

LOYALTY FIRST, PLEASE.

In this column of our issue of Oct. 13th we made the following observation upon an address delivered in the City Hall the previous night:

"When the speaker, after driving the wedge into capital, and condemning the German war policy, led up to the illogical conclusion that England, being a nation of capitalists and capital, was an enemy of labor, ready to go to war again as soon as this war was over, if they could only find a victim to plunder, and the audience, in all innocence, missing the point of this pernicious teaching, applauded, we felt that this was an occasion for the Patriotic League and other equally worthy British Canadian institutions to be warned. American lecturers who come across the border, and whether in misguided enthusiasm or otherwise drive into the minds of peaceful Christian citizens that the English nation is a nation of avaricious capitalists, ready and willing to follow the example of Germany when opportunity arises — such American lecturers are no friends of Canada, and they are certainly not observing that "neutrality in spoken or printed word" which President Wilson has commanded Americans to observe during this crisis. Further, teaching of the kind demonstrated in the City Hall last night is calculated to impede the good work of all Canadians who are at the present time endeavoring to give practical expression to their patriotism. The Germans can do their evil work of misguiding British subjects quite well enough for themselves, and there is no need for American lecturers to assist them."

In our yesterday issue we gave space to a letter from a correspondent signing himself "A Socialist." We inserted the letter simply because it is our wish to give a fair public hearing, to the extent which our space admits without curtailing the news of the day, to anyone and everyone who has any subject of genuine public interest to expound. But if our correspondents imagine that by publishing their communications we are admitting their comments upon our editorials to be justified they are woefully mistaken. In all courtesy we wish to impress this fact upon those whose letters find a place in our columns. We simply give our correspondents a fair play hearing and reserve for ourselves the right to either agree with them or differ from them in our opinion. When "A Socialist," for example, makes the statement that our article headed "An Indiscreet American Lecture," "conveyed misleading impressions," we have no hesitation in denying that the article contained anything more than plain statement of fact, and if any other lecturer, American or Canadian, Democrat or Aristocrat, delivers an address in our midst which is calculated, as the address in question was, to lead our people away from their patriotism, we shall feel it our duty again to condemn the conduct not only of the lecturer but of everyone who aids and abets or even sympathises with that lecturer in a course of conduct which is positive disloyalty and which can bear no truer description than bolstering up the evil work of the Germans, with whom the people of this country are engaged in a justifiable and righteous war.