

AMERICANS THEIR MECCA

GREAT RUSH OF HUNGARIANS TO THE UNITED STATES.

Of Recent Years Over 2,000,000 of Them Have Come to America and Most of Them Stay—Whole Provinces of Hungary Are Being Depopulated and the Authorities Are Putting Every Obstacle in the Way of Emigration to Keep the Natives from Leaving.

In consequence of a steady stream of emigration to the United States for the past twenty years Hungary is becoming slowly depopulated. If the Hungarians continue to flock to the United States at the present rate the Emperor of Austria may have to do a little colonizing at home to keep some parts of the Hungarian territory from lapsing into a waste.

The Hungarian authorities are said to be making every obstacle in the way of emigration with a view to holding the country. Passports are made necessary and numerous coils of red tape are spread to entangle the feet of those who would leave.

In consequence of the continued departure of emigrants the price of labor in Hungary has risen from 200 to 300 per cent. within the past few years. It is said that many landed proprietors have complained to the Austrian government that they cannot get enough labor to till their fields, and this in spite of the fact that in Hungary the fields are tilled by men and women alike.

MANY COME TO THIS STATE. The majority of the so-called Hungarians in the United States are Slovaks and Croats of their race in Pennsylvania. They are distributed among the coal fields, mills and mines in the state. Ten years ago few of them could be found who were not laborers. Their condition has changed rapidly. Today they are beginning to go into many lines of business and the emigration is coming up Americanized.

A recent paragraph announced that a number of Hungarian girls came to a mill settlement near Pittsburg to become the wives of Hungarian laborers, and inquired whether the fact that hundreds of Hungarians are passing into the United States to become helpmates to men who have left their own country. The customary number of Hungarian immigration is this: First, the father or son comes to this country and after saving passage money he sends for his family.

In cases where a young man comes over first he generally gets his father to pick him a wife in their native village. Oftentimes the young man does not know his future wife, nor has he seen her until they meet when the young woman alights at the station.

Hungarian girls marry at a much earlier age than do their American sisters. The Hungarian girl is ready for matrimony at 16 years. At 20 she considers herself an old maid, and in her own country this is, in fact, true, for the severe labor which is required of Hungarian women ages them prematurely. They work in the fields and burn like men from early dawn until dusk.

A THIRTIETH PEOPLE. A feature of the Hungarian community is the thrift of its members. It is said that less than 5 per cent of the Hungarians here are without bank accounts. They are accustomed to live very frugally in their own country, and out of an ordinary laborer's wage they save considerable sums. A case of this sort occurred in Allegheny county some months ago. A Hungarian who was confined on a charge of murder wrote home. The family was poor and could send no money, but the brother of the prisoner worked his way to Pittsburg and secured employment as a laborer at a blast furnace.

He received \$125 a day and out of this sum he saved enough in a few months to defray the cost of his brother's trial. P. V. Rovnlanek, of Pittsburg, has been a leader of his people in this country. As a young man he came to Cleveland in 1888 to take charge of a church for the Bohemian and German organization of his countrymen. One of the conditions of membership is that the applicant must have made application for American citizenship or for his first papers. Mr. Rovnlanek has just received some interesting government reports from Hungary, showing the effect of emigration upon that country. He said, discussing the matter:

NEWS OF THE LABOR WORLD

MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF DISTRICT UNIONS.

Making Preparations for the Approaching Convention and Conference—Want Mine Inspectors Elected by a Vote of the People—Men Employed at the Dolp Mine, Jessup, Are on Strike—Alleged They Have Not All Received the Ten Per Cent. Increase—Other Notes.

At a meeting of the presidents of the three anthracite district unions of the United Mine Workers held in Wilkes-Barre Saturday it was decided to extend early invitations to the coal operators to attend the joint convention of the three districts, which is to be held in Hazleton during the middle of next month.

The meeting also decided to again send representatives to Harrisburg fully equipped with credentials and minutes of meetings of the three districts to attend the session of the legislature at which the sentiment of the delegates was shown to be decidedly in favor of legislation providing for the election of mine inspectors by the people.

While at Harrisburg with the other mine workers' representatives were told by three legislators that National Board Member Benjamin James was there on the 15th of this month, and was introduced to the members of the mines and mining committee by Chief of the Bureau of Mining Inspection, James made a speech favoring a bill to create a department of mines and mining, and such a bill was voted in favor by the legislature.

It was also told that Benjamin James advocated the withdrawal of that clause in Representative Gardner's bill favoring the election of mine inspectors by the people. Now, Henry Kearney, of Annapolis, and John P. Collins, of Carbonate, were sent down to Harrisburg by the district convention to have certain bills presented, among which was one authorizing the election of mine inspectors. The same day he already been taken up in a district No. 5 and 9 and the universal sentiment has been in its favor.

When we discovered how matters stood, and saw that the legislators were in doubt, we decided to return home and at the meeting which was arranged being up to the capital. In referring to the conference, Mr. Nichols said:

"I can only say that I have hopes that they will meet us, and I see no possible reason why they should refuse to do so. The entire convention has been called for this sole purpose and during the first three days the delegates will formulate and agree upon a policy to be pursued at the joint conference."

President Nichols, Secretary Dempsey and Messrs. Collins and Kearney, the legislative committee of this district, met yesterday at the United Mine Workers' headquarters.

Strike at Jessup. The employees of the Dolp mine at Jessup went on strike Saturday night and today the colliery will be idle. Between four and five hundred men have gone out. For some time the hands have complained that a number of men were working without the 10 per cent. increase promised at the end of last fall's strike.

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