

OUR GERMAN CANADIANS.

There is a good deal of sentimental nonsense in the talk about not being at war with the German people, but with a tyrant. So long as the German people make the cause of the tyrant their own cause, and so long as we are at war with the tyrant, how can we escape being at war with the people? How long would the German tyrant last if it were not for the German people?

It is unnecessary to repeat that the great bulk of the people of German origin in Canada are loyal to Canada. Nobody who understands the situation thinks seriously of disputing such a general statement. Nobody who desires to be fair would seek to deprive these Canadian people of German origin of one particle of the credit due them or of the confidence and respect that ought to belong to them; but this is not a time for mushy sentiment. Whether we are at war with the German people or merely with a German tyrant, the simple fact is that if the German people have their own way in this war the result will have a meaning for Canada which no Canadian with red blood in his veins and the love of freedom in his heart can contemplate with composure.

Justice to our fellow citizens of German origin does not require that they shall be placed in positions of extreme responsibility or subjected to powerful temptation. Loyal Canadian Germans know very well that the whole German race has been brought under suspicion by the conduct of the Germans themselves. So long as the German conception of loyalty and patriotism requires or permits a German to sacrifice everything, including honor, fortune and life, for the cause of the Fatherland, irrespective of all obligations of citizenship, loyal Canadians of German origin will take no offence at any precautions which may be regarded as necessary for the protection of the country. If they have a grievance—and they have—they know very well it is not against their fellow citizens of British origin, but against the breed of German tyrants in the old land and hyphenates abroad who have brought dishonor and distrust on the very name of Germany.

There is plenty of work for loyal Germans to do in Canada, work with which they may be safely entrusted and which would prove very useful. They can stimulate recruiting; they can contribute to the patriotic funds; they can carry on the work of education among those who are less well disposed to the British cause. Many of them are doing all these things and are gaining the admiration and strengthening the confidence of their fellow citizens by so doing. It is not fair to loyal Germans to place them in positions to invite attention and criticism, and it certainly is not fair to the country. Times and conditions are such that Canada cannot afford to take any chances.