

THE GERMAN PRESS IN CANADA.

Professor Riethdorf, the German-born Ontario man who has been doing so much in that province to make those of his own ancestry recognize the rightness of the cause of the Allies, declares that one of the chief obstacles encountered by him in his educational campaign was the German periodical literature on which German readers in Canada depended so largely for their information in regard to the war and its causes. He found that this literature was poisoning the minds of its readers in this country, and he strove to have it excluded; but in this work his efforts were blocked by the politicians who believed it to be of more importance that the Germans should "vote right" than that they should think right.

This state of affairs has prevailed to such an extent in western Canada that we are in a position to appreciate fully the truth of what the professor says. As readers of this paper know, it endeavored to arouse the proper authorities early in the war to the necessity of doing something to counteract the influence of these German publications. The responsibility, it believed and still does so, rests primarily on the provincial government which is charged under our system of government with the enforcement of the law. But no action could be secured in Alberta and government supporters did not conceal the satisfaction with which they regarded the effect of The Journal's articles in bringing about, as they thought, a solid German vote for the Liberals at the next election.

One of the worst offenders among these German journalists was right in Edmonton and he started in on his work of creating sentiment against the Allies with the direct approval of the Edmonton Liberal daily.

After a while when it became apparent that the provincial government would do nothing, the federal authorities intervened and much was done to curb the pro-Kaiser campaign. But Ottawa is a long distance away and the situation was not handled in as thorough-going a manner as was desirable. Of late there has not been much cause for complaint but much permanent harm was done in the first few months of the war by the lack of energetic measures.