

## MUST BECOME CANADIANS.

The Canadian Ruthenian, Bishop Budka's paper, comes out this week with a portrait of King George on its first page and fervent expressions of loyalty. In other ways ~~too~~ the Bishop and his friends have been busy in proclaiming their devotion to the British cause. Evidently somebody has been talking to Bishop Budka during the past week.

Of course, Bishop Budka and his friends are very indignant because of the publicity which The Free Press gave his precious pastoral letter. As usual, charges of fanaticism are preferred against this journal; and elaborate attempts are being made in the church papers to justify the Bishop's mobilization order to the churches under his control.

The Free Press does not think it necessary further to characterize this pastoral. It speaks for itself. The most striking characteristic of the letter was the unconscious revelation of Bishop Budka's state of mind. It showed him as believing that "the Canadian Ukraine" was an extra-territorial possession of Austria, whose residents were still under Austrian control. He has learned in the past week that this is a Canadian country. The Free Press, which has been trying for some time past to educate him and his entourage in this respect, is naturally pleased that they at last show signs of learning this lesson.

As for the charge of fanaticism, it does not disturb The Free Press. If it be fanatical to insist that people coming to Canada to settle shall become Canadians then it is, and shall continue to be, fanatical. This charge has often been preferred against The Free Press since it began, some two years ago, to put the spotlight of publicity upon the conspiracy to create in Western Canada a Ruthenian national organization intended to maintain in perpetuity the language, customs and racial ideals of the Ukrainian people.

In its campaign The Free Press has never attacked the Ruthenians. It has confined its attentions to the mischief-makers, who have been trying to mislead them. The Ruthenians came to this country looking for freedom, happiness, a chance to earn a living, and citizenship in a free country. All this they have obtained. Left to themselves, they would be eager and proud to become part of the Canadian nation, adapting themselves to our customs and institutions and advising their children to become Canadians in every sense of the word.

The "national" movement, which has been be-devilling these people of late years, gets its inspiration from several sources. Agitators have imported into this country the lingo and catch cries of the nationalist crusade in Galicia, and the movement has been sedulously encouraged by clerics who fear the effects of the Anglicization of their people. Vote-seeking, power-craving politicians have co-operated for their own selfish purposes.

The enterprise was bound to fail, once the people were awakened to what was going on. It has been not the least of the services that The Free Press has rendered the people of Western Canada that it has given this movement a measure of publicity entirely unwelcome to its leaders. The end, inevitable in any case, will be hastened by the conditions created by the war.

With the terrible example of Europe before their eyes, the people of Canada will see to it that this vast western plain is not divided up among races, nourishing age-long animosities and cherishing divergent racial ideals. Our gates are open to the oppressed of Europe; but when they come here they must forget their feuds, forswear their racial aspirations and become Canadians, not only in name but in fact. Otherwise Western Canada will see in fifty years a repetition of the conditions which have turned Central Europe into a shambles.