

BISHOP BUDKA

PRESENTS VIEWS

Says Nothing He Has Done or Said Can be Construed as of Disloyal Nature.

Bishop Budka, of the Ruthenian Greek Catholic church, has made a statement concerning the charges of disloyalty which have recently been made against him, in which he declares positively that neither in thought, in word or in action had he ever been in the slightest degree disloyal either to Canada or the British empire, and he further states that nothing that he has ever said or done can reasonably be construed as of a disloyal nature.

Referring to the letter addressed by him to his people on the 28th day of July, the bishop stated that it was issued at a time when only Austria and Serbia were at war, and when the indications did not point to the likelihood of Britain being drawn into the conflict. This letter was not intended for those of the Ruthenian people who had attained Canadian citizenship, but rather for the more recent arrivals, many of whom had left their families in the old land, some of whom were deserters from the army, and not a few among whom had been unable to find employment in Canada, and to whose problem the Canadian authorities at that time were giving considerable thought. According to the bishop the letter was a reminder to such men as had received the official call to return, that their duty required them to obey the call, and the bishop considered it one of his responsibilities to remind these men of their duty.

Immediately after Britain had become involved in the war, Bishop Budka states that he addressed a further letter to his people nullifying the instructions contained in his first communication, and calling upon all his people to prove themselves loyal citizens of Canada and of the empire.

The Bishop's Attitude.

Bishop Budka's attitude, he declares, towards the land of his and his people's adoption has undergone no change since he arrived here some twenty months ago. At that time he addressed to his people a pastoral letter reading in part as follows: "Be good citizens. Be grateful to the country which gave you shelter, and chance of better and happier existence. Be good citizens and true, sincere, real Canadians. Do not forget your own language which has been bequeathed to you by your ancestors. Neither your own language nor your religion interferes with true love and citizenship of Canada. Living under the British King, let us be loyal and good subjects. Living under the free and wise federal and provincial governments, let us respect Canadian administration and government. Enjoy the rights and privileges of free citizenship taking part in the public and political life. By prudence, concord, perseverance and faith we will gain welfare and respect."

And again, three months later, the bishop in addressing his people urged them, it is said, to be faithful to their church and to educate their children, adding: "Only through education can we become good citizens. We shall learn the English language with pleasure, but 'cannot forget our own.' This is, it is pointed out, because the religious services of the Ruthenian people are held in their own language.

The bishop states the meaning of the term "Canadian Ukraine" has been altogether misunderstood. "Ukrainian" is a term used to designate the Ruthenian people of Austria as distinguished from the Ruthenians in Russia, and the words "Ukraine" and "Ukrainian" are synonymous. "Canadian Ukraine" therefore means all those Ruthenian people formerly residing in Austria, but now in Canada.