

Manitoba's Germanized Liberal Government is Helping Empire's Foes

Perhaps no political manoeuvre in the history of the province of Manitoba has caused such general indignation as has the arrest of Dr. R. M. Simpson in England, the other day, on the orders of the attorney-general of that province. The postage-stamp province has always been noted for the bitterness with which the politicians have fought one another; but, even at that, there has been a certain recognized custom which precluded "hitting below the belt." The arrest of Dr. Simpson, however, is such a departure from what might be expected even in Manitoba, that there is widespread condemnation of a governmental act which could just as well have been postponed until the close of the war without in any way endangering the ends of justice, except in the event of the death of the Winnipeg doctor. In that case, it will be recognized that the man who gives his life for his country has paid sufficient penalty for any political indiscretions. Every day, from one end of Canada to the other, we see men who are before the courts on different charges, given the alternative between enlisting in the army and being sent to prison. But, while the new Liberal government of Manitoba is prepared to extend that option to almost the meanest prisoner in the dock, it is apparently not big enough to permit the same principle to be applied in the case of a political opponent—not if it is possible to make any capital for the party in power by insisting upon the most inexcusable kind of persecution.

The Winnipeg Saturday Post is one of those papers which scores the Norris government for its cold-blooded, unpatriotic persecution, and no more scathing arraignment of a government has ever come from the pen of an editor in Western Canada.

The arrest of Doctor R. M. Simpson as he stepped off a transport at Folkstone, where he had come on leave of absence from the battle-front in France," says the Post, "is the latest outrage committed by our Teutonic Government of Manitoba. The charge on which Doctor Simpson was arrested is a lie. The charge was laid by men who knew it was a lie. The arrest was decided upon partly to gratify the spite of furious partisans, and partly to gratify the German element in Manitoba, ably represented in the Cabinet by the German Winkler.

"The Post has frequently told its readers that the Norris Government—which obtained office by perjury, subornation of perjury, conspiracy with a corrupt Lieutenant-Governor, crooked bargaining and double-crossing tactics that would make a card-sharper blush—is dominated by a spirit that is in every essen-

tial anti-British. The arrest of Doctor Simpson on a trumped-up charge is only the latest and clearest proof of the accuracy of these statements.

"For the past eight or nine months Doctor Simpson, one of the most accomplished and distinguished surgeons of Canada, has been serving his country and the Empire at the front. He has undergone the greatest hardships, has performed the most strenuous work, and has constantly risked his life in the interests of his unfortunate fellow-countrymen, and in the cause of humanity. His services have been invaluable.

"While he has thus been sacrificing himself for his country, a group of besotted politicians of the cheapest, the most tawdry, the most despicable type that has ever been foisted upon a British community, has snugly and smugly sat at home, thimble-rigging with contractors to despoil the province by the most shameful and cynical of all high-handed methods—boldly blackmailing contractors, repudiating the province's pledged word and signature, and handing out public work to party grafters without contract, without price being asked, and without a moment's consideration of either the monetary or the moral interests of the people.

"This clique, this set of political bandits, has made no sacrifice whatever in the interests of the country or the Empire. It has not lifted a finger to preserve or to advance British civilization. On the other hand, it has been notoriously subservient to one of its number who is an out-and-out German, and who represents a constituency that can, without the slightest injustice, be described as a hotbed of treason.

"Should it be surprising that this Germanically controlled and anti-Britishly inclined "British" administration should regard itself as best serving its ideals by arresting a British officer on a trumped-up political charge, and bringing him back from his duty? No, it is not surprising. It is quite what we might expect from this Winklerized outfit of adventurers. To remove a Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel from the ambulances and hospitals of the British army is quite as useful to the Hon. Valentine Winkler's European relations as the destruction of, say, a British aeroplane would be. Consequently, Norris, Winkler, and Hudson have all earned the iron cross by their treasonable and outrageous arrest of Colonel Simpson. They have earned this distinction as little Huns from the chiel of all the Huns. What they deserve, however, at the hands of the people of Manitoba is a dog collar each, with a stout rope attached—a rope that would resist the strain of the

drop of a heavy weight for a distance of six feet.

"How long do the people of this province propose to tolerate the outrageous methods of this outfit in Kennedy Street that, calls itself a British Government, but which is no more British than the civic administration of Berlin, and no more a government than the assassination administration of the Mexican Huerta? These are war times. The very existence of our country is at stake. This is no time for easy-going methods or for that toleration that we foolishly display in times of peace. The man who plays the part of traitor today should be shot without consideration. A government in a British province that deliberately plays into the hands of our enemies invites radical measures at the hands of the people that will be a lesson to both public and private traitors of the future to keep their treason hidden, and not to practice it by diminishing the war efficiency of the nation. If the people of Manitoba do not exact satisfaction from the Norris Government for the outrageous arrest of Doctor Simpson, engaged on active service at the front—an arrest that could not be more pro-German in effect than it would be if ordered from Berlin—then the people of this province are unworthy of the British name. They deserve to sink into oblivion, 'unwept, unhonored, and unsung.' Germany horrified the world, but gained no military advantage, by the assassination of Edith Cavell. Germany has gained a decided advantage by the pro-German conduct of the Norris Government in removing a Canadian surgeon lieutenant-colonel from the British hospitals behind the firing lines. The world will punish the Cavell outrage. It is incumbent upon the people of Manitoba to enforce the punishment for the Simpson outrage."