

CHARGE AGAINST PRIEST WITHDRAWN

A charge of sedition against the Rev. Father Anastasius Phillipow, a priest of the Basilian order of the Ruthenian Catholic church, was withdrawn by the military authorities in the provincial police court Tuesday afternoon. R. D. Guy, who appeared for the military authorities, said they were satisfied that if there had been any guilt on the part of the accused, it had been sufficiently expiated by the worry and inconvenience of being haled into court. As a matter of fact a number of influential citizens had vouched for the conduct of Father Phillipow.

T. J. Murray, representing Father Phillipow, said that investigation had satisfied him there was no guilt on the part of the accused. He had not, in fact, been a party to the conversations that were the basis of the information. Mr. Murray said he had communicated this data to the intelligence department of the military district and he believed it had influenced the department to withdraw the charge.

It was alleged that Father Phillipow had advised Austrians to leave Canada, and join the Teutonic forces. Mr. Murray said to a Free Press man that there was no truth in this allegation. What Father Phillipow had said was that there was no liberty in Russia, and that there was some liberty in Germany and Austria. He had not said anything about the British empire, to which he was thoroughly loyal.