

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

The Germans in Canada.

Editor of The Star: When I write this letter it is my opinion that I voice the sentiment of more than one Canadian. The article in The Star of February 9 on the lack of suspicion in Canada aroused a righteous indignation within me, and put the idea of writing this letter into my head.

Canada is not suspicious." Well, it is high time she was. "Germans in high positions"; why should the safety of the Dominion be in the hands of aliens? How long, I would like to know, would an Englishman or a Canadian be tolerated in Germany, to say nothing of the way a man holding a responsible position would be treated? Can you imagine, and one would need a wonderful imagination to do so, a Canadian head of the Mines Department in Germany or superintendent of dredging with full data as to coastwise public works? Could you imagine it, I say?

Why should Sir Sam boast that his chief intelligence officer overseas is a German by the name of Captain Hahn? It is bad enough to have them over here in Canada, but to think of sending them overseas with our boys, one can hardly believe it. Does the Minister of Militia consider it right to imperil the lives of those in Canada by trusting everyone, including Germans, alike? That is all very well in times of peace, but in times of war No, emphatically No.

Must we turn to Germany for everything, including able-bodied men to hold responsible positions? It is more to our shame if we do. And why a man in authority should be allowed to put aliens in positions, or even keep them there, is more than I can see. The people are the ones (not always the officials and those in authority) who are blown sky-high when a building is blown up. Every German, man, woman, or child, should be interned, and remain interned until the war is over. Those spies that are caught, and many are roaming around that ought to be caught, should pay the price any spy pays, being shot. Why should we fish around for an excuse for a man who is a detriment to our country and worse than a vandal?

The German Church on Bond street holds its service every Sunday, morning and evening, and one service is conducted in German. Of course they are not allowed to pray for the Kaiser (we have been bright enough and quick enough to see to that), but, as one man said, "It would not do them any good if they did." Why shouldn't all those Germans be interned and every other German with them? After the horse is gone it is a little late to close the barn door, and after a few of our trustworthy Germans have given away or, better, sold, a few secrets that will mean the loss of a few hundreds of our boys then and only then will we say in a very mild way, of course, "We should not have allowed those men to handle the affairs of State." Why should we wait until something terrible happens before we put these men out of office? "Do it now" would be a very good principle to work on. Don't allow Germans, naturalized or otherwise, to run loose all over the country; put them all in a camp and keep them there until the war is over.

Canadians, now is the time. Those of us who cannot go overseas and fight, we at least can fight for our own rights here in Canada.

AN INDIGNANT CANADIAN.

Toronto, Feb. 11.