the curling terms he could find and came up with an inventive, tongue-in-cheek, 10-section piece, all sung in classical vocal style. The audience was delighted.

The concert ended with several lively pieces by the North End klezmer trio, The Mayors of Sambor (brothers Victor and Myron Schulz, and Daniel Koulack).

The Mayors of Sambor were also joined by Camerata Nova in performances of

— Photo: Frederick G. Ford



The Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg was "packed to the rafters for concerts on the evening of Saturday, March 12, and afternoon of Sunday, March 13.

— Photo: Victor Dobchuk



The Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra and the Camerata Nova at the Winnipeg Ukrainian Labour Temple.

— Photo: Frederick G. Ford

three Yiddish songs.

It was wonderful to see the Hall "packed to the rafters" for the two concerts. All in all, the concerts were a highlight on this year's calendar, right down to the complimentary Salisbury House (a Winnipeg institution) red velvet cupcakes served at intermission. — **Tusia Kozub**



Camerata Nova rehearse on of the numbers they did with the Mayors of Sambor.

Mosaic in Vancouver

On June 26, the Dovbush Dancers present **MOSAIC**, an evening of Ukrainian dance and culture, featuring guests Vostok, Tropak Ukrainian Dance Theatre, The Wheat in the Barley and the AUUC's Druzhba Dancers.

"Ukrainian Folk-Stage Dance is famed for its exuberance, colourful costumes and brilliant virtuosity, and has exploded in popularity around the world," according to The Scotiabank Dance Centre.

This unique event dovetails with the 125th anniversary of Ukrainians in Canada.

The Dovbush Dancers, a 20-member ensemble, is eager to present their first full-length concert in over 18 years, with support from their parent organization, the Association of United Ukrainian

Canadians.

"Trained in classical ballet alongside regional choreography, the dancers recently travelled to Ukraine to study at the world renowned Virsky studio, immersing themselves in Ukrainian dance and culture," said Artistic Director Debbie Karras. "We have sourced authentic costumes and motifs and have invited some of the

most dynamic local guests to create an exciting blend of vibrant costumes, dance and music."

Dovbush has had a unique impact on the local dance community with their exhilarating live performances and multidisciplinary work.

Presenting authentic Ukrainian dance and music in a stunning and modern production together with musical artists Vostok, The Wheat in the (Continued on Page 6.)



The klezmer group The Mayors of Sambor in rehearsal.



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Mosaic in Vancouver

(Continued from Page 5.) Barley and dance ensembles Tropak Ukrainian Dance Theatre and the AUUC's Druzhba Dancers, the program will assemble these distinct groups for one night of dance, music and culture.

The Dovbush Dancers are a highly-trained Ukrainian folk-stage dance ensemble whose name derives from Oleksa Dovbush, the folk hero who was born in 1700 in the Carpathian Mountains. This young and vibrant group embraces the significant place that song and dance hold in Ukrainian tradition, performing dances from many of the vast regions of Ukraine.

Dovbush consists of approximately twenty dancers aged 15-40. The company has built an outstanding reputation for excellence and authenticity, performing at festivals, community events and competitions.

The group operates under

the auspices of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, which has been an integral part of the Ukrainian community in Vancouver for 88 years.

Vostok (which translates as "the East"), is an all-female a cappella trio specializing in music from Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Based in East Vancouver, Vostok was founded in 2014 as the resident singing group of the interdisciplinary theatre company, The Troika Collective. The Troika Collective uses Eastern European culture and history as a lens through which to explore universally resonant stories and themes, and Vostok fits well with this mandate.

Singing in over 10 languages and dialects, vocalists Aliya Griffin, Lauren Kresawaty, and Emily Villavicencio deliver a rich and varied set. A Russian lullaby,

a dissonant Bulgarian chant, a Ukrainian spring song first heard on a Kyiv subway — Vostok's songs take the listener from bliss to despair and back again.

Tropak is a vibrant, exciting company which brings together dancers dedicated to cultivating Ukrainian dance as a Canadian art form. Ukrainian dance, as performed by Tropak Ukrainian Dance Theatre, is both sensual and magical as well as colourful and energetic. This is dance with a universal appeal, featuring elements of Ukrainian folk dance refined through the prism of classical ballet, and presented with panache and passion.

The Wheat in the Barley presents Canadian roots music with a major make-over. Crack song writing, brilliant and warped arrangements and stunning instrumental solos unite under the banner of a savvy eclecticism that's al-



The Wheat in the Barley will be performing a selection of Slavic tunes true to band member Steve Gidora's Ukrainian heritage.

ways been the band's guiding light. Drawing from many influences — Celtic, Slavic, French Canadian, Yiddish and Cajun — The Wheat in the Barley will be performing a selection of Slavic tunes true to band member Steve Gidora's Ukrainian heritage. The Wheat in the Barley have

been a mainstay at the BC Ukrainian Dance Festival. With an impressive array of instruments, they are sure to entertain.

MOSAIC is a one-night-only performance starting at 7:30 p.m. on June 26 at the Centennial Theatre in North Vancouver

— File photo: Dan Fung



Vostok's songs take the listener from bliss to despair and back again.



Vancouver's Dovbush Dancers in the energetic and spirited "Krutak", the flirtatious dance from the mountain villages of Transcarpathia, with many twists and turns and swirling skirts.

Edmonton Seniors Honour Anne Husar

Anne Husar was honoured on her 95th birthday by the AUUC Edmonton Branch Seniors Club at their regular monthly gathering in April.

In her acceptance speech with tears in her eyes, she declared, "If I live longer, I will do even more! The best is still to come!"

After everyone toasted Anne, Bill Uhryn played a tape of the traditional Ukrainian song of tribute "Doroha moya mamo" (Dearest Mother of Mine!) A handkerchief came to Anne's eyes!

Anne gave a kiss to her son Jerry to her right, and daughter Sherry to her left, at the head table.

With the help of her family, neighbours and community, Anne lives on her own. She is going to plant a garden with everything in it again this year, plus ten of her Russian seed tomatoes, which had an outstanding 80% germination rate at the Baracka Greenhouse.

Many groups of people helped Anne celebrate her



Anne Husar celebrated her 95th birthday in April.

95th birthday.

One such group was "my Spanish friends. They took me out for lunch. There were 8 of us. I have been studying Spanish in senior classes for 25 years!"

"I chose Spanish because I travelled to Cuba and Mexico and I like to speak languages. I like to speak to the people."

Anne jokingly confided, "I can speak Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, Spanish and English

but I am master of none!"

Olga Horon and I studied Anne's face for wrinkles. We decided that, for 95 years old, she did not have many wrinkles. Anne said that is because she eats oatmeal cereal daily!

I shared with the small group an incident I had with my grandchild Chloe. One time this winter, at a board game that necessitated the use of a larger magnifying glass to read the directions, 8-year-old Chloe took the magnifying glass and slowly came very close to my face.

In all seriousness, with magnifying glass in hand and close to my left eye, Chloe said, "Baba, you have wrinkles on wrinkles!"

Both Olga Horon and Anne Husar strongly recommended that I do not use Botox!

AUUC Edmonton Branch President Andrew Thompson brought greetings to Anne. He said that it is not that one had lived 95 years, but what one had done in those 95 years that really mattered.

Anne treated the 30 people in attendance to a deluxe turkey meal. Anne's daughter said that that was the moistest turkey she had ever eaten.



Seniors Club President Paul Greene presented a birthday card to Anne Husar, flanked at the head table by her son, Jerry, and daughter, Sherry Capowski.

Our chefs, Michael Holden and Diane Reis, cooked each of the turkeys in slow cookers. These two prepared a meal that was interesting, colourful, hot and nutritious. We are always indebted to them.

Then chef Holden came to Anne and asked her if she was taking the three carcasses home for the soup pot. Of course, with a chuckle in her voice, she responded in the affirmative. At 95 years of age, she still makes her own home-made soup! Why not?

From all those in attending, Seniors Club President Paul Greene presented to Anne a home-made manila-size birthday card containing words that highlight Anne's personality and achievements, along with signatures and best wishes from all those present

Anne was most appreciative of this gathering to honour her. "I am so glad I have this nice place to come to," she said, meaning the Ukrainian Centre, with all her friends.

— Shirley Uhryn

125th Ukrainian Canadian Anniversary

On Page 10 of this issue is an article about the development of the Ukrainian Canadian community in the year during and around the years of World War I. On this page we begin an article about the development of the Ukrainian socialist movement from the start of 1914, when the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party of Canada started, to mid-1917. The material is a précis of a few Pages from Peter Krawchuk's book *Our History: The Ukrainian Labour-Farmer Movement in Canada 1907-1991*.

From Our History

On January 31, 1914, at a conference in Montreal, the FUSD (Federation of Ukrainian Social Democrats) decided to change its name to the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party of Canada (USDP), that the Executive Committee and *Robochyi narod* be located in the same city, and that the post of organizer be changed to chairman. It decided also that intellectuals would be accepted into membership only with the

approval of the Executive Committee.

The Winnipeg branch presented a list of candidates for the new Executive Committee, which was then submitted to the party members for approval through a referendum. The result was published in April, 1914. Elected were Ivan Hnyda, Mykola Yeremiychuk, Dmytro Kachmar, Petro Alambets, Mykola Nimelovich and Timofii Koreychuk. The referendum

endorsed the proposal that the Executive Committee and the paper both be situated in Winnipeg.

The year 1914 was important for the growth of the Ukrainian social-democratic movement in Canada. The country was suffering an economic crisis with a growing number of unemployed, among them many Ukrainian immigrants, especially those who had arrived more recently, most of whom didn't have a stable job and were able to find only seasonal work.

In a number of Canadian cities, especially in Montreal, Vancouver and Winnipeg, there were huge demonstrations of unemployed demanding jobs or bread. The USDP made great efforts to get the unemployed Ukrainian immigrants to participate in these

struggles. The May 1st celebrations that year saw huge demonstrations organized by the USDP with both members and supporters participating.

Early in 1914, it became obvious that the threat of a world war hung over humanity. The social democrats worked actively to mobilize working people for the struggle against militarism and the war danger. Anti-war articles and slogans appeared on the pages of *Robochyi narod*. When World War I began in September, the USDP spoke out unequivocally against it, and held that position to the end of its existence, when its activities were banned by the Canadian government in September, 1918.

The position of *Robochyi narod* was clearly stated in its editorial "Away With War!" under the signature of party activist Hryhory Ikachuk, in

which he wrote, "Let the mighty voice of labour resound at full cry around the world: Away with war!"

In another article, "The Proletariat and War," Ivan Stefanitsky wrote:

"The war brings nothing good to the poor, only losses, and ever more victims. From a moral point of view war is a crime of present-day society...."

In spite of the grave difficulties the Ukrainian settlers in Canada had to undergo at the time, the USDP continued to carry on with its activities. These difficulties were to a large degree caused by the Greek Catholic bishop, Mykyta Budka. A few days before the outbreak of war he issued a pastoral letter to the Greek Catholics in Canada in which he called on men of conscription age to apply to the Austrian Consulate and be ready to return to the old country (Eastern Galicia) to serve and defend the Austro-Hungarian empire and its emperor
(Continued on Page 8.)

Display in Winnipeg

In commemoration of the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada, a display of Ukrainian art and artifacts from the Ukrainian Labour Temple was presented at the Blankstein Gallery at the Millennium Library in Winnipeg during the month of March.

Included in the exhibit were examples of colourful Ukrainian costumes and musical instruments such as cymbaly, bandura, mandolin and trembita.

Among the instruments was a bugle, ca. 1910, still in its original case, and once owned and played by Hrehorij Romanowski a self taught musician.

Other displays highlighted the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra and Ukrainian poets Ivan Franko and Taras Shevchenko.

The influence of Picasso was evident in George Gordienko's artwork.

Two cases held examples of the carvings of local artist Walter Mirosh.

The youngest members of the dancing school, under the direction of Cheryl-Anne Carr, performed at a reception held at the gallery.

This presentation introduced the public to the Ukrainian Labour Temple and its designation as a national, provincial and civic historic site.

— Walter Mirosh



— Story photos: Walter Mirosh



Renew now, while it's on your mind.

From Our History

(Continued From Page 7.) Franz Joseph. When war broke out Bishop Budka issued another pastoral letter in which he called on the men to join the Canadian Army.

By this action the bishop saved his own skin, but his first pastoral letter gave the Canadian government reason to regard all Ukrainian immigrants from Austro-Hungary as “enemy aliens”. Large numbers of men were interned in concentration camps in various provinces, while others had to report regularly to the police. The interned remained in the camps, under harsh and oppressive conditions, to the end of the war.

The USDP During 1914-1918

By 1914, only one of the original founders, Pavlo Krat, remained a member of the USDP. Myroslav Stechyshyn, after resigning from the post of secretary on September 23, 1912, joined his former sworn enemy Roman Kremar, working in Edmonton for the Catholic paper *Novyny*. Vasyl Holovatsky disappeared from the political horizon.

Krat was an ambitious individual, continually creating conflicts in the Ukrainian socialist movement. He moved from city to city and each time tried to get the party centre and its paper moved to wherever he was located. When this failed, he either launched a short-lived paper, or organized a new “society”. In the summer of 1914, in Edmonton, he organized the Independent Ukraine Association, a Hetmanite organization with a hetman, a general secretary, a general arbiter (judge), and standard bearers.

Krat next entered a seminary and began to study Presbyterian theology. He then announced in *Ranok* that only the Bible would bring salvation to workers. He was eventually forced to leave the USDP, though he continued to have his articles published in *Robochyi narod*.

There was little coordination of party activities between the branches in Eastern and Western Canada, which prompted a demand by the Western Canadian branches for a Western conference. Such a conference was held in Coleman, on November 15, 1914.

At this time also new quarrels and dissension began to develop within party between the West and the East. The editors of *Robochyi narod* changed frequently. The paper was edited at various times during this period by Myroslav Stechyshyn, Yevhen Hutsailo, Ivan Stefanitsky,

Ivan Hnyda, Mykola Hyshka and John Navis.

Though the paper dealt with the struggle for the liberation of Ukraine, neither the paper nor the USDP had a clear position on this important question. For example, a League for the Liberation of Ukraine was formed in Europe, headed by such nationalist activists as Dmytro Dontsov, Volodymyr Doroshenko, and Olexandr Skoropys-Yoltukhovsky. This League was in reality a pawn of German imperialism. Though its leaders at one time were active in the Ukrainian Social-Democratic Party, they later took nationalist positions. Dontsov eventually became the ideologue of “militant nationalism” and gave ideological inspiration to the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), formed illegally in 1929 on Western Ukrainian lands which were then occupied by the Polish gentry.

Mykola Yermiyuchuk, secretary of the USDP’s Executive Committee, wrote an article in which he suggested that the USDP should “agree with the League”, because “its program is social democratic”.

At the same time, *Robochyi narod* reprinted articles of noted activists of the labour movement in various countries, which condemned the imperialist war, and called for peace. The paper also carried a news item from Europe about a speech in the German parliament made by Karl Liebknecht, a socialist deputy, protesting against the huge expenditures assigned for war.

A week after publishing this news, *Robochyi narod* carried an article by Matthew Popovich titled “No!” After reviewing Liebknecht’s speech, he wrote:

“His protest against the military budget is against the continuation of this diabolical crime of war; that is, against the further brutal murder of millions of innocent people, against the further destruction of cultural and other achievements of human labour, that of others as well as one’s own, against the spread of devastation, hunger, misery, illness and other evils which this most terrible war in the history of mankind is bringing with it. He did not forget also, that this war is conducted by the most determined enemies of socialism. Nor did he forget that in this war masses of workers in all the countries involved are being incited to murder each other, not in their own interests but in the interests and supremacy of the ruling classes. His protest is an echo of the innocent victims of militarism, dying in terrible suf-

fering on the fields where implacable death is dancing its war dance. It is the echo of the tears of aging mothers, powerless grey-haired fathers, despairing cries, and the wails of widows and orphans. It is the echo of the imprecations and entreaties of the wandering homeless and dispossessed.”

In publishing articles by noted activists of the international labour movement such as Clara Zetkin, Sen Katayama and others, *Robochyi narod* crystallized its own position toward the war. These articles had great educational value for the members of the USDP, rallying Ukrainian workers in Canada to active protest against the war.

There was no harmony in the party. Krat continued his adventurous policies in the west, while in the east Stefanitsky began to issue a monthly journal, *Svidomasya* (Conscious Strength). Various branches across Canada were critical of the appearance of the new journal. But Stefanitsky paid no attention to these criticisms.

Stefanitsky refused to submit to party discipline and continued to publish his journal to the end of 1915. In 1916, he began to put out a weekly paper, *Robitnyche slovo* (Workers’ Word), instead of the journal. It lasted until September, 1918, when it was declared illegal by the Canadian government, along with other socialist publications.

Vasyl Holovatsky appeared in Sudbury early in 1915 and demanded that Mykola Yermiyuchuk resign his post as secretary of the USDP Executive Committee, and that he (Holovatsky) be named secretary as well as editor of *Robochyt narod*. Arriving in Winnipeg he tried to form a separate branch of the USDP, and at the same time demanded of the Manitoba Committee that the other local branch be disbanded. The Executive Committee, at its meeting March 14, 1915, reviewed Holovatsky’s behaviour, and voted to expel him from the party.

A struggle emerged once again in the leadership of the USDP. Soon after Holovatsky’s expulsion, Hnyda, who had voluntarily left his position of USDP organizer to go to Montreal, convened an Extraordinary Conference of the Quebec and Ontario branches. It was held in Toronto on April 11, 1915. The delegates were sharply critical of the party’s Executive Committee and demanded the formation of a new executive of nine members which would be based in Montreal. Together with Andrii Dmytryshyn, Mykola Yavorsky and Mykola Korzh, Hnyda began to conduct a campaign against the Executive Com-

mittee in Winnipeg.

A few weeks later (May 2, 1915), a District Conference was held with delegates from branches in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The conference voiced sharp criticism of Hnyda’s activities.

In spite of the struggles in its ranks, the party at the time was fairly well-developed politically and capable of carrying out its program. The delegates sharply condemned the establishment press against workers of non-Anglo-Saxon origin. They also called on the Canadian government to make representations to the tsarist authorities in Russia about the arrest of five social-democratic deputies of the *Duma* (parliament), as well as in defence of the rights of the Ukrainian people, since the tsarist regime had banned Ukrainian newspapers and books, had closed schools, and had unlawfully arrested Ukrainian scholars and writers and exiled them to Siberia. The delegates demanded that new elections to the federal parliament be called and that the municipal, provincial and federal governments establish community enterprises for the unemployed.

In still another resolution the delegates expressed their views about the “imperialist war” that was then being fought in Europe.

In 1915, a second wave of arrests of Ukrainian settlers took place. This time members of the USDP were interned, despite the fact that they were Canadian citizens. They were dispersed into internment camps in Brandon, Vernon, Lethbridge and Spirit Lake. Ukrainian workers were fired from their jobs *en masse* and many of them were arrested and interned.

A severe blow to the USDP was the arrest of its secretary, Mykola Yermiyuchuk. A provisional executive committee was then elected, with Antin Dziola as secretary and S. Khoronzhy as treasurer, to carry on until a new executive committee could be elected.

An important question facing the party was where to continue publishing *Robochyi narod*.

In a referendum on the matter, held on July 28, 1915, only the Welland branch voted that the paper be published in the East. So the paper remained in Winnipeg and became a monthly.

Within the USDP leadership total chaos reigned. There were constant resignations and expulsions from the Executive Committee, continuous referendums and confirmation of new candidates.

A second District Conference of the USDP was held on May 1, 1915, in Bellevue, Alberta, with 14 delegates attending from Coleman,

Bellevue, Lethbridge and Canmore.

A new period in the activities of the USDP began in August of 1916, when Matthew Popovich was invited to become editor of *Robochyi narod*. The National Executive Committee prepared a plan of organizational activity, rallied the membership to carry it through, and decided to intensify the press fund campaign so that *Robochyi narod* “could be published more often”. Party activity was revived, the pages of *Robochyi narod* were filled with reports of the activities of branches in Hamilton, Toronto, Sault Ste. Marie, Winnipeg, and Regina.

The year 1917 was an important one in the history of the USDP. On Sunday, March 25, 1917, a meeting at the Grand Opera House in Winnipeg adopted a resolution proposed by Popovich. It read:

“We, Ukrainian workers gathered at a mass meeting in Winnipeg, send fraternal greetings to the Russian worker-revolutionaries on the occasion of the world victory of the revolution over autocratic tsarism and the break-up of the prisonhouse of nations which, without a doubt, will also liberate the 30-million strong Ukrainian people. We are convinced that our Russian comrades will not stop at this change of the political order of Russia, but will continue their struggle to complete victory of the working people over all their enemies.”

Similar meetings organized by the party were held in other cities across Canada.

On April 30, 1917, the USDP held its third Western District Conference in Fernie, B.C.

The Executive Committee decided to call a national convention of the USDP for August 16-19, 1917, in Winnipeg.

The convention lasted five days instead of the originally projected three and was attended by 30 delegates from 25 branches. It showed that the Ukrainian social democratic movement in Canada, now embodied in the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party, had grown substantially in membership and in the number of branches. It demonstrated also that the party had achieved, for the first time, a considerably high level of political awareness and that its members had also matured politically, in spite of the obstructions the party had encountered from the Canadian military authorities (the break-up of many of its branches and the internment of many of its activists in 1915), and the inner party strife.

How are you marking the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration?

Ukrainian Miscellany

Yatseniuk Resigns

After months of political manoeuvring, Prime Minister Yatseniuk of Ukraine resigned, and was quickly replaced by former Speaker of the Supreme Council of Ukraine Volodymyr Groysman.

Replacing Mr. Groysman as Speaker was Andriy Parubiy, historically an opponent of the international agreement to end hostilities in the eastern regions of Ukraine.

Also leaving the Cabinet were technocrats such as U.S.-born Finance Minister Natalia Jaresko. Aivaras Abromavicius quit as economy minister in February, in a protest over corruption.

The change was expected to strengthen President Petro Poroshenko's influence on the country's parliament as Poroshenko loyalists Oleksandr Danyliuk and Stepan Kubiv were expected to be given Cabinet posts.

President Poroshenko,

whose party was a major player in dumping the Prime Minister (who was once "our boy" to American and German leaders), blamed the disruption he himself, and his party, created for delaying billions of dollars in foreign aid.

President Poroshenko, Ukraine's sixth richest man, said the new government must honour reform commitments made under its \$17.5 billion International Monetary Fund bailout. It was expected the change in government would be followed by negotiations for the third instalment, in the amount of \$1.7 billion, of a loan from the International Monetary Fund, which has been delayed since October.

The two most prominent reform commitments were to a package of austerity measures which were a condition of the foreign aid, and a demand that corruption be eliminated.

Mr. Groysman pledged to tackle the country's widespread corruption and to strengthen ties with the European Union.

Questions were raised whether the new government had enough support to enact legislation. Opposition members like Serhiy Lyovochkin, encouraged by support from former members of the governing coalition, expected parliament to be dissolved within a few months.

Among Ukraine's Western allies, there is concern that an election could empower ultra-right populist parties opposed to the austerity measures imposed by the IMF. These parties, or at least some of them, are also opposed to the restructuring which includes selling off national assets to foreign investors, and also reject the negotiated agreements to stop the fighting in the eastern regions.

Who Is Andriy Parubiy?

Andriy Parubiy has been appointed Speaker of the Supreme Council (Verkhovna rada), replacing Volodymyr Groysman as the latter moved to the post of Prime Minister.

Who is Andriy Parubiy? Here is some information from Wikipedia, which documents each datum.

In 1991, Mr. Parubiy founded the Social-National Party of Ukraine (SNPU), together with Oleh Tyahnybok. The party combined radical nationalism and some neo-Nazi features. In 1998–2004 Mr. Parubiy led the paramilitary organization of SNPU, the Patriot of Ukraine. He left these organizations in 2004.

Mr. Parubiy co-led the Orange Revolution in 2004.

In the 2007 parliamentary elections he was voted into the Ukrainian parliament on an Our Ukraine–People's Self-Defence Bloc ticket.

In February, 2010, Mr. Parubiy asked the European Parliament to reconsider its negative reaction to former Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko's decision to award Stepan Bandera, the leader of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, the title of Hero of Ukraine.

In early February, 2012, Andriy Parubiy left Our Ukraine, and was re-elected into parliament on the party list of Fatherland.

From December, 2013, to February, 2014, Mr. Parubiy was a commandant of Euromaidan. He was then appointed Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine. This appointment was approved by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on June 16, 2014.

As Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council, Andriy Parubiy oversaw the "anti-terrorist" operation against pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Andriy Parubiy resigned as Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council on August 7, 2014, after refus-

ing to declare another ceasefire in the southeast of Ukraine.

In September, 2014, Mr. Parubiy became a founding member of his new party, People's Front.

A less guarded characterization was given by Greg Rose in *Global Research News* on March 2, 2014, two years ago, after President Yanukovich was deposed.

"The ultra-right Svoboda (Freedom–Sz) Party," Mr. Rose wrote, "has scored six major cabinet ministries in the government of Arseniy Yatseniuk.... Svoboda is the Neo-Nazi, ultra-right, anti-Semitic, Russophobic party with its base of support in the Western Ukraine."

"The most important post was claimed by a co-founder of Svoboda, Andriy Parubiy. He was named Secretary of the Security and National Defense (sic) Committee, which supervises the defense (sic) ministry and the armed forces."

"The Parubiy appointment to such an important post should, alone, be cause for international outrage. (As commandant of Euromaidan–Sz) (h)e led the masked Right Sector thugs who battled riot police in the Independence Maidan in Kiev."

"The Right Sector is an openly fascist, anti-Semitic and anti-Russian organization. Most of the snipers and bomb throwers in the crowds were connected with this group."

"The Right Sector," Mr. Rose continued, "... has succeeded in achieving its long time goal of legalizing discrimination against Russians. The new parliament has passed legislation that declares Russian speakers no longer have equal rights with Ukrainians."

"(Mr. Parubiy) is also associated with Prime Minister Yatseniuk's Fatherland Party. Dmytro Yarosh, leader of the Right Sector delegation in parliament, was named Parubiy's deputy."

Dutch Voters Reject Trade Pact

On April 6, voters in the Netherlands, rejected a European Union free trade deal with Ukraine.

The nonbinding referendum required a 30% voter turnout to be valid; 32.2% was achieved. Of votes cast, 61.1% rejected the trade deal, 38.1 support it, with 0.8% of the ballots spoiled or blank.

It is unclear what the consequences would be for the trade pact, but Prime Minister Mark Rutte reacted by

noting that the result could not just be ignored. He foresaw days, and possibly weeks, of discussions with his Cabinet, the Dutch Parliament, and the European Union.

Opponents of the trade deal saw the deal as a step toward bringing Ukraine into the European Union. They argued that the EU should not include Ukraine because of that country's level of corruption.

The vote took place just

after the Panama Papers revealed that Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko had possibly deprived Ukraine of millions of dollars in taxes by moving his business off shore.

It has been known for some time that Mr. Poroshenko had not kept his pre-election promise to sell his confection business, reputedly the main source of his immense wealth (he is thought to be the 6th richest man in Ukraine), putting it instead into a holding company.

Supporters of the trade deal denied that it was a step toward getting Ukraine into the EU. They argued that such a deal would boost trade, improve human rights in Ukraine, and increase stability at the border.

The majority of voters were understandably sceptical.

The referendum was forced by a coalition of Euro-skeptical groups who gathered 430,000 signatures on a petition in just six weeks.

The last such referendum in the Netherlands was in 2005, when voters rejected the constitution of the European Union.

This referendum, too, took place less than three months before British voters vote to decide whether their country would stay in the EU or withdraw.

On April 19, the Dutch parliament defeated a motion calling for the Netherlands to cancel the ratification of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. The motion was tabled by the Euroskeptic Socialist Party and defeated by a vote of 75-71 in the 150-seat lower house.

Public Support Declining

A poll released on Thursday, April 14, by the International Republican Institute (IRI) found that a record 76% of Ukrainians believe the country is heading in the "wrong direction", with public satisfaction with the president declining from 25% to 17% since November, 2015. (According to Wikipedia,

"The majority of the IRI's funding comes from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. State Department, and the National Endowment for Democracy.... The IRI operates as a political organization abroad, providing training and assistance to favoured political parties.... the majority of its board, staff and consultants are drawn from the Republican Party.)

Swap for Savchenko?

It was reported on April 19 that a deal had been reached for the repatriation of Nadiya Savchenko. The report was based on comments made to journalists by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. Mr. Poroshenko said that he had initiated a discussion with Russian President Vladimir Putin, resulting in "a certain algorithm" to free Nadiya.

The immediate speculation, not confirmed nor denied at

the time, was that the deal involved a trade for "two Russian soldiers" found guilty the previous day by a Ukrainian court of "waging aggressive war and terrorism".

Ms. Savchenko had been sentenced in Russia to 22 years imprisonment.

It was reported that Ms. Savchenko had agreed to end her dry hunger strike which she started on April 6.

President Poroshenko reportedly urged "no speculation about a timeframe" for Ms. Savchenko's return or future steps.

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 examine the experience of the years around World War I.

Moving Beyond the Homestead

From 1896 until 1914, Canada had the world's fastest-growing economy. The west was settled, and the population grew quickly, so that by 1900, Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier could predict that the twentieth century would be Canada's.

The most noted expansion was in western Canada, but at the same time central Canada was undergoing a period of significant industrialization.

However, there was a severe recession in 1913, lasting into 1914, with recovery into 1915.

From the earliest years, starting in 1892, there was an element of urban settlement in Ukrainian immigration. In 1896, there were only about a thousand Ukrainian immigrants in Canada, and the majority were nominally on homesteads, but they often worked in other industries as well.

Then the number of immigrants soared, and so did involvement in non-agricultural pursuits. Particularly in the first few years, while the land was being cleared, the men often went to construction jobs and other work in cities and towns, or to mining, lumbering, or railroad building to earn the required money. In addition, some of the farmers could not make a go of it. They moved into more urbanized settings with their families, all able individuals seeking work of some kind to add to the family income.

As the turn of the 20th century approached, city life began in earnest. The first Ukrainian Orthodox church was built in 1897, and the first Ukrainian Catholic church followed in 1898. *The Canadian Farmer*, Canada's first Ukrainian paper started publishing in November, 1903, financed by the Liberal party, and other publications followed.

Organized secular activity started around the same time. Though there may have been an earlier International Literary Group, as noted by Peter Krawchuk in *The Ukrainian Socialist Movement in Canada (1907-1918)*, in 1903 the Shevchenko Reading Society was formed, in Winnipeg.

In *The Ukrainians in Winnipeg's First Century*, Peter Krawchuk notes the opening in June, 1902, in Winnipeg, of Yurko Panischuk's clothing store (remember the fellow who stayed in Winnipeg ten

CORRECTION

The date at the end of the second paragraph of the story on Page 10 of the April, 2016, issue should have been September 7, 1891. We thank the readers who brought the error to our attention, and apologize for any negative consequences.

years earlier?) Other businesses followed, though Krawchuk comments that Ukrainian businesses were not numerous before the 1920s.

A male choir existed in Winnipeg. In 1904 it sang at a celebration of Taras Shevchenko's birth anniversary. In that year, too, the first Ukrainian play presentation took place with the staging of *The Argonauts*. The first presentation of the opera *Natalka Poltavka* was in August, 1906.

Early in their presence in Canada, then, it can be said that Ukrainian immigrants were making their economic and social presence felt far beyond the farm. This effect was dramatically heightened in the years before the outbreak of World War I.

By the time in 1914 that World War I ended, most Ukrainian immigration, there were an estimated 170,000 Ukrainians in Canada. Some 140,000 of them came in the first 14 years of the 20th century, the number increasing annually! This included not only immigrants, but a growing number of Canadian born (most of them still children at that time, of course).

In 1910-1914, some 70,000 Ukrainian immigrants arrived with a peak immigration of 22,000 in 1913. The majority of them were no longer farmers looking for land. Most of them were men arriving alone, staying in cities and towns, and looking for work in non-agricultural industries. Many of them ended up in remote company-run bunk house camps, where they were at the mercy of their employers.

By 1911 the International Workers of the World (IWW) had 10,000 Canadian members, mainly in mining, logging and railway camps. The militant IWW led the workers, radicalized by their living and working conditions, in strikes for a better life.

Many of these men had one of two dreams: to make some money with which to bring the rest of the family to Canada, or to earn enough to be able to return to a viable life in Ukraine by paying off debts and/or increasing land holdings.

These men faced a harsh reality: amassing money was not all that easy.

In many cases, the advent of WWI, put an end to those dreams, as contact between

the men and their families in the "old country" was severed.

Peter Krawchuk, in *The Ukrainian Socialist Movement in Canada (1907-1918)*, suggests that the seed of the Ukrainian Canadian progressive movement was planted very early — in 1896, with the arrival of Kyrilo Genyk, who was a member of the Russo-Ukrainian Radical Party in Eastern Galicia. Genyk was close friends with Ivan Franko, and had been jailed in Ukraine for spreading socialist propaganda. It was Genyk who, in 1903, Genyk organized the Taras Shevchenko Reading Society in Winnipeg, with others who considered themselves socialists.

In 1906, under the leadership of Vasyl Holovatsky, the Shevchenko Reading Society became more active in community political life.

In 1905, the Socialist Party of Canada was formed by the merger of the Canadian Socialist League and the Socialist Party of British Columbia. The presence of Ukrainian members in the Socialist Party of Canada might be inferred from the formation of Ukrainian Branches of that party in Winnipeg, Portage La Prairie, and Nanaimo in 1907. In November, 1907, the Ukrainian Branches of the SPC began publishing "*Chervoniy prapor*" (Red Flag), which lasted for 18 issues, to August, 1908.

Nine months later, in May, 1909, "*Robochiy narod*" (The Working People) started

publication as the "organ of Ukrainian social democracy in Canada and the United States". This paper continued publication to September, 1918, when it was banned by the government of Canada, along with the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party.

In November, 1909, the Ukrainian Branches of the Socialist Party of Canada held their own convention, at which they formed the Federation of Ukrainian Social Democrats.

The next five years were eventful, and often strife-filled, for the FUSD, the Canadian working class movement, and Canadian political life generally.

In January, 1914, an Ontario-Quebec conference of the FUSD decided to rename the party the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party, and shareholders turned the "*Robochiy narod*" Association (official publisher of the paper) over to the USDP.

Then came war. Canada played an extraordinarily large role in the First World War relative to its size. It sent over hundreds of thousands of troops, and was also the granary and arms producer for the allied side. This led to a further boom on the prairies as wheat prices skyrocketed. The rest of the country, even the Maritimes, benefited from an increase in manufacturing.

In August, 1914, the USDP expressed its opposition to the war as an imperialist war provoked to serve the class interests of the capitalists. The USDP maintained this position until the government of Canada banned the organization in September, 1918. "*Robochiy narod*", until it was banned, reflected that position.

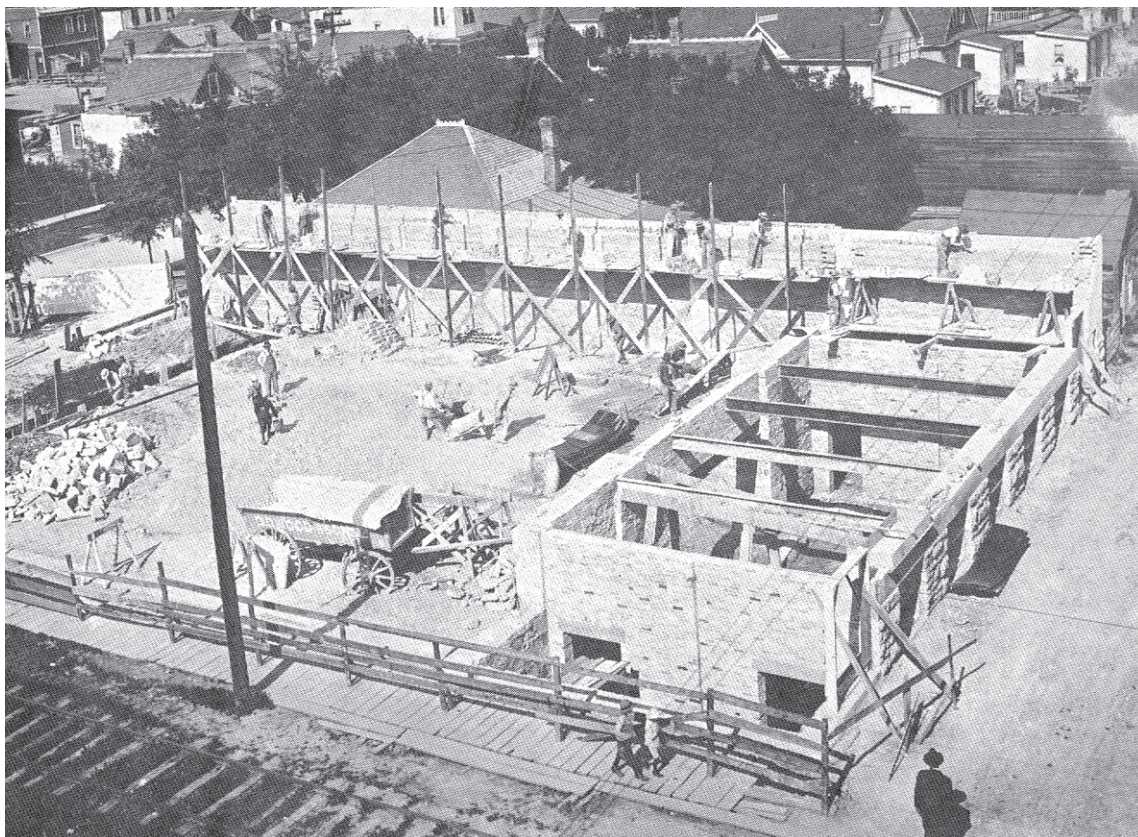
With the advent of World War I in 1914, immigration from Halychyna and Bukovyna, part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire with which Britain (and therefore Canada) was at war, came to a halt.

WWI brought a period of repression to Ukrainian immigrants, as well as to others who were suspected as enemy aliens.

In 1914 Canada's Conservative government, with the support of all Liberal Members of Parliament and the lone Labour Party MP, passed the War Measures Act. Many Ukrainians were among those interned in concentration camps. Even larger numbers were required to report regularly to officials, much like criminals on parole.

Ihor Bardyn wrote in the *Almanac of the Ukrainian National Association* for the year 1992 that "Over 80,000 (Richard Sanders puts the number at 88,000.—Sz) were classified enemy aliens, disenfranchised and almost 6,000 imprisoned in 26 internment camps throughout Canada."

(Continued on Page 12.)



The Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg was under construction in summer, 1918, and was officially opened on February 24, 1919. The Ukrainian Labour Temple Association was not banned, and the building served as an important community centre.

JOIN US!

Join the AUUC community! Each Branch has a unique schedule of events and activities. To discover what we have to offer, contact the AUUC in your area:

AUUC NATIONAL OFFICE

National Executive Committee AUUC
595 Pritchard Avenue
Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4
Phone: 800-856-8242 Fax: (204) 589-3404
E-mail: mail@auucobzar.net Web site: auuc.ca

VANCOUVER BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
805 East Pender Street
Vancouver BC V6A 1V9
Phone: (604) 254-3436 Fax: (604) 254-3436
E-mail: auucvancouver@telus.net
Website: www.auucvancouver.ca

CALGARY BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
3316-28 Avenue SW
Calgary AB T3E 0R8
Phone: (403) 246-1231
E-mail: calauuc@telus.net

EDMONTON BRANCH

Ukrainian Centre
11018-97 Street
Edmonton AB T5H 2M9
Phone: (780) 424-2037 Fax: (780) 424-2013
E-mail: auucedm@telus.net

VEGREVILLE BRANCH

c/o Lil Humeniuk
Box 481
Vegreville AB T9C 1R6
Phone: (780) 632-3021

REGINA BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
1809 Toronto Street
Regina SK S4P 1M7
Phone: (306) 522-1188 Web site: www.poltava.ca

WINNIPEG BRANCH

Ukrainian Labour Temple
591 Pritchard Avenue
Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4 ult-wpg.ca
Phone: (204) 582-9269 Fax: 589-3404

OTTAWA BRANCH

c/o Robert Seychuk
24 Attwood Crescent
Ottawa ON K2E 5A9
Phone: (613) 228-0990

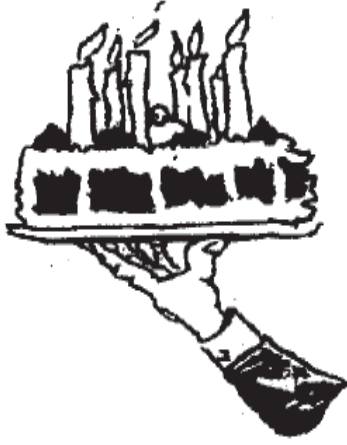
TORONTO BRANCH

AUUC Cultural Centre
1604 Bloor Street West
Toronto ON M6P 1A7
Phone: (416) 588-1639 Fax: 588-9180
auuctorontobranch@gmail.com

WELLAND BRANCH

Ukrainian Labour Temple
342 Ontario Road
Welland ON L3B 5C5
Phone: (905) 732-5656

Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Nester Bagan
Sandy Gordey
Paul Greene
Nick Kereliuk
Sophie Sywolos
Mike Uhryn
Virginia Witwicki
Pauline Warick

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

The **Toronto AUUC Senior Citizens Club** extends best birthday wishes to May and June celebrants:

Joe Dzatko
Nita Miskevich
Natalie Mochoruk

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

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** extends best May and June birthday greetings to:

Mary Fedosenko
Carol Snider
Sylvia Surette

Hope you have a great day!!

The **Welland Shevchenko Seniors** extend a happy birthday wish to May and June celebrants:

Lida Braun
Millie Kish
Mike Lusak
Joan Sitak
Leonard Whatmough

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

JoKe TiMe

The gallery owner told the artist, "The good news is that a man asked about your work and wondered if it would appreciate in value after your death. When I told him it would, he bought all 15 of your paintings."

"Wonderful," the artist exclaimed. "What's the bad news?"

"The guy was your doctor."

Who, What, When, Where

Vancouver — AUUC Vancouver will participate in the **BC Ukrainian Festival and Competition** all day on **May 7** at the Clarke Theatre of Heritage Park Secondary School in Mission, BC.

* * *

Vancouver — The **Dovbush Dancers**, supported by the **Association of United Ukrainian Canadians**, present **MO-SAIC**, an evening of Ukrainian dance and culture, featuring guests **Vostok, Tropak Ukrainian Dance Theatre, The Wheat in the Barley** and the AUUC's **Druzhba Dancers**, starting at **7:30 p.m.** on Sunday, **June 26**, at the **Centennial Theatre** in North Vancouver at 2300 Lonsdale Avenue. For tickets, please call **604-984-4484**. Regular Box Office hours are Monday to Friday, 12:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. and Saturday 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

* * *

Regina — The **Association of United Ukrainian Canadians** will sponsor the **Poltava Ukrainian Pavilion Mosaic 2016** at the **Regina Performing Arts Centre (RPAC)**, 1077 Angus St. at 4th Avenue, on **June 2,3,4**. Mosaic is an annual event of the Regina Multicultural Council. **Passports available** at RPAC Box Office. **Adults – \$16.00; Children and Seniors – \$8.00. Phone 306-779-2277.**

* * *

Calgary — AUUC Calgary Branch presents **Ukrainian Heritage Celebration**, an afternoon of music, song and dance featuring the **Calgary Hopak Ensemble**, with the **Trembita Folk Choir** from Edmonton, on Sunday, **May 14**, at **2:00 p.m.** at the **Leacock Theatre**, Mount Royal University. Tickets are **\$20.00 for adults; \$10.00 children** aged 3 – 12 years. Call **Darlene at 403-271-2379** for tickets.

* * *

Winnipeg — The **Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra** presents the **Festival of Mandolins**, with guest singer/song writer **Lindsey White**, at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, **591 Pritchard Avenue**, starting at **8:00 p.m.** on Saturday, **May 14. Admission: \$20.00.** Discounted rates for students and children.

* * *

Winnipeg — AUUC Winnipeg Branch presents at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, **591 Pritchard Avenue**, starting at **11:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **May 29**. Performing: at **11:30 a.m., Dance School and Yunist Dance Ensemble; at 1:00 p.m., Festival Choir; at 2:30 p.m., Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra. Free admission and building tours.**

* * *

Welland — AUUC Welland Branch will present a **Spring Concert/Banquet** on Sunday, **May 15**, at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, **342 Ontario Road**. A traditional Ukrainian meal will be served at **1:00 p.m.**, followed by a concert featuring the **St. Catharines String Orchestra**, conducted by Laszlo Szolosi, and the **Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra** of the AUUC, conducted by Rudy Wasylenky. **Admission: \$20.00/person. Seating is limited; to reserve your tickets** call Clara Babiy (Welland) at (905) 732-4716, Lida Braun (Port Colborne) at (905) 834-4213 or Rudy Wasylenky (Burlington) at (905) 332-9336.

* * *

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch will hold its **5th Annual Rummage Sale** at the **AUUC Cultural Centre**, 1604 Bloor Street West, from **11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** on Saturday, **June 18**. Sale of gently used articles, vendor tables, bake table, coffee and sweets, hot dogs and soft drinks. Tables for rent — \$10.00. For information, call Nancy at 416-766-8895.

* * *

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch will hold **Canada Day/Shevchenko Day** at the **AUUC Cultural Centre**, 1604 Bloor Street West, on Friday, **July 1**. Doors open at noon; the program starts at **12:30 p.m.** Planned are a **tribute to Taras Shevchenko, a flower presentation, poetry reading, lunch, 50/50 draw**, and various **games and amusements**. Admission: **\$12.00/person** (children under 12 — \$6.00 each).

* * *

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.

Moving Beyond the Homestead

(Continued from Page 10.)

In the March, 2016, issue of *Press for Conversion*, Richard Sanders writes that “Between 914 and 1920, 8,579 men ‘of enemy nationality’ were interned in what authorities originally called ‘Concentration Camps.’ Of these, 7362 (90%) were civilian residents of Canada. Also imprisoned were 81 women and 156 children. While 2,009 of the men were German, 5,954 were listed as ‘Austro-Hungarians, covering Croats, Ruthenians, Slovaks and Chzecks.’ (Serbs were also among those interned.) About 5,000 of these ‘Austro-Hungarians’ were actually Ukrainian.”

The property and other assets of the internees were confiscated. Most of those interned were foreign-born, poor, single men, but there were some Canadian-born, Ihor Bardyn writes, and a few families, including some with children.

By 1915, some 4000 (almost half — more, if the 2000 German, who had preferential treatment are discounted) of the captives in these prison camps were classified as indigent. In 1916 and 1917, the prisoners were used as cheap labour in worker-short industries.

Conditions in the camps were often brutal, with ill treatment common. Ten detainees were shot while trying to escape, and others developed psychotic conditions

Outside the camps, discrimination was rampant, resulting in loss of employment (meaning a loss of income and impoverishment to the point of desperation). Children as well as adults were subjected to bullying and even beatings. Those who had attained citizenship were deprived of many citizenship rights, including voting rights.

Maj. Gen. Sir William Otter, the man in charge of the whole internment operation included in his official report the suspicion that municipalities were using the camps to unload their poor and their “insane”.

The size and importance of the community served to miti-

gate the attacks on the Ukrainians. In 1914, imprisoning 80,000 Ukrainian people, not to mention the many others who were listed as enemy aliens, would have been a tremendous challenge. Replacing them in the labour force, whether in agriculture (with the demand for grain strong and prices high) or in other industries (production of war supplies was booming), particularly at a time when hundreds of thousands of men were going to war (casualties alone — dead and wounded — numbered some 240,000 in the war) would not have been easy.

Repression and discrimination notwithstanding, life went on. The Ukrainian Social Democratic Party continued to function, and at its second national convention, in September, 1917, it decided to build a Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg.

The USDP called a mass meeting for March 1, 1918. The 168 people who attended were enthusiastic about the proposal to build a Ukrainian Labour Temple, and donated \$3717.00 toward the project. The Ukrainian Labour Temple Association was formed for the specific purpose of owning the Ukrainian Labour Temple, which would house the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party, its press, and its other activities, including performing arts

Though WWI officially ended on November 11, 1918, the camps stayed open two more years. In August and September, 1918, there were arrests of the members of the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party. On September 25 and 27, 1918, by order-in-Council the government banned *Robochiy narod*, along with other publications, and the USDP, along with other organizations, in a move against “anarchy and Bolshevik propaganda”. These new internees were now housed in the camps.

On October 11, Borden’s government banned all strike.

The USDP and the paper had consistently opposed the war as an imperialist war, and



The second convention of the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party was held in Winnipeg in August 16-19, 1917, shortly before the organization was banned.

supported the revolution in Russia (against which Canada, with other countries, sent an expeditionary force).

The Ukrainian Labour Temple Association, however, was not banned. In spite of many restrictions on its members and activities, (because of the ban on the USDP) and the disruption of communications (because of the ban on the paper), construction of the Ukrainian Labour Temple was completed in February, 1919, at a cost of \$72,000.00, a king’s ransom at the time, and the building was officially opened on February 24.

In the next decade, the ULTA, which had been built with donations from across the country consolidated its position in Winnipeg. Beyond that, however, it set out on a path of growth across Canada, involving farming localities as well as cities and towns, rapidly expanding its performing arts and other cultural activities, building new institutions, and continuing along its road of social activism in a left-wing political context.

By 1918, there was a widespread network of Ukrainian churches, mainly Catholic and Orthodox, with supporting organizations being developed, as well as collateral institutions.

Performing arts collectives, were active, primarily staging plays, with song, music and dance incidental as required by the script.

The immediate post-war years saw a short, but severe, recession as the economy readjusted to the end of wartime production.

Close to 400,000 young men with high expectations were returning from the distant battlefields. They were returning to a country gearing down from war production. Jobs were scarce, and employers were aggressive in resisting demands for decent pay and improvements in working conditions.

While these conditions led to a certain amount of conflict within the working class in the competition for jobs, it also led

to united workingclass action. A series of strikes eventually swept the country, to be met by vicious strikebreaking tactics. The Winnipeg General Strike was typical, rather than unique, though it was the most famous.

Throughout the country, the attack on organized labour was cloaked in anti-Bolshevik hysteria. Richard Sanders cites the Winnipeg mayor at the time as an example of blaming “Ukrainians, Russians, Poles, and especially Jews” as the main Bolshevik threat.

By 1921, the Canadian economy was booming again, with a period of growth which continued well into 1928. In the 1920s, there was an unprecedented increase in the standard of living as items that had been luxury goods, such as radios, automobiles, and electric lights — not to mention flush toilets — became commonplace across the nation.

The renewed prosperity created a need for more workers, so immigration opened up once again. In the 1920s, before the Great Depression brought Ukrainian immigration to an end a second time (though not completely), some 70,000 Ukrainians came to Canada.

Though much smaller than the first immigration, this second wave had a dramatic effect on the Ukrainian Canadian community, and there-

fore, was a significant factor in Canadian national life.

The Ukrainian Social Democratic Party, before it was banned, had been active across the country, and subscribers to *The Working People* were found throughout Canada. USDP members everywhere and others, too, were forming activity groups.

In a number of locations, like Welland, Ontario, and others, there were even halls and other properties which had been built or bought for community activities.

The same was also true in rural locations.

An indication of how widespread this activity was is that, at its first Annual General Meeting in January, 1920, the ULTA had representatives from a dozen localities outside Winnipeg, as far east as Montreal and as far west as Edmonton.

The Welland organization joined the ULTA as an affiliate at that convention, as also did groups in Edmonton and Regina, where according to the *ULFTA Almanac. 1918-1929*, “their own fine buildings were built”.

The next issue will consider the inter-war period.

Sustaining Fund Donations

Natalka Mochoruk, Toronto ON

In memory of my late husband, Merse \$100.00
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