

Doukhobors settlers en route to St. John, N.B. on the "Lake Huron", 1899. Under a group settlement plan which offered 320,000 acres of western land. About 7,200 settlers arrived in 1898 and 1899.

sacks of flour to feed 4000 Doukhobors for 5 months. At \$1.50 per sack, this would mean an expenditure of some \$15,000.00.

On March 1, Mr. J.T. Speirs of Winnipeg a Baker, went to East Selkirk and took along some fellow bakers to initiate the Doukhobors in the art of "baking" in the brick ovens that were erected at the roundhouse.

In the March 3, 1899 issue of the Selkirk Weekly Record, the newspaper kept the pot boiling on the west side while the bread was baking on the east side. "As time rolls on cases of irregularity and highhanded work are

being brought to light with the fixing up of the East Selkirk Roundhouse. In the first place the contracts were let without tender then came the providing of materials without tenders and then the argument over labor--then MP J.A. Macdonnell stepped in and wanted a say in the running of things--he had a favorite he wanted in charge, so out went Mr. Dickson, who had been hired by Commissioner McCreary and the Chief of the Dominion Public Works Dept. This action was done without warning, a purely and simply political move--no reflection on Mr. Dickson's ability or entegrity."

Another news item of the same day caused some discussion and debate locally: "The Doukhobors are safely lodged at East Selkirk in the Roundhouse--enjoying the bean soup and other necessities furnished at public expense. Concessions will likely be demanded for religious, education and Munc. Gov't, etc. They appear to get free transportation over here, free accommodation, free food, free homesteads, free implements. But, the British and Anglo Saxon has to maintain himself all the way and is heavily taxed once he gets here--he has to paddle his own canoe--besides he is called upon to defend the country he has just arrived in. People would like to see "free aid" (now given to foreigners) given to people of our own race."

Another editorial comment on March 25, re: Roundhouse, asked the question: "why was lumber and material for repairs to Roundhouse got from Rat Portage (Lumber) and the Hardware from Winnipeg when we all know that lumber and hardware could have been gotten cheaper in Selkirk?"

Mr. Dickson didn't help the situation much when he wrote a letter to the editor claiming political intervention caused his dismissal off the East Selkirk project. He also brought to public awareness the fact that he and Mr. Lyons (Postmaster at East Selkirk) had a disagreement over the hauling contract and Mr. Lyons carpenters. The teams didn't give satisfaction and the carpenters were not very good. Mr. Lyons had told Dickson not to use Nelson's teams nor give work to either Mr. D. Miller or Mr. Thomas, for they were all rank Tories, etc.

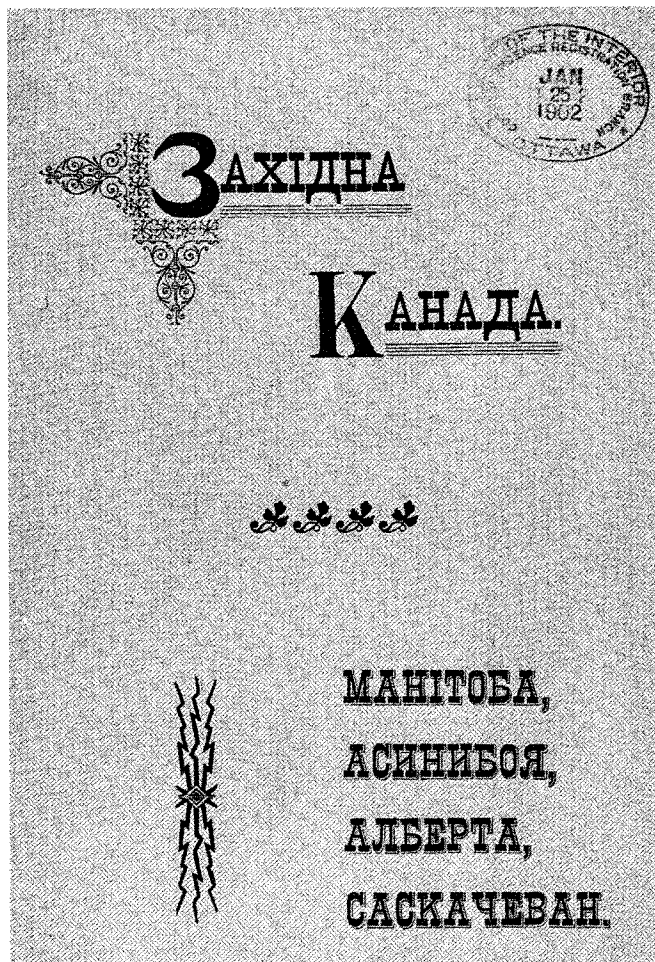
On April 17, the Supt. of Immigration at Ottawa, Mr. Frank Pedley telegraphed McCreary in Winnipeg asking him: "Wire when Richard Dickson was appointed for service at roundhouse, what were his duties, was he dismissed, if so, for what reason and upon whose recommendation. Write fully immediately."

McCreary sent a return telegram on the same date and it stated: "Dixon was appointed foreman of Repairs at Roundhouse on Jan. 6, and relieved on 24th, when it was decided to have Doukhobors do repairs. Relieved on recommendation of MacDonnell."

In the meantime the town of Selkirk must have had their spies and roving reporters on the job still, because next they hit out at illegal fishing. Another problem was brewing and the newspaper in Selkirk reported on April 21, 1899: "We have been informed that Doukhobors and settlers on the east side of the river are catching Pike and Pickeral wholesale at Cook's Creek--as the fish are now going up to spawn. Fishing for them is illegal and in contravention of the Fisheries Act. As the fishery Inspector's Office is not a mile away from the scene--why isn't something done?"

Then on Sat. April 22, about 600 more new settlers arrived from the east (Galicians) and were placed in the Roundhouse at East Selkirk.

On May 18, 1899 Mr. Owen Davis was demanding his payment of \$200 for work at the roundhouse and questions were being asked why the labor account on the building totalled \$1528.14, almost double to what was originally estimated. Mr. Davis had the contract for putting the mica roof in order. The Supt. of Immigration, Frank Pedley, advised no accounts would be



Canadian Government Immigration pamphlet published in Ukrainian. Note: Galicians, together with Ruthenians, Bukovinians and Little Russians, later became known collectively as Ukrainians.

paid before July 1, next.

The newspapers were full of dispatches about the movement of new settlers: About 1030 Doukhobors were expected to reach Quebec on May 1, via the steamship "Lake Superior" and the "Lake Huron" was bringing in about 2000 more on May 31, and 1500 Doukhobors were enroute to the west by train on May 19, the majority being children ranging from 2 weeks to 12 years of age.

D. Morrison of Selkirk brought up a car load of oxen the week of May 19 and shipped them west for the Doukhobors.

A letter from McCreary to Pedley dated May 25, 1899 refers to the East Selkirk Roundhouse and the purchase of a tent 80 x 130. This tent was supposed to have been sent to Yorkton, Sask. but was still stored in Winnipeg. McCreary went on to say, "My intention now is to try and get rid of the 1400 Galicians who arrive tonight and who will be placed in the Roundhouse for a time, before the Doukhobors will arrive, pitch the big tent down at East Selkirk and if it is necessary to hold them over, place the entire party there. This tent will, I imagine, hold about 1000, the Roundhouse 1600."

During July 1899, there were lively days at the CPR station in Ottawa as 9 special immigrant trains with 10

160 акрів = 130 моргів австр.
 ❁ ВІЛЬНОЇ ЗЕМЛІ ❁
 200 мільонів акрів під управу
 в західній
КАНАДІ
 ДЛЯ
**КОЖДОГО
 ОСЕЛЕНЦЯ**

North Atlantic Trading Company advertisement in Ukrainian.

THE HOMESTEAD ACT

If settlers were to come west, there had to be a way in which they could buy land. In 1872, an act was passed that showed them how to do this.

Surveyors went out to divide the land into homesteads. They laid out townships, each of which was six miles square. Each square mile, or section, of 640 acres was divided into four quarter sections. The townships were numbered north from the 49th parallel, and east and west from a line drawn through Winnipeg.

The land act said that anyone over 21, or anyone who was the head of a family could make entry for (claim) a quarter section of land. The only sections he could not claim were numbers 11 and 29, reserved for schools, and numbers 8 and three-quarters of 26, reserved for the Hudson's Bay Company.

A would-be homesteader chose his land and paid his \$10 registration fee. Then he started out for his homestead. Once he found the numbered stakes that showed him where the homestead was, he could start to build his house and farm his land.

If he did as the Homestead Act asked, he would receive full title to his land in three years. He had to live on the land for six months in each of those years, build a house on the land and make other improvements.

If the homesteader wanted, he could "pre-empt" another quarter section of land next to his homestead, for about \$2 or \$2.50 an acre. Between his homestead and his pre-emption, he could farm 320 acres of land.

coaches each passed through carrying Galicians and Doukhobors. The East Selkirk Roundhouse will be full one day and within the week could almost empty again. In July there were 2000 lodged at the Roundhouse. They were expected to be there for some time as no reservation had been set aside for them further west. It was arranged that representatives from amongst them would shortly leave for the west with equipment, horses, wagons, etc. for the purpose of selecting sites for settlement. Once the

advance party had been successful in this quest they would send for 300 to 400 and they would prepare making homes for the balance still at East Selkirk.

Trouble erupted at the Roundhouse toward the end of July, 1899 and complaints were received about Mr. Stratton who had done a lot of the cooking, ordering in of food stuffs and the ledgering of the gov't accounts. In fact, although this gentleman was described as "cleanly in his habits and has kept the office, kitchen and dining room in clean condition" it was decided to dismiss him by August sometime. Because there was no hotel or stopping place near the roundhouse, many gov't officials, Bankers going to exchange money, the Doukhobor delegates such as Hilkoﬀ, Sulerjitzky and Konshin, including the interpreters, often stayed for some time and had to be serviced at the roundhouse. A lot of responsibility had fallen to Mr. Stratton and "he has done his work well" was an often repeated phrase. Messrs. Phillip Harvey and Morrison were the only other two men in full charge and because about 1500 of the Doukhobors were staying all summer, it was doubtful if they could handle the work load. It was generally agreed that Mr. Harvey was a very qualified interpreter and although he had been hired on a temporary basis, it was doubtful if they could have got along without him. As the Commissioner of Immigration said to James A. Smart in a memo regarding Mr. Phillip Harvey dated July 21, 1899: "Just imagine 2000 foreigners in one building for quite a lengthened period without any police, controlled practically by two men, and no serious riots or rows occurring. I think you will say the work has been well done."

The intent was that Harvey be placed on permanent staff and if the roundhouse emptied a bit in winter that Mr. Morrison could handle that building and Mr. Harvey could be utilized part time in East Selkirk and part time visiting the colonies, as interpreter, etc. and reporting on conditions and recording any hardships or complaints, etc.

REGULATIONS

TO BE OBSERVED AT THE

DOMINION GOVERNMENT

IMMIGRATION BUILDINGS

WESTERN DISTRICT

1. Immigrants upon arrival are requested to report at office for registration and to be in the baggage room of most private for a period not exceeding seven days.
2. Strict cleanliness will be required. All necessary sweeping, cleaning and scrubbing of the occupants' quarters must be done by the occupants under supervision of the caretaker. Water for washing must be provided. All necessary cleaning material, including soap, must be provided in the bedrooms, but must be washed and dried in the rooms provided for that purpose. All cleaning and washing utensils must be returned as soon as possible to the caretaker or assistant.
3. All cooking utensils must be properly cleaned after use, and must not be removed from the kitchen. All dirt or wash water must be emptied into the sink and not thrown from the windows. Occupants must eat their meals in the DINING ROOM and not in the SLEEPING QUARTERS.
4. For the prevention of accidents, occupants are requested to keep constant supervision over their children.
5. Any cases of sickness should be reported immediately to the Caretaker or to the Station.
6. In order to guard against the spread of disease, occupants MUST NOT tamper with the Electric Light or Oil Lamp wires, under the direct supervision of the Caretaker or Assistant, who will see that all lights are extinguished at least three days.
7. In cases of sickness the caretaker may permit the burning of lights after that hour when advised. For the further prevention of FIRE, smoking is strictly prohibited on these premises.
8. DRUGS AND MEDICINES will not be tolerated on or about the premises, and the receipt for general necessities and other goods, be accompanied by receipts so issued will be received from the building and delivered to the caretaker. All visitors are requested to leave the building thirty minutes before closing time.
9. This Hall will be closed daily at 10 p.m., and no person will be admitted after that hour unless by permission from the office.
10. No person will be allowed in the Baggage Room unless accompanied by an officer who will superintend the removal of all baggage. No baggage will be taken in or removed during the night.
11. The Department will make every precaution to protect the property of the occupants, but assume no responsibility for loss or injury to baggage or other property, whether by theft, fire or otherwise. Belongings to persons using this Hall or while present in the Baggage Room. All baggage must be removed within a reasonable time.
12. The Office will be open week days from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and all possible information will be afforded the occupants FREE OF CHARGE, by any member of the staff.
13. Occupants can also obtain their letters if addressed to the care of the Immigration Hall or mail their letters therefrom.
14. Immigrants desiring situations or employment must make application at the central Office.

THOMAS GELLEY,

Commissioner of Immigration and Colonization, Western District, Winnipeg, Man.

the south-east corner of the building and was neatly fitted up with chairs and table, pictures on the walls, giving it a cheery appearance. In the centre of the building was a large space used as a reception or waiting room. On each side of this were tables and stoves for the convenience of the immigrants. Back of this was large rooms used as sleeping apartments.

At the front of the building there was no fence and the road from the Railway Station led right up to the main door. At the rear of the building were found large ovens and a good well with a pump. Inside the building was a cookhouse and other conveniences for the washing of clothes, etc. Because the building was off the main road travelled, it was not so much visited by the inquisitive as it would have otherwise been. It lacked outside painting and it also had no sign to identify what the building was.

That winter, the roundhouse held only about 200 souls and was very cold. Permission was asked for an expenditure of about \$60.00 to partition off just two of the rooms which would be easier to heat and be more comfortable for the people housed there. Besides, it would be cheaper than trying to heat the whole building. The Public Works Dept. in Winnipeg would do nothing until authorized from Ottawa, and they moved very slowly. The Acting Commissioner, Alex Moffat, said in a memo dated Dec. 18, 1900: "Would you, if you can, hurry up the business, as the people are poorly clad and the place is too cold as it is now."

By Jan. 8, 1901 the approval had been granted by Ottawa to Mr. Moffat and the alterations were made and some improvement was expressed as to the warmth of the building.

However, once April came, the roof, which required substantial repairs the year before, was even worse. By mid April, they were forced to have 20 to 30 pails spread about inside the building to catch the rainwater coming in and they had to be emptied frequently. As the Commissioner said, when he requested that this outstanding repair be looked after, "I think you will agree this is not a cheerful situation for immigrants coming to a new country, and I hope you take the matter up with Public Works or better, authorize me to do work at once."

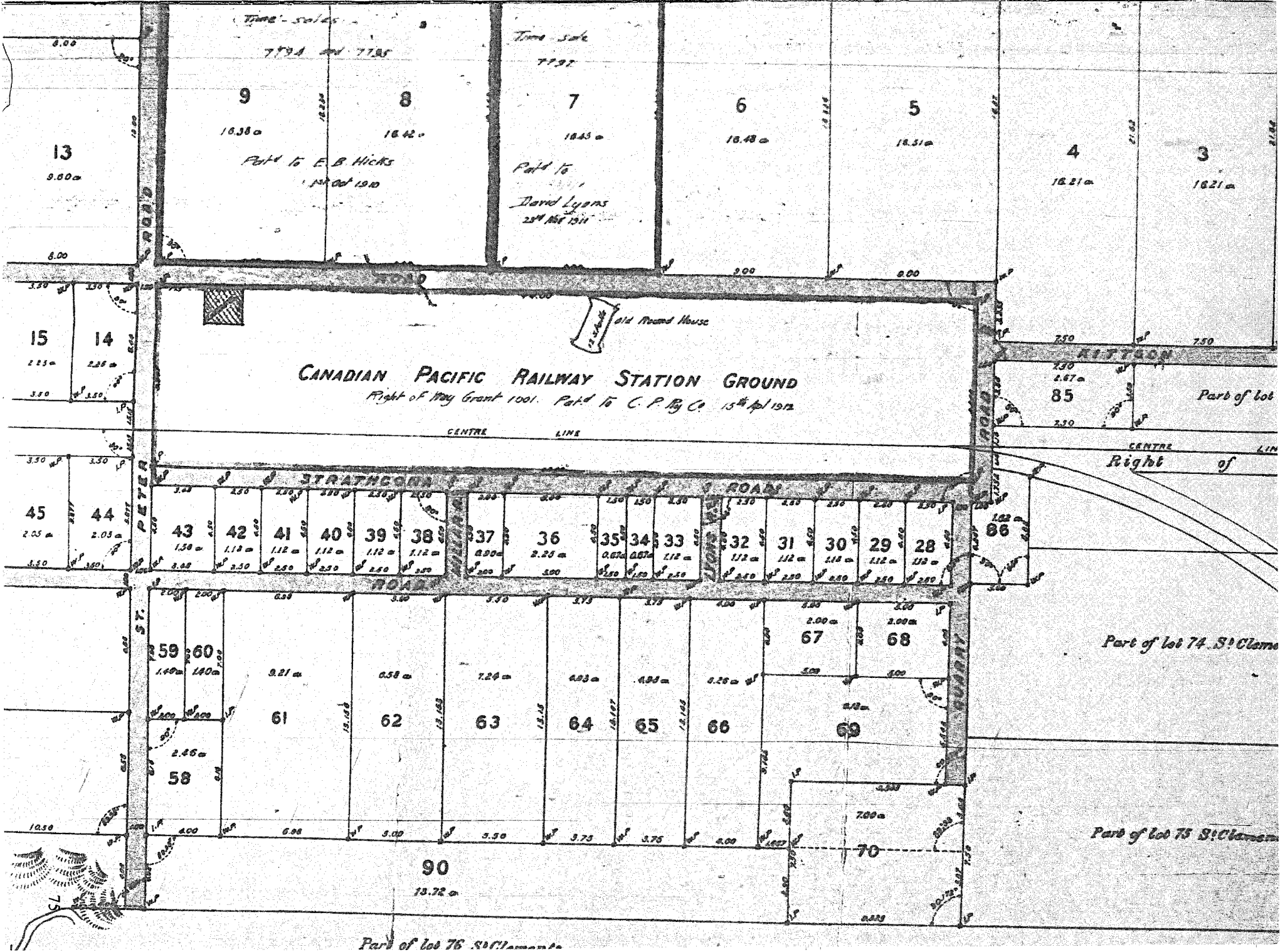
Ottawa informed Mr. J. Obed. Smith, now Commissioner of Immigration in Winnipeg and he in turn wrote to Frank Pedley the Supt. of Immigration by April, 1901, "that the building will be ready in a few days for reception of large number of immigrants and the Public Works Dept. have, so far as I know, failed to honour our requisitions in this respect for kalsomining etc. and we have been compelled to do the same ourselves."

J. Obed Smith wrote to the Dept. of the Interior by the 27 of April and reported that the next day, they expected about 600 Galicians and that the roundhouse was leaking badly. He went on to say that now it was raining and pouring into the building, all the pails and tubs were in use and the main hall was flooded. In the hospital, bake-rooms, store-room and upstairs bedrooms the water was pouring in. The Public Works Dept. had been requested to repair the defective roof but have not completed the work. J. Obed Smith was some annoyed and told Ottawa that unless it was fixed at once, he would arrange to do it. Ottawa replied that the work had been ordered but the

Oct. 10, 1899 found 600 to 700 persons still residing in the roundhouse. Commissioner McCreary wrote to Frank Pedley, the Supt. on May 22, 1900 and was quite troubled about the total number of immigrants heading west. He mentioned that about 1200 Galicians were on their way, and where to place them was a very serious problem. Their condition was very unsatisfactory and their amount of funding was small. McCreary said he would require tents and they were all in use and requested permission to purchase 3 or 4 more tents. A very large percentage of the new immigrants did not have a dollar, so McCreary stated that the families be held at the East Selkirk Immigration Hall until the men went out and earned a little money on the "Section" if employment could be obtained. Very fortunately, there was still some Saurkraut and potatoes at East Selkirk and all that had to be bought was cornmeal and flour. There were about 400 waiting for work and not much available. "What is going to be done is a problem."

In his yearly Report dated Dec. 31, 1899 Commissioner McCreary stated that "the first group of 2078 "Souls" arrived Jan. 27, 1899 followed by 1,973 in Feb., in May 1, 136 came, and July saw 2,335. Four more contingents arrived in Sept. and one in Dec." He was referring basically to the movement of the Doukhobors and concluded, "With some reasonable allowance for error, a total population of 7,354 souls, living in 795 houses, comprising 57 villages, and who, averaging 5 to a family, are settled on some 1500 homesteads of 160 acres each."

On May 30, 1900 a very sad incident upset the entire community when a Doukhobor child was killed by a train. The press visited the roundhouse about mid-July 1900 and found everything well under the able supervision of Messrs. Harvey and Morrison. The office was at



CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY STATION GROUND
 Right of Way Grant 1001. Part to C. P. Ry Co. 15th Apr 1912

STRATHCONA ROAD

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Part of lot 76 St. Charles

Part of lot 74 St. Charles

Part of lot 75 St. Charles

Part of lot 85

Right of



Old Road House

weather was unfavorable to complete it, but the request was ordered again.

A short distance from the roundhouse was 12 acres of land that had been cleared and cultivated for garden use. Potatoes and several other articles of food were planted during 1900 which saved the Dept. considerable expense plus afforded the inmates of the building exercise and a form of employment for those required to stay for any length of time. The 12 acres, to the best of my knowledge, consisted of blocks 7, 8, and 9 on Parish Lots No. 72 and 73 in St. Clements.

During the spring of 1901, Mr. David Lyons it would appear was about to purchase same and J. Obed Smith was urging the Dept. to stop the sale and retain same for the use of the roundhouse staff and inmates until such time as the building ceased to be used for immigration purposes.

Mr. Obed Smith, early in May, 1901 started hammering at Ottawa to get the CPR to lay tracks from the main line (a little over 1/2 mile) up to the roundhouse. There was a good grade almost right up to the door of the Immigration Hall that had been laid at the time the Roundhouse was constructed. According to Smith, all that was needed was the laying of ties and rails to provide a temporary track on which to carry coaches as close to the building as possible. Smith was quite sure the authorities would agree if they could see the unloading of a special trainload of foreign immigrants at East Selkirk--particularly when it was raining. The people had to struggle under their loads of baggage for over 1/2 mile through mud. Mr. Smith felt it was a small concession to grant these people who had mostly all paid their railway fare, even though a low fare, to the railway company.

Around May 20, 1901 Smith was pleased to inform Frank Pedley that amongst the party which had come in via the "Assyria" the week before was a fair proportion of Germans who were heading for the territory west of Gimli and that they had brought considerable money with them, some had up to \$600 per family. Smith reported that he inspected the Immigration Hall at East Selkirk on May 14, and "I found everything except the building in excellent shape, and out of the two boatloads of foreign immigrants which were landed there since the commencement of the season, only eight families now remain."

Smith kept on requesting that rails be laid up to the shed and never missed an opportunity of putting in a pitch whenever he could. He had the Deputy Minister writing to the CPR and Sir William Van Horne had promised to look into it, as did D. McNicoll and Mr. Leonard, all of the railway company. Finally, Mr. Leonard, the General Supt. of CPR at Winnipeg promised to come out to East Selkirk to see if the work of laying the track could be readily done.

Meanwhile Mr. J.P. Rowley of East Selkirk along with the following men and women did a considerable amount of work on the Immigration Shed which included: whitewashing, repairing the roof, scrubbing and cleaning, painting and other repairs. The total cost was \$331.27 and the work was done by: J.P. Rowley, Wasyl Hrynanik, Nestor Marzuk, Geo. Reharzuk, Wasyl Reharzuk, Nikola Renik and wife, K. Kostiuk, A.

Wolanzuk and wife, D. Kostinuk, S. Sokara, and Jacob Guerillo and wife.

They had 300 feet of box drains built of planks and placed in the ditch so that it could be cleaned out with hose instead of being left in a filthy condition like it had been found on inspection. The box drain was 2' wide and 14' deep. Then they had put up 260' of close-board fence to cut off the yard from the public roadway. The whole roof was overhauled and was in good order, and it no longer leaked except where the water came in through the rotten siding on the high part of the building. A platform was built and laid down at the front door measuring 16 x 20, 2" planking. The caretaker had used some old stove pipes to take the place of eaves troughing over the front and back doors. Mr. Rowley had found that nearly all the plaster had fallen from the ceilings and had placed building paper on the ceiling and held it up with laths. The whole building was kalsomined three times and the woodwork twice giving it all a very clean appearance. The bunks were repaired and other necessary repairs. These were the first repairs and painting carried out at the roundhouse since the original major renovations done when the building was leased from the CPR.

A terrific windstorm about mid July 1901, caused some damage to outbuildings at the building and further work was done. The roof was still giving them trouble. It was the upper structure above the main roof which was originally covered in siding, but the siding was now rotten and although the roof was watertight, this part of the building was by no means waterproof. As J. Obed Smith said, "When there are large numbers of people in the building it is hardly the proper thing to have water pouring in from all sides."

The business of the extension of the spur track from the East Selkirk Station to the Immigration Shed was revived again in late Aug. 1901 when D. McNicoll of the CPR had written to the Dept. of the Interior stating it would cost \$3,600 to lay in the sidetrack. The Dept. wrote back to the CPR saying it was a more costly undertaking than expected and that it should be placed in abeyance for the time being.

Good news was received, however, by the end of Aug. 1901 when the Roundhouse staff were advised that Blocks 7, 8, and 9 of lots 71 and 72, Parish of St. Clements (49.25 acres) was being reserved for the use of the Immigration Hall at East Selkirk. They were happy to hear this as they had a large garden that year and the root vegetables had yet to be taken off the land.

The winter of 1901 was an uneventful one with very few settlers remaining for any length of time. This quietness gave the Caretaker and his family the opportunity to put the building in good order and J. Obed Smith was able to advise the Supt. of Immigration (Frank Pedley) by the 1st of April, 1902 that: "Our accommodation for large numbers of immigrants at this point is ample and sufficient. The building is now in good shape and ready for reception at any time."

However, with the spring, 1902, came the request again for a spur track. Mr. Smith said the urgency will be just as great this year as at any other time. He said the people arrive at East Selkirk and after a tramp for the best part of a mile, carrying all their belongings, struggling along

with their little ones, and by the time they arrive there, "they are almost in fighting humour."

Fire broke out at the Immigration Hall at 6 am. on Wed. April 23, 1902. It was found that one of the stoves had set fire to a partition. The flames got into the roof, and but for the prompt action of the officials and inmates, the whole building would have been destroyed. As it was, by the use of a chemical extinguisher and fire hose, the damage was kept to about \$200 or less. However, the records read the partial destruction by fire of the immigration building at East Selkirk.

With the excitement of the fire over and the repairs being carried out, Mr. Pedley started in to work on the CPR again trying to convince them that they should "afford the necessary accommodation and take this question up with view to having such provided." Meaning, of course, the rail tracks.

Early in May, five carloads of Galacians were transferred west from the East Selkirk Immigration Shed by rail. While they had been stationed there, there had been a lot of problems with the water pump that was located outside the building. The pump had been condemned in the summer of 1901 but with a lot of patching up it had been kept going until the spring of 1902. There was only two pumps, one inside and the one outside. There was a great need of a plentiful supply of water, especially when the building was at full capacity. Mr. J. Obed Smith, in a letter to the Supt. of Immigration (Pedley) on April 21, 1902 said: "from personal inspection I think the pump, which is now worn out, was not still any minute of the day, and, in fact, there were always crowds around ready for their turn to get water. This rendered it impossible to use water for flushing drains, etc. and what is really needed is a wind-mill and tank put up over the outside pump, and the pump either repaired or a new one provided."

While Ottawa was digesting the new request for a Windmill at the roundhouse, the CPR answered the memo written by Frank Pedley about the request of laying a track from the East Selkirk Station to the Immigration Building. Mr. D. McNicoll of the CPR said to Pedley (April 26) "Am I to understand that you are of the opinion the Dept. of Immigration should do nothing and that the Railway Co. should assume the entire cost of doing the work? I understand that we (CPR) have already given you use of the building there for the accommodation of the Immigrants."

On April 29, the Caretaker at the Roundhouse advised the Commissioner that the water pump at the outside of the building had gone all to pieces and was utterly useless. A large group of settlers were expected to arrive any day and everything was in a panic as the outside pump was the principle means of supplying water to the people using the building. Imagine, 2000 people and no water!

On May 3, 1902 Ottawa had not replied about the pump or the water mill and 1600 people were expected to fill the place by May 5. Mr. Smith was worried about two problems at this time. One was the lack of a pump for the water that would be badly needed by 1500 to 1600 new arrivals. The other problem oddly enough, was about too much water. The weather had been very bad, a very wet spring and the day before the new trainloads were due to

arrive, East Selkirk had a very heavy rainfall. The rains had caused the roads and trails to be in a terrible condition. Mr. Smith wrote, "one has only to draw upon his imagination a little to adequately realize what it means to have 1500 to 1600 people walk through the mud and pot holes from the East Selkirk Station to the Immigration Hall, nearly a mile away, because the Railway Co. will not put in the spur track, as requested. The feelings and indignation of these people on being ejected from the trains and compelled to plough through the mud in this way, makes them a very "difficult lot of people to handle," and I would not be at all surprised if some of these days these large bodies of people would refuse to obey the orders of the very limited number of Gov't officials who can be spared to attend to them at East Selkirk."

Obviously, Mr. Smith was quite annoyed with the CPR. He mentioned that the local CPR group of employees at East Selkirk claimed they had no iron to put on the grade and that the Dept. should erect a large Immigration Building at Gonor or some station near Winnipeg. As to the CPR not having any iron rails to lay on the East Selkirk grade from the Station to the Shed, Mr. Smith wrote, "I am advised that there is about 900' of old iron on Sir William Van Horne's property at East Selkirk running down to an old quarry, which could partly fill the requirements."

Commissioner Smith felt that if the Railway Co. wanted to do the work they would have no difficulty in finding the needed materials for such a small piece of work. He went ahead and tried to have some of the mud holes on the way down to the Building from the Station filled in but concluded by saying, "it is alarming to think that this large body of men, women and children will have to plough through the mud and carry all their baggage that long distance, and carry the same back again when they are ready to move."

The appeal was not lost yet, as the Supt. of Immigration corresponded with the CPR (May 13, 1902) saying that his Dept. would be willing to contribute \$1000 toward the cost of laying the track from the Station to the Shed. The commissioner had received appeals from East Selkirk, especially following the April 16, and April 27, car loads of immigrants who were scheduled to stop there. This time, the settlers had flatly refused to leave the railway cars, and some force had to be used, and trouble erupted. On April 27 the staff remembered previous experience, so when people refused to step out into the mud and rain, they let them sit there and took to the roundhouse, only those willing to walk the, almost one mile. At 5 o'clock next morning, when officials returned to the station, there was over 100 with their bundles on their backs, walking the track from East Selkirk to Gonor. The roundhouse staff and the gov't were soundly roasted for having allowed the immigrants to walk all the way to Winnipeg after having paid their fare on the railroad to that point. This whole problem was repeated again on May 17, 1902 and it seemed to be the fashion to refuse to make the long walk to the roundhouse, especially in the mud and rain of spring. It also meant going over the volumes of records trying to sort out who was who and it was determined at one point

that at least 100 single men of the party had struck out walking the rails and were not registered at the East Selkirk stop over. One of the advantages of having them spend a period of time at the roundhouse was that the officials could make sure that no one was ill, no one was hungry or destitute. It also gave the people a chance to have another look at settlement areas, to establish what trade and work was available as well as make changes in money and have the benefit of an interpreter for the last time before hitting the City of Winnipeg or points west. Besides, it gave people a chance to wash, eat and rest before meeting the large urban crush and confusion in the City.

J. Obed Smith wrote again to Ottawa on May 19, 1902, saying that, "If this track were provided we could put the cars right up to the building and the trouble would end there: but nothing short of dynamite seems to be able to get them out of the cars and into the Immigration Hall; and it is not the best thing for our Dept. to have these people strewn along the railway track between Selkirk and Winnipeg a distance of some 25 miles--struggling under their bundles."

Letters and telegrams were flying between East Selkirk, Winnipeg and Ottawa daily trying to sort out the approval forms and money needed to lay the spur tracks. The destitute settlers that were staying over at the roundhouse were utilized for work parties and the grade from the station to the hall were placed in perfect and complete condition to receive ties and rails. It was felt that three days' work, with the necessary material, would complete the job.

In the meantime, the pump for water and the windmill that was on order and approved for installation had not arrived at East Selkirk. In view of the large numbers of people that had been serviced at the roundhouse, the wet spring, and other problems, the Supt. of Immigration wrote to the Public Works Dept. in Ottawa saying, "I would ask that immediate step be taken to remove the difficulty about water supply at once."

Toward the end of June, 1902, the windmill and pump were at East Selkirk and being erected. The reasons for delay they said was that parts had to be ordered from Ont. But at last it was erected, on view and functioning.

Over the winter months, not too much trouble was experienced, with the exception of trying to heat the big barn of a place, and the condition of the ceiling and roof. The roof was not stable and upon inspection early in Feb. 1903 was reported to be "highly dangerous to life and limb both from its tumbled down condition and its danger from fire." The Commissioner of Immigration wrote to the Supt. of Immigration, in Ottawa on Feb. 5, 1903 pointing out that, "the chimney is continually setting fire to the roof; and in fact during the last season the roof and parts of the building were on fire no less than *seven* different times."

In view of the fact that they often had 2000 people housed in the building at one time, was sufficient reason to remove the danger. There was an urgent appeal to Ottawa to authorize the necessary expenditure and approve the work or else discontinue the use of the building as a receiving and distributing point for new immigrants. As Mr. J. Obed Smith, the commissioner said under

cover of an appeal in Feb. 1903, "I think the Dept. is not justified in endangering the lives of so many people by housing them in this building, which is unfit and unsafe at the present time."

The Supt. of Immigration, W.D. Scott, instructed by telegram that the proper officers look into the matter and place the building at East Selkirk in a condition of safety and comparative comfort for the use of the immigrants. The Chief Architect of Public Works was instructed to visit the scene and look at the building. The Roundhouse was expecting a very large contingent in March of 1903, and was very concerned about the condition of the building, it was very unsafe. No instructions had been received to proceed with the necessary changes, and by March 16, the officials were reporting that the ceiling over the hospital wing had let go and now the condition was "urgent". The immigrants had started to arrive in large numbers and an immense movement was expected during the 1903 season. However, by April 1, nothing had been done to correct the dangerous situation at the East Selkirk sheds.

Finally, on April 8, 1903, Mr. James A. Smart of the Dept. of Interior at Ottawa, telegraphed the commissioner in Winnipeg to "take immediate steps to make necessary repairs to Roundhouse at East Selkirk--do not delay putting building in order and advise me."

That was all the approval J. Obed Smith needed and he moved relatively fast. He told Ottawa that material for steel ceiling was on site and that the cost would be over \$2000. Ottawa replied by April 10, 1903 with a short telegram worded, "Yes, proceed quickly as possible."

It is interesting to note that Ottawa (Minister of Interior) had been forwarding instructions regularly to the Public Works Dept. (Winnipeg) over the years and the large majority of requests had been ignored. A memo, with no date, from the Deputy Minister of the Interior addressed to Smith, then the Commissioner of Immigration in Winnipeg makes mention of this lack of cooperation that East Selkirk had experienced since the beginning when the Roundhouse was turned into an Immigration Hall. The memo says in part: "regarding the repairs to the Selkirk building, I may say that I do not care anything at all about the Public Works Dept. as I do not think that they will undertake to pay for any repairs we may do, so we will have to pay for this ourselves. Regarding any further repairs that are necessary, while the Dept. may give the Public Works a chance to do it, if they do not undertake it, in a reasonable time, we propose to carry it our ourselves. This should have been done with regard to the roundhouse long ago."

Toward the end of March 1903, at least five carloads of immigrants arrived at the roundhouse to take up their abode for a time and by late April, about 2000 more arrived, occupying about 27 coaches.

On Aug. 5, 1903 the Immigration Dept. got wind of some land (about 100 acres) that was to be put up for public auction adjoining the 48 acres being used by the roundhouse staff in East Selkirk for the production of food stuff and feed. The Van Horne Farm was used as an example and mentioned that East Selkirk supplied incidental farm hands for use on that farm and they thought the long range plans were to run an Instruction Farm in

conjunction with the Immigration Building: "I understood it was the Deputy Ministers' idea that sooner or later the Dept. would consider the necessity or advisability of having some Farm near at hand where inexperienced or newcomers desiring information on actual farming operations might obtain the knowledge they desire."

The Dept. of the Interior and the Immigration Branch were hesitant in replying. The Supt. of Immigration stated that in his impression they should attend strictly to immigration work, "as it is about all we can manage successfully."

The reply was received by Aug. 19, 1903 and W.D. Scott the Supt. of Immigration advised Commissioner J. Smith that about increasing the size of the landholding in East Selkirk, "I have discussed this matter with the Deputy Minister and he holds the view that it would not be well for us at the present time to undertake to compete with Sir. Wlm. Van Horne at East Selkirk." There appears to be no further mention of increasing the acreage attached to the roundhouse or of starting up an Instructional Farm for the benefit of the new immigrants stationed there. However, they had got their spur line and were thankful for that concession.

The cost of repairs to the roof, and the covering of the ceiling with metallic plates, was about \$2,190.00 and when the supplementary estimates were presented to the Dominion Parliament during the latter part of Sept. 1903 amongst the items was the sum of \$2600 for repairs to the Immigration Hall at East Selkirk. D. Morrison had supervised the contracts for the roof, ceiling and for the fitting up of the stoves as per the tenders submitted.

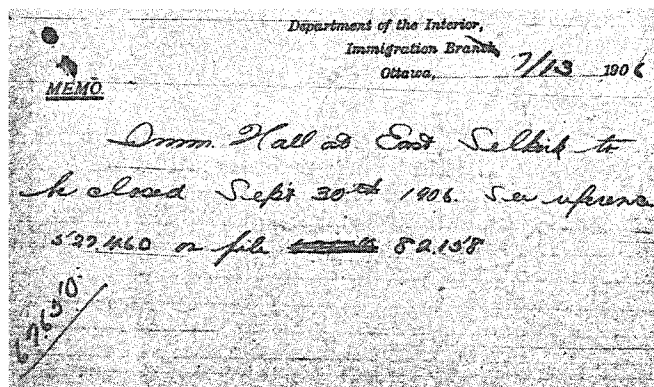
The old building required more repairs by Jan. of 1904, because of the heavy use made of the structure during 1903. The stoves were warped and twisted, until they were both useless and unsafe, so new ones were ordered. Windows had to be continually replaced and new putty adhered, bunks had to be repaired or replaced, and the Public Works were advised to complete the works as soon as possible.

By March of 1904, the Immigration Agents were advised at St. John and Halifax, that there was a lack of accommodation in Winnipeg therefore, these newly arrived immigrants should be prepared to be taken off the trains at East Selkirk. It promised to be another heavy year.

When the Amos Barnes buildings were offered for sale in Dec. 1904, the roundhouse staff wanted to bid on at least one of the buildings which was half shed and half stable. At the time the East Selkirk Immigration people were housing the Gov't team and cattle in an old log shed which had been made weather-proof by a hay roof and piled up with manure on the outside. The roof had fallen in many times, and the Caretaker thought Barne's old stable would do the trick.

However, the Supt. of Immigration replied that they could not entertain the purchase of the stable, so it was not bid on. The cost would have been \$25 for the building and \$25 to have it skidded into place.

Things went along much as before, and then on July 13, 1906, a memo was received from the Dept. of the Interior (Immigration Branch) which read, "Immigration



hall at East Selkirk to be closed Sept. 30, 1906."

That Oct. 1906, a memo was received from the "La Corporation Archiepiscopale C.R. de St. Boniface", requesting to purchase from two to four acres in the SW corner in Block 9 in Lot 72 in the Parish of St. Clements, for a church site. This property formed a part of the reservation set aside for the Immigration Hall and they were advised as such, but also told that should it be removed as a reservation, their application for land would be considered.

The land in question had been used exclusively for the purpose of raising sufficient oats to keep the Govt team in feed. The shed had been closed since Sept. 30, 1906 and the Commissioner wrote on Oct. 20, 1906 to the Supt. saying, "the said building has been closed, and will not, in my opinion, be needed for immigration purposes in the future."

An auction sale of Dominion Lots in the town site of East Selkirk was held on Dec. 16, 1907 in the IOGT Hall, Selkirk. The lots were sold at an "upset price" per acre and the purchaser had the option of paying the whole of the purchase price at the time of the sale or 25% down and the balance in 3 annual instalments at 5% per annum, interest.

And at last, by early March of 1908, the Dominion Govt had sold most all of its lands in East Selkirk. The principle purchasers by 1908 were: Lyons 80 acres, Hicks 35 acres, Yule 65 acres, and Frank 50 acres.

The building was not used any longer for housing immigrants and the Selkirk Weekly Record report in their issue of March 7, 1908: "The Immigration Hall at East Selkirk has now been scuttled and everything useful removed. A very expensive institution while it lasted, thank goodness it is gone and all the political managers with it. Sweet Peace for East Selkirk! A large quantity of cordwood belonging to Hicks and Lyons is piled at the siding."

There was quite a bit of interest sparked over the removal of contents and some rumors were circulating about wrongdoings.

The Selkirk Weekly Record reported that at 11 am on the 9th of April, 1908 in the House of Commons in Ottawa the following questions were asked and answers given which should be of interest to Selkirk electors:

1. Re: Immigration Hall at East Selkirk - what was the total inventory of contents, plus cattle, hogs and horses attached to the Hall?

2. Have they been disposed of, if so, how? (Public or Private sale?)
3. Who disposed of them and the receipts of the sale made?
4. What has become of the Hall, does it still belong to the Gov't?

And answers were given by the Hon. Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior as: "A report is being obtained from the Commissioner of Immigration at Winnipeg re: above questions. It will be "brought down" as soon as received. It is voluminous and should be brought down in the form of a return."

The answers to these questions were partially answered in a memo from the Commissioner at Winnipeg to G.D. Scott, Supt. dated April 16, 1908: He informed Scott that they had decided to discontinue the use of the Immigration Hall at East Selkirk last year (1907) and that instructions had been issued for the sale of the furniture, stoves and other effects of the Hall as well as a team of horses and one cow which had been attached to the Hall for several years. The furniture and stoves as well as supplies were purchased second-hand when the Hall was first equipped, and through multi-use, were not of much value when the Hall was closed in 1907.

Instructions were issued to the former Caretaker to dispose of everything to best advantage and he did so. The team of horses which cost the Gov't \$220. five years earlier, sold for \$200.; while the cow, which cost \$20 seven years ago, brought in \$25.00. The lumber used for bunks, beds, and seating farms were sold to D. Morrison bringing a total of \$425.00. An old truck, 3 cookstoves, feed boiler, two box stoves, 100 tin cups were sold to Messrs. Hill and Nordal of East Selkirk for \$72.00.

As of April 16, 1908 there still remained, unsold, ten feed boilers, an iron pot, one cookstove, two box stoves and a set of platform scales. The value of the items left were estimated to be of about \$100 and no purchaser had come forward.

The items referred to were by private sale and Commissioner stated, "I am of the opinion that a public sale, cost of advertising and auctioneering would have resulted in the realization of a smaller sum obtained."

The whole story will probably never be told. However, suffice it to say that many a home in and around East Selkirk boasted of chairs, tables, utensils, pots and pans, pails and what have you, courtesy the gov't.

The Hall which was leased at \$5.00 per year, was still the property of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and the lease would be up in a few months. A notice of intent to terminate the lease was supposed to be forwarded the CPR in 1908.

On April 14, 1908 a letter was received from the Real Estate firm of Walker and Frank requesting the rental of the roundhouse for Mr. George Frank who wanted it for only 5 months of the year. George Frank had just sold his farm at East Selkirk and needed a temporary residency. His request was forwarded to the CPR for reply, and it was refused.

The Dept. of the Interior received a receipt No. 1447 representing the \$425.00, being the proceeds of the sale of furniture, stock, etc. from the old Immigration Hall at East Selkirk.

The building was occupied well on into 1908 and the "Surrender of Lease" was signed in 1909.

In 1910, the building was used by various groups because this article appeared in the Selkirk Weekly Record on Aug. 19, 1910: "East Selkirk had a concert and tie Social and Dance at the East Selkirk Roundhouse on Friday last. Outside talent proved very disappointing (Wm. Scott of Winnipeg and D. Stanley McLeod of Keewatin, Ont.) but our own Miss Eva Baldwin on the organ saved the entertainment of the concert. After the concert, ties were sold (\$23.75 sum raised). After auction, dancing was enjoyed until it was time for the farmer's boys to go home and feed up the stock for breakfast." The Presbyterian congregation made extensive use of this building.

East Selkirk could even boast of an indoor skating rink, because for several years the large room in the roundhouse (reception area) was flooded for skating and enjoyed indoors. They had coal-oil lamps for lighting and local musicians played for the benefit of the skaters. They even had costume balls on the ice and carnivals.

The place leaked like a sieve, and people just adjusted to the weather conditions. In winter they skated and when it was dried out by late summer, they danced and had a high old time.

During the early years of World War 1 (Oct. 1915) arrangements were being made in various parts of the province for the winter housing of the soldiers at Camp Sewell. Lower Fort Garry, it was reported could be fitted up for some of them. The Selkirk Weekly Record suggested the "Roundhouse" at East Selkirk could be called into requisition as with just a few improvements the building could be converted into comfortable quarters for several hundred men.

In the spring of 1916 it was reported that the woodwork of the Roundhouse was gradually disappearing. Detectives were placed on the case and at least 25 persons were found guilty of the theft and charged. They appeared before Magistrate Hay the first week in April, pleaded guilty and were all fined from \$3 to \$7 and costs. It was said that at least 25 more people would be charged, summoned and tried in relation to the same case. There were of course, hundreds who were never detected or apprehended. The names of those convicted and fined would really serve no purpose here, because twice as many got away with even more. Besides, half the houses for miles around, have chimneys built of the bricks, outbuildings and porches and spare rooms built from the wood of the old Roundhouse.

Edgar C. Goulding, the Police Magistrate, East Selkirk, forwarded a memo dated April 22, 1916 to J. Bruce Walker the Commissioner of Immigration of Winnipeg. In it he made mention that the CPR were now selling off the old station grounds, Right of Way and Roundhouse. What concerned Goulding was that some of the people living in East Selkirk had come to him asking him to arrange to reserve a portion of the site that had been used as a cemetery. It appears that about 75 to 80 people had been interred there during the use of the building. And the East Selkirk residents were anxious to keep the cemetery plot reserved from the sale and preserved. Mr. Morrison confirmed what Goulding