

CHAPTER XXII

HUTERITES

A. GENERAL

1. This religious group although not organically connected with the Mennonites is very similar to it both in the matter of beliefs and history. They share with the Mennonites an Anabaptist ancestry and differ in their beliefs only in the matter of communistic ownership of property.

2. The Huterite religion started in the Tyrolean Alps and Moravia and gained the name from its Leader Jacob Huter. Like the Mennonites its members were subjected to severe persecution. Because of this they escaped to Hungary where after a time they were again subjected to persecution because of their beliefs.

3. In 1707 a number of them found their way to Wallachia where they settled until the Turkish armies forced them to leave for Russia where they settled near the Mennonites. Their numbers were extremely small and the majority emigrated to America in 1874.

4. The Russian Huterites are of German origin and speak and read German to this day. In addition to the few Huterites who may have fled from Russia there are some German and Austrian Huterites who did not leave those countries.

B. ELIGIBILITY STATUS OF HUTERITES

5. Russian Huterites will be treated as any other ordinary refugee. If they have Volksdeutsche or Reichsdeutsche status they will *prima facie* be not within the mandate unless they can make it plausible that this status was acquired under duress or compulsion.

6. German and Austrian Huterites in those countries are outside the mandate as they are in their countries of nationality. Outside these countries they will be treated as ordinary German or Austrian refugees.