Reminiscences of foreign immigration work by C. B. Schmidt and others

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Documents about the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway's work to bring Mennonites and other immigrant groups to settle on railroad land in Kansas. Seven documents are included: (1) Reminiscences of foreign immigration work, address by C. B. Schmidt at the Fourth Annual Convention of the Colorado State Realty Association held at Colorado Springs, Colorado, June 20 to 23, 1905; (2) Mennonites were lured to Kansas by shrewd immigration agents, article by Cecil Howes from the "Kansas City Times" Nov. 24, 1939; (3) A. L. Johnson's letter to Thos. Nickerson dated August 10, 1876, advising that the Mennonites who arrived in Kansas with Bishop Goddert are looking for land; (4) What has been done for the State to induce immigration - the results of the work of the A.T.&S.F. Railroad Co., and how a continued effort is made useless by an obnoxious prohibition law and its chief promoter, the State's own governor, from the "Topeka Commonwealth" by C. B. Schmidt, Gen'l European Agt., A.T.&S.F. R.R., July 23, 1881; (5) Kansas City, Topeka, Land Grant, Hutchinson to Dodge City, excerpts from "Die Santa Fe Und Sud-Pacific Bahn In Nord America" by Robert von Schlaginweit, Cologne, Germany, 1884; (6) Description of the Swedish settlement, Pawnee Rock, in the upper Arkansas Valley in Southwestern Kansas of the United States, by C. B. Schmidt; (7) Descriptive data relating to the Atchison land grant, brochure with map issued by the Land Commissioner of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad Company, 1893.

Creator: Schmidt, C. B.

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SECTION V

REMINISCENCES
OF
FOREIGN IMMIGRATION WORK
C. B. SCHMIDT AND OTHERS.

Reminiscences of foreign immigration work. C. B. Schmidt.

Mennonites were lured to Kansas by shrewd immigration agents. Kans. City Times 11-24-39.

A. L. Johnson's letterto Thos. Nickerson dated 8-10-76 advising that the Mennonites are looking for land.

The results of the work of the AT and SF RR Co. The obnoxious prohibition laws interfere with the company's efforts. The Commonwealth, Topeka, 7--23--81.

Kansas City, Topeka, Land Grant, Hutchinson, Dodge City, and Mennonite settlements. Edward Schlaginweit. 1884.

Description of the Swedish settlement, Pawnee Rock, in the upper Arkansas Valley. C. B. Schmidt.

Descriptive data relating to the Atchison land-grant. Brochure with map issued by the Land Commissioner. 1893.

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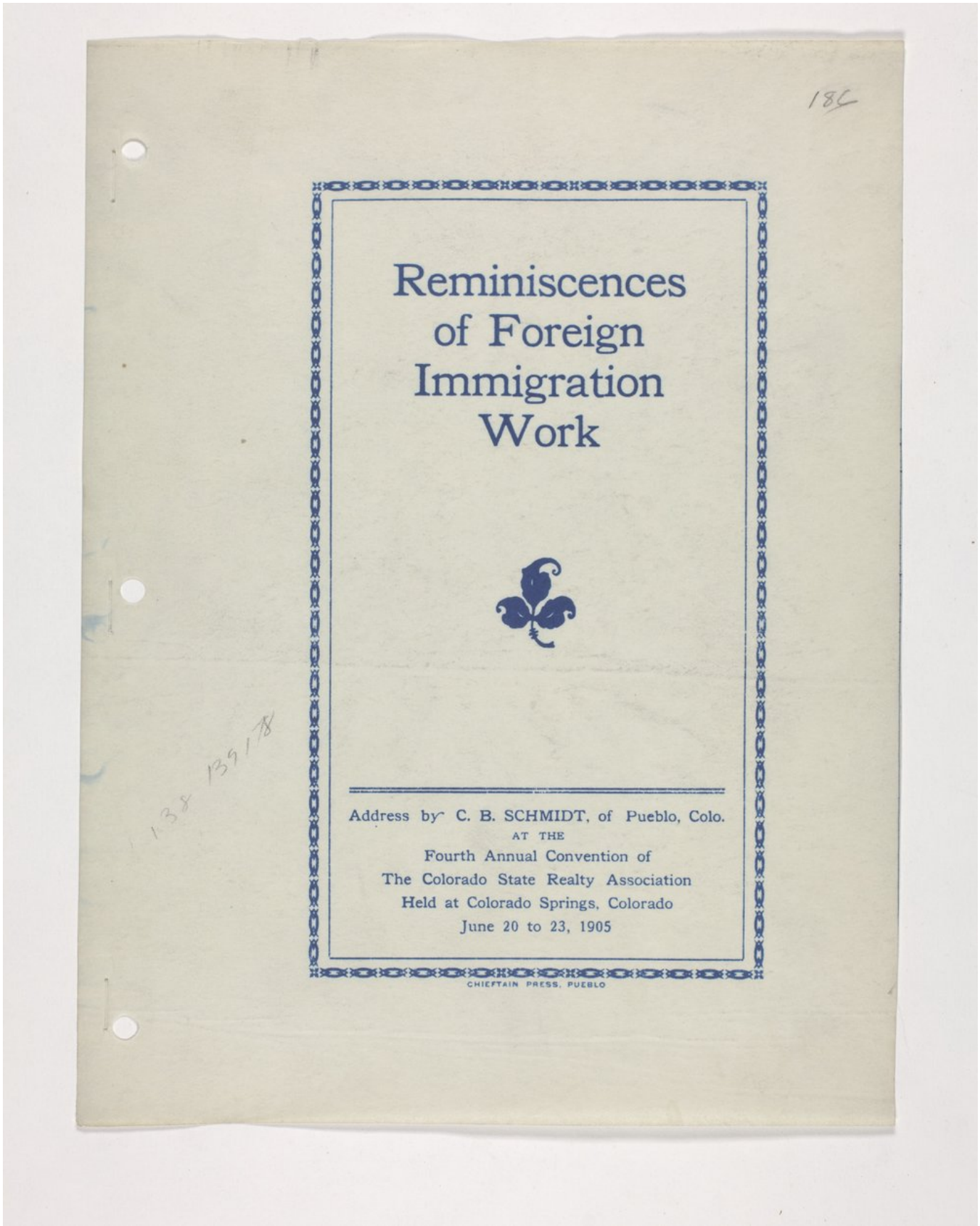

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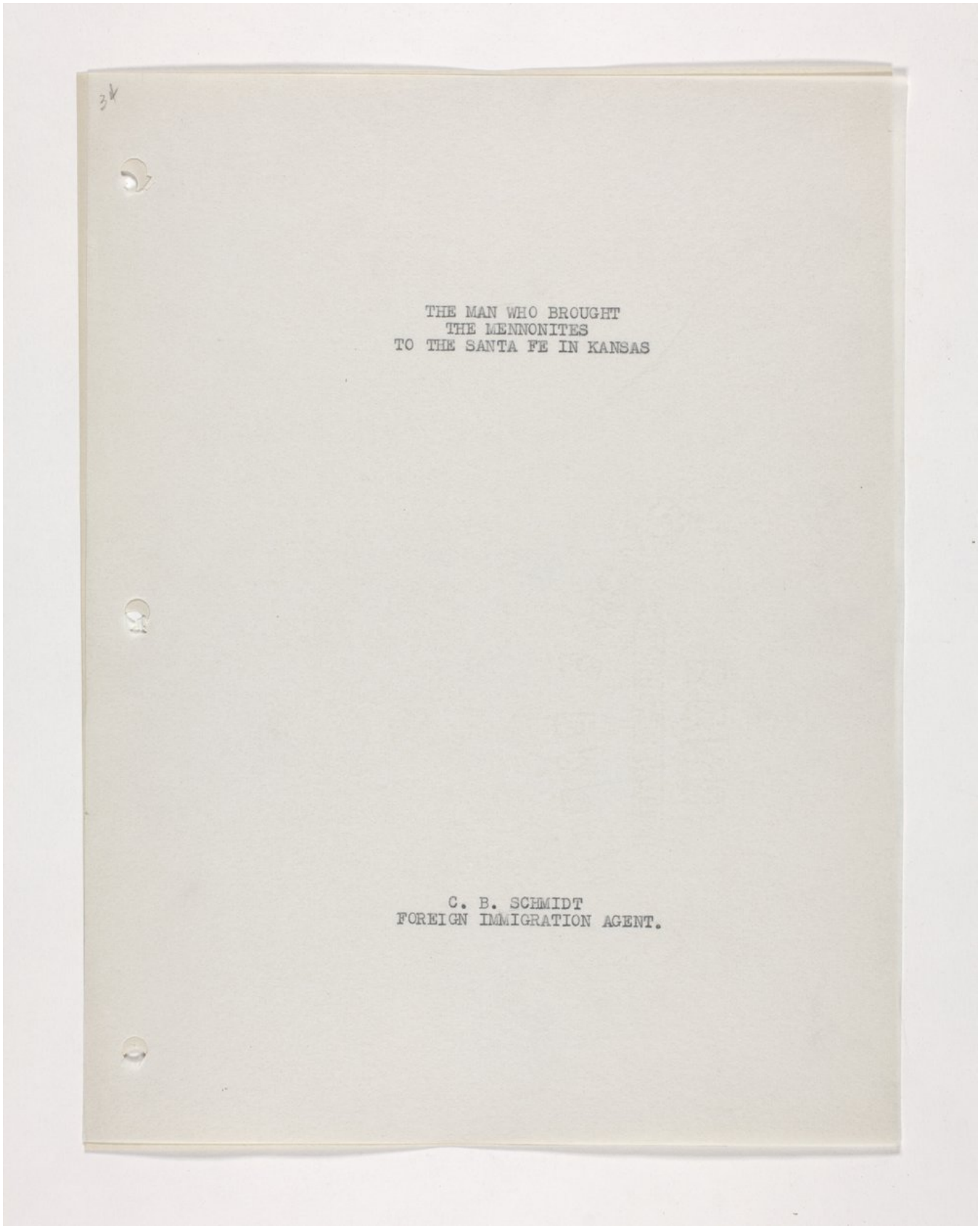
Reminiscences of Foreign Immigration Work

Address by C. B. SCHMIDT, of Pueblo, Colo.
AT THE
Fourth Annual Convention of
The Colorado State Realty Association
Held at Colorado Springs, Colorado
June 20 to 23, 1905

CHIEFTAIN PRESS, PUEBLO



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THE MAN WHO BROUGHT
THE MENNONITES
TO THE SANTA FE IN KANSAS

C. B. SCHMIDT
FOREIGN IMMIGRATION AGENT.

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Reminiscences of Foreign Immigration Work

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Convention:

When two members of the Colorado State Realty Association, from different parts of the State, happen to meet, their conversation very soon, and quite naturally, drifts into channels of common interest, the uppermost being the development of our great State's great resources and the most effective means to accomplish quick results.

Thus it happened, not many months ago, that I met our esteemed president at the capital city—not a rare but always an agreeable occurrence. We discussed on that occasion the excellent work being done by our lecturers throughout the country, and the results we might expect from it for our State. The discussion had given us an appetite, and we adjourned to a cozy corner at one of the "swell" restaurants for luncheon. The genial surroundings and the good things on the table before us made us mildly philosophical and violently reminiscent. We discussed, among other subjects, the critical condition of the Russian empire, its conglomerate of races, and the problem of evolving from that conglomerate a coherent nation, a process that has been going on in our own country constantly for more than two centuries with wonderful success, and which will continue to go on so long as foreign countries continue to pour over our shores the millions of their surplus population, and so long as an acre of our immense territory remains undeveloped.

We also exchanged opinions as to the merits of the different nationalities who come to us as emigrants, and

their relative desirability as citizens of our republic. This led to my personal experience in foreign immigration and colonization work for Kansas, and Mr. Chamberlin considered some of these experiences as of sufficient interest to make them the subject of a brief paper to be read at this convention President Chamberlin, therefore, will have to share with me the blame if I weary you for a few minutes with

"Reminiscences of Foreign Immigration Work."

It is not the purpose of this paper either to advocate the encouragement of foreign immigration or to advocate its discouragement. The question has been thoroughly discussed in the national congress and in the press. The general verdict seems to be that the volume of foreign immigration has assumed such proportions, and its character has become so objectionable that restrictive measures have become necessary.

Every State of the Union, at some period in its history, has put forth strong efforts to attract foreign settlers. Abraham Lincoln was one of the strongest advocates of foreign immigration, and the American Homestead Law, the enactment of which he urged so strongly, has acted as a strong incentive to foreign immigration. Thousands upon thousands of European immigrants, who came to this country during the years of the Civil War, and were sent from the emigrant ships direct to the battlefields in the South – where quantity counted and not quality, after the war took advantage of the homestead act and established farms in the West. What Lincoln's homestead law did for the valleys of the Mississippi and Missouri, Roosevelt's national irrigation law is destined to accomplish for the Rocky mountains and the arid sections of the country, but it will take a very much longer time to secure the same results if we restrict immigration too much.

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FOREIGN IMMIGRATION

In the Rocky Mountain region we want, besides farmers, laborers in the sugar beet fields, in the mines and in the smelters and in other industrial plants. The fruit growers in the Pacific coast States already complain that their Chinamen are getting gray-headed and too old to work; no new Chinamen coming in, who is to take their place to prevent the orchards from becoming unprofitable and ruined?

Among the South Europeans who now come to this country in such great numbers there are doubtless many who should not be admitted, because of their moral degeneracy, criminal record or contagious diseases. But the application of an educational test is, in my judgment, of doubtful justification when the requirements of this Western country are considered. Illiteracy may last for one generation, but the second is sure to produce good American citizens, thanks to our efficient free school system. In Pueblo county there are several hundred Italian market gardeners, property owners, many of whom cannot read nor write, or speak the English language; yet they are prosperous and law-abiding citizens, and their children are the brightest students in the country schools. Take our smelters and coal mines, and the men who do the rough, hard work are the Slavs and Italians, while the native Americans hold the positions as foremen, engineers and other higher places, in which the brain and the tongue are more essential than muscle.

The most active and most successful colonizers in America have been the land-grant railroads. It has ever been a disputed question whether the granting of public lands to encourage the building of railroads through undeveloped regions of the country was a sound economical measure, or whether it was to be contemned as a profligate policy. Some land grants have been admirably husbanded by the beneficiaries, while others were neglected or squandered, or their development left to

chance. I have heard at least one railroad manager make the statement that it would not pay his company to "peddle out" its land grant to individual settlers; he preferred to sell it in large tracts at a low price to capitalists or syndicates. Fortunately, however, railroad managers, as a rule, know the value of a densely settled agricultural country, and they have striven to develop their land grants, even if the price obtained for the land was scarcely sufficient to pay for the cost of procuring the settlers. A quarter section of land in grain will produce eight car loads of freight, while a quarter section left in grass will generally produce no traffic for the railroad, or at best, a car load of cattle.

The State of Kansas certainly did a smart stroke of business when it relinquished to the national government a strip of land of its public domain, equal to twenty miles of average breadth across the State in alternate sections, for the benefit of the Boston syndicate, which undertook the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from the Missouri River to the western state line. The completion of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway from Atchison to the Colorado line, about the end of 1872, proved an important period in the development history of Kansas. By that feat the railroad company had earned its magnificent land grant of 3,000,000 acres, and an extensive system of immigration and colonization machinery was at once set in motion by the able and far-sighted managers of the property.

When the land grant had been surveyed from end to end, and appraised section by section, its management was entrusted to A. E. Touzalin. This gentleman, a native of the island of Jamaica, had established a great reputation on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad as a passenger traffic manager and intelligent advertiser. At the age of thirty-three Mr. Touzalin came to Kansas in the full vigor of his manhood, with a rich fund of ex-

perience and a tremendous energy, that promised great things for his new field of operations—the southern half of Kansas. He acted in the double capacity of General Passenger Agent and Land Commissioner of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad.

With a keen appreciation of the importance of a rapid settlement of the lands tributary to the railroad, Mr. Touzalin set about at once to organize an army of land agents, scattering them throughout the Eastern and Middle States, some with stationary offices at centres of population, and others itinerant. Each agent was amply supplied with attractive literature, descriptive of the country tributary to the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad, its agricultural and pastoral resources, its commercial and industrial opportunities. A system of effective newspaper advertising was inaugurated, which soon brought to headquarters an enormous daily volume of inquiries from all parts of the country. The four story building at the corner of Kansas Avenue and Sixth Street in Topeka, which was then occupied by the Passenger and Land Departments of the Company, became a veritable bee-hive of clerks, correspondents, land agents, newspaper reporters, advertising solicitors and land seekers. Mr. Touzalin, the king-bee of the hive, tolerated no drones. With remarkably quick perception of individual capacity, he selected for each place in his departments the men best fitted for it, and by his extraordinary personal magnetism, he instilled into every one of his subordinates his own enthusiasm for the work of building up a commonwealth.

One of the most important and most interesting features of the Land Department was the Foreign Immigration Department, the organization and conduct of which was placed in my hands. From a small beginning it grew to extensive proportions; with headquarters at Topeka, its ramifications extended from the Ural Mountains on the

eastern confines of Europe to the American Pacific coast. The prosperous German, Austrian, Swiss, and Mennonite settlements in those parts of Kansas which are tributary to the Santa Fe System are the fruits of this foreign immigration work. Their foundation, gradual growth and influence has been duly recorded and described in the "Annals of Kansas" and in the "Public School History of Kansas," as marking an epoch in the history of that state.

The most important achievement of the foreign immigration department was the transplanting of some 15,000 Russo-German Mennonites from Southern Russia to Kansas; important, because they were all professional farmers, with ample means, and because they came in large companies together, usually each company filling one Atlantic liner by themselves. What induced these people to leave their opulent homes in the Crimea and along the coasts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azof in such numbers is a question which I have often been asked. The answer involves a recital of their romantic history, dating back to the days of the German reformation.

The Mennonites are a denomination of Protestants who reject infant baptism and baptize only adult persons only on a profession of faith. Non-resistance and abstinence from oaths are tenets of their faith. They thus combine some of the leading principles of the Baptists with some of the distinctive views of the Friends, although historically they preceded both.

Their first church was organized A. D. 1525, at Zurich, in the German Switzerland. They called themselves "Taeufer" (Baptizers) while their opponents dubbed them "Anabaptists." In Switzerland the sect grew very rapidly, being most numerous at St. Gall. Persecution soon drove many of them to Southern Germany, where Augsburg and Strassburg became their strongholds.

Here also persecution broke out, and more than 3,000 of them suffered martyrdom. They found refuge in Moravia, where they greatly increased until the thirty years' war broke out. Their doctrine of non-resistance and non-combativeness was the principal cause of their persecution in that war-like age. About 1530 the Roman Catholic priest and religious reformer, Menno Simonis, reorganized and more fully indoctrinated the sect in Holland, and from that time on they were called "Mennonites." The history of the Dutch Mennonites is written in blood. About 6,000 of them suffered martyrdom under the rule of Philip II. of Spain during the time of the secession of the Netherlands. William of Orange favored them, but other leaders of the reformed party opposed them, and it was not till 1651 that toleration was secured to them by a general law. At present the Mennonites are scattered in small communities through Switzerland, Southern Germany, East Friesland, the province of West Prussia and other parts of Northern Germany.

When in 1783 the Crimea, with the adjoining provinces, was ceded by the Turks to Russia, the Empress Catherine II., herself a German princess, invited the Mennonites to colonize in her newly acquired southern province of Taurida. She knew them to be excellent farmers, and hoped that they would intermarry with the natives and improve the race. By way of inducement, important concessions were made to them, such as immunity from military service, religious freedom, their own local administration, a community grant of land equal to 65 desjadines—about 160 acres—to each family. These privileges were guaranteed to the colonists for 100 years, and then each family was to get title in fee simple for 65 desjadines. Under this paternal treatment the Mennonite colonies in Southern Russia became quite populous and wealthy. The original settlements along

the Dnieper had spread into the Crimea and eastward, near the coast of the Sea of Azof and along the Kuban river, at the foot of the Kaukasus. Other settlements were made along the Volga, near the cities of Saratov and Samara, and also in the provinces of Volhynia and Bessarabia. These German colonies in Southern Russia grew in wealth and opulence; wheat was their staple product, and the cities of Odessa, Cherson, Berdiansk Taganrog rapidly grew in importance as the ports whence English ships carried the wheat to Liverpool and London. The annual supply of South Russian wheat governed the price of that staple in the world's market. The expectation of Catherine, the imperial colonization agent, that the Mennonites would intermarry with the Tartar and Russian natives, proved a disappointment; they employed them during harvest time, but after that they sent them home again to their wretched villages on the interior steppes.

In view of the growing wealth and the exclusiveness of the German colonists, and owing to the special privileges enjoyed by them, a very strong feeling of jealousy and enmity gradually developed among the natives and national Russians. The government was importuned to withdraw these privileges, but that could not be done before the end of the century limit, the year 1883, had been reached. The Franco-German war of 1870 to '71, however, seemed to present to the Russian government a way out of its pressing dilemma. Russia remained neutral during that war on certain conditions, imposed on Germany, one of which was that the German government should withdraw its political guardianship which it had exercised over all German colonists in the Russian empire. Bismarck accepted that condition upon the counter-condition that these colonists, of whom there were some three millions, including the Mennonites, should be allowed a period of ten years within which to emigrate.

if they did not wish to become full-fledged Russian subjects. This counter-condition was also agreed to by Russia. The Mennonites were kept in ignorance of this international agreement, which was of so much consequence to them. They paid no attention to politics, and most of them did not know that a European war was in progress. They read no newspapers, except their own denominational publications. They would have found themselves ten years later as Russian subjects, their children compelled to go to Russian schools under control of the orthodox church, and their sons drafted into the imperial army, had it not been for one man, Herr Cornelius Jansen, Prussian Consul at the city of Berdiansk, a Mennonite himself, but owing to his official position, fully in touch with the outside world. Herr Jansen realized the consequences of the agreement between the two governments, and explained it to his co-religionists, thereby causing the greatest excitement throughout the Mennonite colonies. He strongly advised emigration to America, where absolute religious freedom would be guaranteed them. The agitation became known to the government, and the Jansen family were expelled from the country, where they had accumulated considerable property, of which they could dispose only at a great sacrifice. They came to America, where they were received with open arms by the Mennonite communities of Lancaster and Montgomery counties, Pennsylvania, in Maryland and in Canada; communities which were then 200 years old, the oldest one being Germantown, near Philadelphia, founded by Dutch Mennonites, about 1680.

The arrival of Cornelius Jansen in the country was at about the time when the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad Company began its colonization campaign, and soon I came in touch with that gentleman. He visited Kansas during the summer of 1873, and together we traveled for a week over the company's lands. A party of

thirty Mennonite families had meanwhile arrived from the Crimea and located temporarily at Elkhart, Indiana, awaiting the result of Mr. Jansen's exploration tour through the west. In the fall of the same year they purchased twelve sections of railroad land in McPherson County, and laid out the villages of "Gnadenau" and "Hoffnungsthal." Each of these villages occupied one section of land, the main street running through the center, with the dwelling houses and flower gardens facing the street, the barns, stables, orchards and vegetable gardens in the rear of the lots. The remaining ten sections of land were devoted to the farms proper. This manner of settlement was the same as that in vogue in Russia, but after a few years it was abandoned, and the American plan of having the house on the farm land was adopted.

The first houses erected by the Mennonites were a curiosity to the American farmers. They were always one story, of thick mud walls and thatched roofs; the rooms spacious and all heated by one stove, also built of mud. Straw was the only fuel used for heating and cooking. The stove was fed from the kitchen, and as it projected into at least three rooms, the whole house was heated These houses were only temporary, and in a few years replaced by more pretentious structures.

In the spring of 1874 a delegation of seven Mennonite preachers came to Kansas at the instance of the exiled Mr. Jansen. They also explored the Santa Fe land grant under my guidance, and afterwards were the guests of other railroads, in Nebraska, Dakota and Minnesota. After their return to Russia, it became doubtful as to what state the Mennonite emigration might be directed to Rumors also reached me that the Russian government, fearing a general exodus of these valuable colonists, had invited them to settle in far eastern Siberia, in the valley of the Amur, where they should retain their special privileges as foreign colonists. Three influential

Mennonites were already on the long overland journey which was to consume nine months, the expenses being defrayed by the government. These three delegates were to report their findings to the colonists upon their return. Under these conditions I deemed it advisable to undertake a journey to Russia myself in the interest of Kansas and the Santa Fe Railroad. The Mennonites of Gnadenau and Hoffnungsthal approved of my plan and provided me with about a hundred letters of introduction to their friends in West Prussia and South Russia.

After procuring in Washington my American passport, a precaution very necessary in those times, especially for travel in Russia, I embarked early in February, 1875, in New York on the old Inman liner "City of London" for Liverpool. The passage consumed thirteen days, and was the roughest of thirty-six voyages to follow. After a visit among the wealthy Mennonites in West Prussia near the cities of Danzic and Marienburg, whence later on we received a very valuable immigration, I crossed the Russian frontier, between Eytkuhnen, on the German, and Wirballen, on the Russian side. On the platform at the Wirballen station a dozen or more tall frontier gens d'armes loomed up threateningly through the driving snow storm in their long gray coats, spiked helmets and guns with fixed bayonets over their shoulders. The travelers were ushered into a smoky room for examination as to their business and scrutiny of their pass-ports. Fortunately I escaped an examination of my person and the danger of discovery of my many letters of introduction, which I had strung on a tape and tied around my body underneath my clothes. If they had been discovered, my mission would have been nipped in the bud.

Then followed a tedious railway journey of about a week's duration, over a wintry landscape of plain and forest. Ten miles an hour was about the average speed, owing to deep snows and frequent blockades. Fortun-

ately the first class carriages were elegantly fitted up and every possible comfort provided. All were transformed into sleepers at night. In fact the Russian railway carriages, even at that time, were not behind our present most luxurious Pullmans. At every station elegant dining halls were provided for the traveling public, handsomely fitted up and decorated with tropical plants, the tables spread with the finest linen and costly table ware. Excellent meals were served there prepared by Tartar cooks and served by Tartar waiters in spotless white clothes. A feature in every dining hall is a long counter filled with glass tumblers, each containing two lumps of sugar and a slice of lemon, and the traveler helps himself to a glass of delicious tea from the samovars, one of which stands at each end of the counter. The tea is of the celebrated China product which comes in brick form overland from Maimatschin by way of Kiachta.

My route took me through the cities of Vilna, Minsk, Smolensk, Orel, Kursk, Kharkoff and Losavoia to Alexandrovsk, the last named being the railway station nearest the large German colonies. My traveling companions along the route were chiefly army officers on their way to distant garrisons, and noblemen traveling to their estates in the Kaukasus or in South Russia. Card playing and champagne drinking constituted their occupation enroute. All of them could speak French and some of them even English and German. Their American traveling companion who travelled through Russia in winter time unable to understand or speak a word of the Russian language, was a curiosity to them, and they showed me many courtesies. One Russian prince, dressed picturesquely in silks and furs, who had boarded our train at Smolensk, expressed great interest in American agriculture. He owned a large estate at the foot of the Kaukasus and was then on his way there. Before we parted at the city of Kursk, where we were held for a

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day and night by a snow blockade, he requested me to buy for him, on my return home, three American harvesting machines, which I had described to him.

At the station of Losavoia, the junction point of the railway lines from St. Petersburg, Moscow, the Kaukasus and the Crimea, I found a company of German colonists on their return home from Moscow. They were a godsend to me, as they proved a rich source of information about the Mennonite, and other German colonies in Southern Russia. I gladly joined them in their second class coach for the remainder of my railway journey to Alexandrovsk, which was also their destination. We arrived there in the evening of the same day and my companions were met by sleighs, each hitched with four horses abreast and amply supplied with fur rugs. Two hours of rapid sleigh-ride brought us to the village of Friedrichsfeld, the northernmost of the German colonies, consisting of Lutherans. The Lutheran colonists were not affected by the emigration fever, but they knew about the proposed movement among their Mennonite neighbors to the south, and were personally acquainted with many of the persons to whom I had letters of introduction.

On the following morning my missionary campaign began in good earnest. An all-day sleigh ride brought me from Friedrichsfeld to Alexanderwohl, the first Mennonite village. Here lived a Mennonite merchant of much influence with the St. Petersburg government, and with the colonists, who looked up to him as a sort of oracle, to be consulted in all their difficulties. This man was childless and rich, and therefore not in sympathy with the emigration movement. For this reason the Mennonites already in Kansas had thought it important that I should call on him first and try to win him over to their cause, because then I should have clear sailing in the colonies. The letter which I presented to him from

his brethren in Kansas, however, procured me but scant courtesy, and I saw at once that my call at his house was a mistake. He assured me that there was no more emigration to be expected, the dissatisfied element had departed and those who remained were satisfied with their condition, and why should they not be? The Czar loved them and treated them as a father. Only a few weeks ago General von Todtleben, the friend of the Emperor Alexander II, and a German by descent, had been traveling through the settlements, as special ambassador of the Tsar, so assure the Mennonites of his majesty's interest in their welfare, and to prevail upon them not to give up their homes. The general had held meetings at every one of the villages and convinced the people that they would make a great mistake if they would emigrate to America. My host further assured me that I should only waste my time if I were to continue to pursue my evident object in inciting the people to emigrate, and it might bring me in conflict with the authorities of the province. This was cold comfort indeed, but I determined not to be bluffed in that way. After assuring my host that I should return to Germany after delivering just a few family letters in the next village, I went to bed and planned my future campaign. The following morning a sleigh team was placed at my disposal to take me to the neighboring estate of a wealthy Mennonite family, who already had friends in Kansas. The very driver of my team told me that hundreds of families were preparing to go to America and that he himself was one of them; that Herr Klaassen, whose house we had just lett, was to blame for the difficulty the intending emigrants had in securing the necessary passports, and that I must be very careful, because Klaasen would lose no time in informing the governor at Simferopol of my presence.

Attaching little importance to this caution, I pursued

my journey through the fifty-six Mennonite villages, which constitute what is known as the Molotschna (Milk river) colony. My reception was cordial everywhere, my visit having already been announced by letters from Kansas. Large crowds of men, women and children greeted me at the school-houses and other meeting places, and the most intense interest was shown in all I had to say about conditions in Kansas. Many unexpected questions were asked, as for instance, what protection is there in Kansas against the Indians, the Indian Territory being so near the State? "Soldiers must certainly be needed there, and we do not bear arms." I promised that a law should be enacted in Kansas exempting the Mennonites from militia duty, and this was actually done by the next session of the legislature; a law was also passed exempting Mennonites from testifying under oath, affirmation only being required of them. These two enactments aided greatly in attracting the Mennonites to Kansas.

My desire to transplant to Kansas as many of these people as possible increased as I traveled through those thrifty and handsome villages. The dwelling houses were large brick structures with tile roofs, a flower garden between the street and the house and well-kept vegetable garden and orchard in the rear. The stables were filled with splendid work-horses of heavy build, and the sheds with vehicles of all descriptions, among them comfortable family coaches and all kinds of American farming machinery. They were certainly the best appointed farming communities I had seen anywhere. Scattered over the country were large, isolated estates, with buildings reminding one of the feudal baronial castles of Western Europe. Their owners were millionaire Mennonites, who had acquired large tracts of land by private purchase. I was entertained by one of them, who had the reputation of being the largest sheep owner

in Europe. When I asked him how many sheep he owned he could not tell, but said he had three thousand shepherd dogs taking care of his flock. A little figuring developed that he owned over half a million sheep, scattered in flocks all along the coast of the Black Sea.

As I proceeded on my journey I became more and more convinced that the emigration fever was very strong, and that thousands of families were arranging their affairs with a view to leaving as soon as possible. When my presence in the colonies became generally known the people came from every direction in order to see me as soon as possible. For about a month I traveled through the Molotschna colony, holding meetings two and three times a day, till at last my voice gave out. Rumors had reached me at different places that I was being hunted by mounted gens d'àrmes and a report had gained ground that I had been captured and was on my way to Siberia with other prisoners. I was not alarmed by these reports, but for the sake of a little rest, I left the agricultural colonies and proceeded by wagon to the seaport city of Berdiansk, seventy versts south of the Molotschna colony. Berdiansk is the seaport for the largest of the Mennonite colonies, and among its inhabitants are many well-to-do Mennonites, engaged in trade, milling and shipping. At the time of my visit it had about 25,000 inhabitants of a great variety of nationalities—Russians, Turks, Tartars, Bulgarians, Armenians, Greeks, English and Germans. It was from this port that, four months after my visit, a Red Star Line steamer carried a full cargo of household goods, farm implements and wagons, the personal property of four hundred Mennonite families from the Molotschna colonies, to Philadelphia, consigned to Newton, Kansas, and carried all the way at the expense of the Santa Fe Railroad Company. It was here also where a Mennonite bishop

entrusted me with 80,000 rubles ($56,000) in the form of a draft on Hamburg, with the request to invest that sum in land grant bonds of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Company, which then could be bought at 65 per cent of their face value, but were accepted at par by the company in payment for land.

My stay at Berdiansk was limited to three days, one of them a Sunday pleasantly spent in a circle of refined Mennonite families, many of whom I had the pleasure of meeting later in Kansas. My host, the proprietor of a large flouring mill, furnished me with a team and driver for the drive to another large inland colony, where I resumed my missionary work, preaching the gospel of emigration to Kansas, from village to village, and earning among the Mennonites the title of their Moses. The people in this colony were all surprised to see me amongst them, because they had what they considered reliable information that I had been arrested and deported to Siberia. One gossip had seen me amid a troop of convicts, escorted by Cossacks, on the road to Orenburg! The evidences of pursuit at last became so alarming, that I thought it best to hasten my work, and as soon as possible seek the protection of the nearest American Consulate, which was at Odessa. One evening, while driving from Mariawohl, where I had held a meeting, back to Ruckenau, where I had come from in the morning, a man on horseback at a gallop caught up with the carriage and asked the driver, my Ruckenau host, whether I was in the caariage. He had just been at Mariawohl in quest of me and had been told that I was on my way back to Ruckenau. He was a messenger sent by my Berdiansk friends to put me on my guard. Three mounted gens d'armes were at my heels and would probably be at Ruckenau that night. The miller with whom I had stopped at Berdiansk had been arrested and imprisoned for showing me hospitality

and pretending to be unable to give information as to my whereabouts. This news alarmed my Ruckenau host so much that he concluded not to take me back to his house. He put me off at a blacksmith shop outside the village, until he had made sure that the coast was yet clear. In a short time he came back for me, and after a hasty supper, I started, at 11 o'clock at night, with an escort of two strapping young Mennonites, on a springless wagon, to which four horses were hitched abreast, for Melitopol, the nearest railway station, about seventy miles away. The roads were terrible! The streets through which we had to pass were well enough, being covered with a bed of straw, but upon the high steppes the roads were yet covered with snow in deep ruts. It was a night ride that I shall never forget! By 5 o'clock in the morning we had reached the village of Terpinje. Here I had a letter to deliver to a prominent Mennonite, Mr. Warkentin, from his son, already in Kansas. The old gentleman had been looking for me for many days, but had finally given me up, when he had been informed of my supposed arrest. He had also written this information to his son in Kansas, and when I so unexpectedly turned up he was greatly delighted, and would not allow me to proceed on my flight. He assured me of my safety under his roof, and in Terpinje, which was an exclusively Russian town, with himself as the chief magistrate. "Here I am the Tsar," he said, "and no gens d'armes will dare touch my guest." And right he was; no officers came near me. I had a delightful rest for a few days and the first leisure to write home of my safety thus far. It was certain that young Warkentin, when he received his father's letter informing him of my supposed Siberian expedition, would communicate the news to the railroad officials at Topeka and to my family. This was actually the case, and before my first letter reached Topeka steps had been taken by the railroad company

through the government in Washington to procure my liberation.

Mr. Warkentin was one of the three delegates, who had been in Eastern Siberia and the Amur Valley, to explore that region with a view to possible Mennonite colonization. He had but recently returned and assured me that no Mennonite would go there, because the journey was too long and difficult, there being no railroad then, and there would be no market there for the agricultural products. In his opinion, the emigration would all turn to America. He himself later on joined me in Germany and accompanied me for a visit to Kansas, where he attended the marriage of his son and set him up in the business of milling at Newton. The Newton Milling and Elevator Company with Bernhard Warkentin, President, is today a very large concern, with branch mills in surrounding Kansas and Oklahoma towns.

When leaving Terpinje, Mr. Warkentin himself drove me to the railroad town of Melitopol, where he had a large flour store. There I took the train to Odessa, where I had my pass-port endorsed by the only American Consul in Southern Russia, in order to guard against any possible trouble when crossing the frontier at Podwolociska, the gateway to Austria-Hungary.

After this interesting campaign in Russia I spent two months more in Austria, Germany and Switzerland, appointing agents for my Immigration department, thus completing my first European Mission, which, however, was by no means my last.

Although my work in Russia was cut short by the threatening attitude of the authorities, the result was exceedingly satisfactory. The first arrival of Mennonites in Kansas that same year consisted of four hundred families, one thousand, nine hundred people, who brought with them two and a quarter million dollars in gold, and purchased 60,000 acres of land in the counties of Marion,

McPherson, Harvey and Reno. They arrived simultaneous with the grass hoppers, but outstayed them. By the year 1883 about 15,000 of these people had settled on the lands of the Santa Fe road and since then they have increased to at least 60,000. Branch settlements have been established by them in Oklahoma and in the Arkansas Valley of Colorado. Their mass movement from Russia had the effect of starting a Mennonite emigration also from South-Germany, Switzerland and West Prussia.

They have brought out bleeding Kansas with flying colors; they made it the banner wheat state by "plowing the dew under." They have made their section of Kansas a garden of affluence and contentment. They have built colleges in Kansas and missions among the Indians in the Indian Territory. They have brought the Cheyennes and Arapahoes to their farms, and taught them, not only to work, but to read and write English and German, and to live like Christians. Whatever may be said against foreign immigration, you can do no better than to encourage Mennonites to come to Colorado.

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THE KANSAS CITY TIMES, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1939.

MENNONITES WERE LURED TO KANSAS BY A SHREWD IMMIGRATION AGENT

By Having the State Constitution Printed in German, C. B. Schmidt of the Santa Fe Railroad Won the Confidence of Settlers Who Moved From the Old World to Escape Compulsory Military Service and Enjoy Religious Freedom.

SMART salesmanship brought Mennonites to Kansas. An immigration agent was shrewd enough to have the Kansas constitution translated into German, and as a result thousands settled in that state in 1874 and the years following.

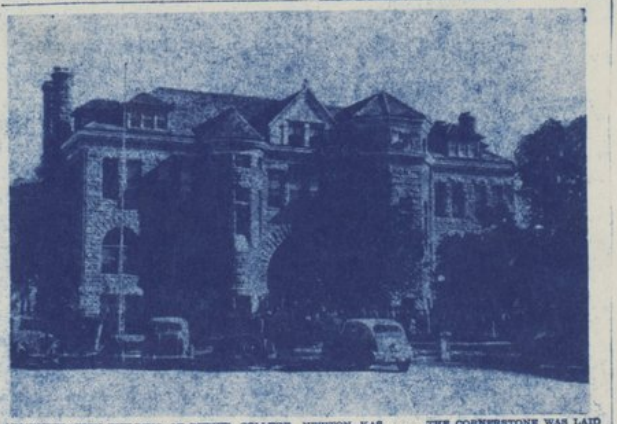
"We came to Kansas when it was the finest looking country in the world," said Ferdinand J. Funk recently. He was 14 years old when his parents joined the migration; he now lives in Topeka. "We didn't expect Kansas to be nearly so hot and we didn't expect it to be so cold. We didn't expect the grasshoppers and we didn't expect the prairie fires. Probably no group of foreign-speaking people suffered greater hardships than we did that first year. But we had come to America to make our homes, and we stuck it out. Even though our lives were materially changed by the customs and laws of the new country, I think none of us ever regretted the determination of our fathers and mothers to move here."

The Mennonites constitute one of the earliest Protestant sects. The general doctrines of the church existed long before Menno Simons, Dutch reformer, became its leader in the sixteenth century and gave it a name. "He did not found this sect," writes Abraham Albrecht, Mennonite minister, in a University of Kansas master's thesis. "Adherents to this faith had existed centuries before under different names. Groups existed in the eleventh century under the name of Vallensians, in Italy; as Waldensians in the twelfth century. They were found in France and various parts of Germany. At times they were called Catharoi, the pure ones, and during the Reformation they were termed Anabaptists, an appellation given them because they did not recognize infant baptism."

Menno Simons consolidated the several groups of non-conformists who opposed infant baptism, the bearing of arms and the administering of oaths.

DOCTRINE OF NON-RESISTANCE.

Their doctrine of non-resistance was a cause of the migration of large numbers from Germany to the Crimea. Catherine the Great, a German princess who had come to the throne of Russia, knew of the sturdy, industrious Mennonites in West Prussia and Poland. She had just won the Crimea from Turkey and needed colonists for that vast undeveloped country. She offered each settler sixty-five desjadines, about 160 acres of land and guaranteed them religious freedom, the



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING OF BETHEL COLLEGE, NEWTON, KAS. . . . THE CORNERSTONE WAS LAID OCTOBER 12, 1888 . . . BETHEL COLLEGE IS THE OLDEST MENNONITE COLLEGE IN THE UNITED STATES.

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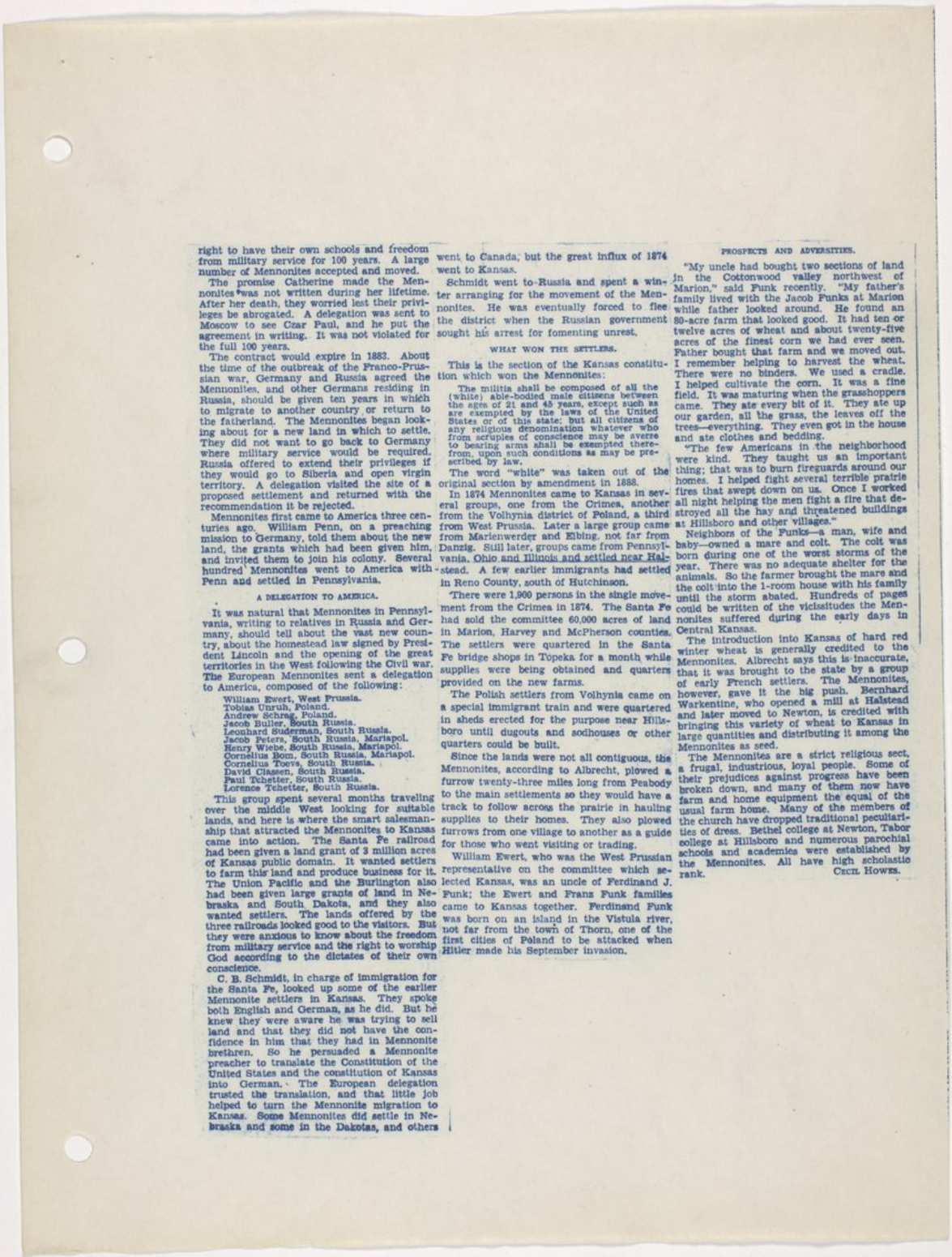

right to have their own schools and freedom from military service for 100 years. A large number of Mennonites accepted and moved.

The promise Catherine made the Mennonites was not written during her lifetime. After her death, they worried lest their privileges be abrogated. A delegation was sent to Moscow to see Czar Paul, and he put the agreement in writing. It was not violated for the full 100 years.

The contract would expire in 1883. About the time of the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war, Germany and Russia agreed the Mennonites, and other Germans residing in Russia, should be given ten years in which to migrate to another country or return to the fatherland. The Mennonites began looking about for a new land in which to settle. They did not want to go back to Germany where military service would be required. Russia offered to extend their privileges if they would go to Siberia and open virgin territory. A delegation visited the site of a proposed settlement and returned with the recommendation it be rejected.

Mennonites first came to America three centuries ago. William Penn, on a preaching mission to Germany, told them about the new land, the grants which had been given him, and invited them to join his colony. Several hundred Mennonites went to America with Penn and settled in Pennsylvania.

A DELEGATION TO AMERICA.

It was natural that Mennonites in Pennsylvania, writing to relatives in Russia and Germany, should tell about the vast new country, about the homestead law signed by President Lincoln and the opening of the great territories in the West following the Civil war. The European Mennonites sent a delegation to America, composed of the following:

William Ewert, West Prussia.
Tobias Unruh, Poland.
Andrew Schrag, Poland.
Jacob Buller, South Russia.
Leonhard Suderman, South Russia.
Jacob Peters, South Russia, Mariapol.
Henry Wiebe, South Russia, Mariapol.
Cornelius Bom, South Russia, Mariapol.
Cornelius Toevs, South Russia.
David Classen, South Russia.
Paul Tchetter, South Russia.
Lorence Tchetter, South Russia.

This group spent several months traveling over the middle West looking for suitable lands, and here is where the smart salesmanship that attracted the Mennonites to Kansas came into action. The Santa Fe railroad had been given a land grant of 3 million acres of Kansas public domain. It wanted settlers to farm this land and produce business for it. The Union Pacific and the Burlington also had been given large grants of land in Nebraska and South Dakota, and they also wanted settlers. The lands offered by the three railroads looked good to the visitors. But they were anxious to know about the freedom from military service and the right to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience.

C. B. Schmidt, in charge of immigration for the Santa Fe, looked up some of the earlier Mennonite settlers in Kansas. They spoke both English and German, as he did. But he knew they were aware he was trying to sell land and that they did not have the confidence in him that they had in Mennonite brethren. So he persuaded a Mennonite preacher to translate the Constitution of the United States and the constitution of Kansas into German. The European delegation trusted the translation, and that little job helped to turn the Mennonite migration to Kansas. Some Mennonites did settle in Nebraska and some in the Dakotas, and others went to Canada, but the great influx of 1874 went to Kansas.

Schmidt went to Russia and spent a winter arranging for the movement of the Mennonites. He was eventually forced to flee the district when the Russian government sought his arrest for fomenting unrest.

WHAT WON THE SETTLERS.

This is the section of the Kansas constitution which won the Mennonites:

The militia shall be composed of all the (white) able-bodied male citizens between the ages of 21 and 45 years, except such as are exempted by the laws of the United States or of this state; but all citizens of any religious denomination whatever who from scruples of conscience may be averse to bearing arms shall be exempted therefrom, upon such conditions as may be prescribed by law.

The word "white" was taken out of the original section by amendment in 1888.

In 1874 Mennonites came to Kansas in several groups, one from the Crimea, another from the Volhynia district of Poland, a third from West Prussia. Later a large group came from Marienwerder and Elbing, not far from Danzig. Still later, groups came from Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois and settled near Halstead. A few earlier immigrants had settled in Reno County, south of Hutchinson.

There were 1,900 persons in the single movement from the Crimea in 1874. The Santa Fe had sold the committee 60,000 acres of land in Marion, Harvey and McPherson counties. The settlers were quartered in the Santa Fe bridge shops in Topeka for a month while supplies were being obtained and quarters provided on the new farms.

The Polish settlers from Volhynia came on a special immigrant train and were quartered in sheds erected for the purpose near Hillsboro until dugouts and sodhouses or other quarters could be built.

Since the lands were not all contiguous, the Mennonites, according to Albrecht, plowed a furrow twenty-three miles long from Peabody to the main settlements so they would have a track to follow across the prairie in hauling supplies to their homes. They also plowed furrows from one village to another as a guide for those who went visiting or trading.

William Ewert, who was the West Prussian representative on the committee which selected Kansas, was an uncle of Ferdinand J. Funk; the Ewert and Franz Funk families came to Kansas together. Ferdinand Funk was born on an island in the Vistula river, not far from the town of Thorn, one of the first cities of Poland to be attacked when Hitler made his September invasion.

PROSPECTS AND ADVERSITIES.

"My uncle had bought two sections of land in the Cottonwood valley northwest of Marion," said Funk recently. "My father's family lived with the Jacob Funks at Marion while father looked around. He found an 80-acre farm that looked good. It had ten or twelve acres of wheat and about twenty-five acres of the finest corn we had ever seen. Father bought that farm and we moved out. I remember helping to harvest the wheat. There were no binders. We used a cradle. I helped cultivate the corn. It was a fine field. It was maturing when the grasshoppers came. They ate every bit of it. They ate up our garden, all the grass, the leaves off the trees—everything. They even got in the house and ate clothes and bedding.

"The few Americans in the neighborhood were kind. They taught us an important thing; that was to burn fireguards around our homes. I helped fight several terrible prairie fires that swept down on us. Once I worked all night helping the men fight a fire that destroyed all the hay and threatened buildings at Hillsboro and other villages."

Neighbors of the Funks—a man, wife and baby—owned a mare and colt. The colt was born during one of the worst storms of the year. There was no adequate shelter for the animals. So the farmer brought the mare and the colt into the 1-room house with his family until the storm abated. Hundreds of pages could be written of the vicissitudes the Mennonites suffered during the early days in Central Kansas.

The introduction into Kansas of hard red winter wheat is generally credited to the Mennonites. Albrecht says this is inaccurate, that it was brought to the state by a group of early French settlers. The Mennonites, however, gave it the big push. Bernhard Warkentine, who opened a mill at Halstead and later moved to Newton, is credited with bringing this variety of wheat to Kansas in large quantities and distributing it among the Mennonites as seed.

The Mennonites are a strict religious sect, a frugal, industrious, loyal people. Some of their prejudices against progress have been broken down, and many of them now have farm and home equipment the equal of the usual farm home. Many of the members of the church have dropped traditional peculiarities of dress. Bethel college at Newton, Tabor college at Hillsboro and numerous parochial schools and academies were established by the Mennonites. All have high scholastic rank.

CECIL HOWES.

Reminiscences of foreign immigration work by C. B. Schmidt and others

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ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE RAIL ROAD COMPANY

LAND DEPARTMENT

Topeka, Kansas, August 10, 1876.

A. L. Johnson, Acting Land Commissioner.

Arthur Gorham, Asst. Land Commissioner.

Thos. Nickerson, Esq.
President.

Dear Sir:

Yesterday I sent you the following telegram. "New Mennonites want in McPherson and Marion about three sections Cash, thirty per cent deduction: five sections terms one, twenty; three sections terms two, ten: _____ others waiting here will want same. Nebraska and Minnesota pressing hard. Advise acceptance"

This party of Mennonites arrived in Kansas within the past two or three weeks and wish to settle with Buller Goddert having come from the same locality in Russia.

I tried hard to sell at face prices and finally offered 25% off for cash and ten per cent on terms No. 1, refusing terms No. 2.

This they declined and insisted on my referring this proposition to you, which is embodied in the telegram sent. There was another party here who wished to buy five sections substantially on the same terms. All have gone back to the Mennonite Settlements to await your reply.

Bishop Goddert came up with them and is very anxious to retain these people in his settlement, but is of opinion that unless they get these terms not more than half would stay.

Your answer to my telegram was not clear although repeated a second time from Boston and it was not until receipt of your second telegram that I was sure of your meaning. My difficulty was in understanding why you should insist upon one half time sales being under No.1 when my telegram stated 5 sections were No. 1, and only 3, No. 2: and being received without punctuation as all telegrams are. ,s generally leaves them open to more than one interpretation.

I cannot tell yet how your proposition will be received. I think possibly we may lose part of them. Mr. Touzalin is giving us a good deal of trouble just now by sending his Agents into our settlements and making inducements for those unsettled to go to Nebraska and misrepresent-

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ing us in all manner of ways.

Now that harvest is well nigh over our business is looking up, and we hope to be able to make a good report for this month.

Yours truly,

(Signed) A. L. Johnson

V.E.C.Topeka
October 23, 1941
File 7100-F

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Reminiscences of foreign immigration work by C. B. Schmidt and others

THE COMMONWEALTH

Saturday Morning, July 23, 1881

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Kansas in Europe.

What has been done for the State to Induce Immigration - The results of the Work of the A.T.& S.F. Railroad Co., and How a Continued Effort is Made Useless by an Obnoxious Prohibition Law, and its Chief Promotor, the State's Own Governor.

About the time of the organization of Land Department of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad Company, it became apparent that emigration from Europe to the United States would revive and every indication pointed to a greater exodus than ever before had taken place. The far-sighted managers of the A.T.& S.F. Company created in connection with their Land Department a branch for foreign immigration work, under the management of a General Foreign Agent. This officer appointed agents in all parts of Europe as well as in such localities in America where chiefly Germans resided. Large editions of pamphlets were printed and distributed through those agents, and the agents of the steamship lines. These documents contained full descriptions of the state of Kansas, and set forth the great natural advantages it possessed for foreign agriculturists. The liberal land laws of the United States, which were promulgated during Lincoln's administration, and under which every citizen or every foreigner who declared his intention to become a citizen, is entitled to a free homestead on the public domain, were widely published. Contracts were made for an extensive system of newspaper advertising in all European countries. Invitations were tendered to prominent representatives of the press and others who might influence immigration to Kansas, to visit the State as the guests of the railroad company. Press excursions were organized from time to time at the expense of the company, which resulted in the publication of many volumes of descriptive literature in all modern languages, and which are now found in all public and private libraries and in the hands of people of all classes. The name of Kansas soon became as familiar to the household of the German peasant as that of Canaan was to the Israelites in bondage.

All this great and costly work was done to secure to the fertile lands of Kansas what the railroad company considered the most desirable class of settlers, people who would make permanent homes, develop the country most rapidly and thoroughly, people who have the general reputation of being law-abiding, frugal, industrious, of good morals and reliable in affairs of business; in short, people who would make valuable citizens to the State, and agriculturalists who are capable of battling with a wayward climate, and persevering enough to overcome the drawbacks of a new and untried country. What was the result of all of this effort? Just what it deserved to be, and what every man, who has anything at stake in the State and is not blinded by the night

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of knownothingism, could have wished. Thousands of Germans, Austrians, Swiss, French and Mennonites came to Kansas and spread all over it; the solemn solitude of the grassy plains, and slopes of Central, and S.W. Kansas gave way to the busy scenes of making homes. Mechanics found ready and lucrative employment, houses sprang up on every hand as by magic, the soil was turned up in an astonishing short time and every year the crop statistics of Kansas were the marvel of the country. The rail road companies were taxed to their utmost capacity to carry into the state the stock of implements and household goods needed, and to carry out to the products of the farm. New towns sprang up, and the improvements in the older ones never were more noticeable. Business men who had been reduced by adverse circumstances, such as grasshopper invasions for instance, recovered their balance and rapidly gained in strength. Many a merchant was saved from bankruptcy by the sudden arrival of large companies of Mennonites who settled in his locality. When the grasshopper scourge struck Kansas in 1874 and '75 it was not the German or the Mennonite settler who turned his back on his new home to return to "wife's relations" he struck to his farm and to that of his fainthearted American neighbor as well. Take the counties of Marion, Harvey, McPherson, Butler and others, where Germans have gained a foothold, and miles away you can distinguish the handsome and well-improved farm of the German settler from that of the American, who speculates upon the wish of his German neighbor to buy him out. Thus, this is not the boast of conceit, but it is a fact noticed and commented upon by every traveler in those parts. In short, about 60,000 Germans have made homes on the line of the Santa Fe road in consequence of the judicious work of that company, and the county assessors and merchants can testify to their thrift. When during the drought of '79 and '80 eastern press representatives traveled over Kansas for the purpose of finding material to use in their denunciations of our State, they were balked in their endeavors in the German settlements and some were just enough to acknowledge in their correspondence as for instances the "Atlantic Monthly" whose correspondent could not say enough in praise of the Mennonite settlements as compared with others.

The success of the Germans in Kansas proved a powerful agent in "Fatherland" where relatively, reverses had followed reverses for a succession of years. The emigration fever became stronger and stronger, every State in the South, West and Northwest became awake to the advantages Kansas was reaping and all set to work to share in them. A perfect campaign was inaugurated and the Old World flooded with emigration documents. Kansas was made the scapegoat for all the ills that ever struck the West, and even the character of her agents was assailed. In order to gain a point for themselves the States of Arkansas, Missouri and especially Wisconsin found it necessary first to villify Kansas; but nothing availed, not even the local drought of '79 and '80, which was so extensively advertised and exaggerated by our competitors. The Kansas "boom" went on. Colonies were forming in all parts of Germany. It spread across the Channel into Great Britain, where capital associated itself for the purpose of investment in Kansas lands. The emigration westward from the older States of the Union having practically come to an end on account of the revival of business east, the A.T.& S.F. Company concluded to remove the headquarters of its foreign emigration department to London, in order to be better able to stimulate and direct the movement of foreign emigration. It was done, and for eight months last year and six months

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this year the writer has traveled about in Europe perfecting a system of agencies, meeting with colonization societies, publishing and circulating new pamphlets; 300,000 have during that time been sentout through the mail in Great Britain alone. Every steamship agent in Europe has been enlisted in the work on the promise of commissions on land sales, and the time had come when all this work was to bear its best fruit. A great mass of emigration for Kansas was preparing and a harvest for her business men. Scenes like those in the Summer of 1874, when 2,000 Mennonites were quartered in Topeka for five weeks and there purchased their supplies, would have been repeated, - when suddenly the news spread all over the world that a fanatic temperance element with the State's own Governor at the head, had gained the mastery over Kansas, and had commenced its work of checking the prosperity of the commonwealth. Gradually the impression gained ground and was encouraged by the press of German, and the governments, that this law prohibiting the manufacture of liquors of all kinds, including wine and beer, had become a necessity in a State which was populated chiefly by outlaws, gamblers, and drunkards, who had congregated here from all parts of the Union. The work of years and the expenditure of thousands was at once neutralized. Letters began to come into the offices at Hamburg, London and Liverpool containing inquiries as to the prohibition law; soon the agents reported that the people did want to hear nothing more about Kansas; that many who had fully made up their minds to go there were changing their destination, because they thought it could not be safe for people who had anything at stake to live in - Kansas. The comments of the press were aggravating in the highest degree, and it was impossible to overcome its influence. Large colony organizations started with a view to settlement in Kansas, moved or are moving to other States, as for instance, a company of wine-growers from Rhenish, Bavaria, who are now going to Missouri; a colony of Saxons organized by myself, now going to Arkansas. A gentleman from Mecklenburg was sent to Texas and Kansas to select lands for a large number of well-to-do farmers, selected 15 sections South of Florence, in Butler county, and returned to Germany in May to come over with 40 families in the autumn. He now writes that his friends refuse to come to Kansas on account of the prohibition law. One of the best agents of the A.T.& S.F. Company in Great Britain sent in a list of 46 families with capital ranging from 200 pound sterling to 25,000 pounds, whom he claims to have forwarded to Kansas since March. But not one of them has come. You may go to seaport towns and converse with the emigrants going to America, and you will find many who had intended to go to Kansas, but the prohibition law drives them elsewhere. Offer to an emigrant a pamphlet on Kansas, and he will tell you it is of no use; Kansas is played out. The agents in Europe who have earnestly worked for Kansas, are becoming discouraged, and take up other States instead.

The letters received at the railroad company's offices in Europe would be edifying reading for the murderers of the prosperity of Kansas. Mr. Julius Simon, the company's agent at Hamburg, writes under date of June 29th; - "I enclose herewith a few items and letters from among those lately received, relating to the prohibition law, and which give a clear proof as to how it works on the emigration from Germany in a most pernicious way, frustrating our earnest endeavors to prevail upon emigrants in favor of Kansas. You may be sure that not one per cent of the people who asked me for information about Kansas, tell me the reason why they ultimately chose one other state instead of Kansas."

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