

# RUTHENIANS WOULD DEFEND DOMINION

**Bishop Budka Says Fellow-Countrymen Will Give Aid if Needed**

**OWE NOTHING TO AUSTRIA**

**Says Two Thousand Already Are Serving in Canadian Contingents**

**From the Ottawa Correspondent of The Daily News.**

Ottawa, Nov. 23.—Bishop Nicetas Budka, head of the Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church in Canada, who is in the Capital, declares that if the necessity arises the Ruthenians would be willing to raise men for a battalion for home service.

Bishop Budka said the Ruthenians wish to do something to help Canada because this is the land of their adoption, the land in which they are enabled to live as they were not in the Old Country. He asserted that there was a misconception in Canada that the Ruthenians were enemies because they happened to be born in a country which is now regarded as enemy territory. The Ruthenians owed allegiance to no country, the Bishop said. They had lost all they possessed. Just because a Ruthenian happened to be born in Galicia, he should not be regarded as an enemy here for the reason that the Ruthenian owed Austria nothing. The word Austria meant nothing to him.

**Many Now Serving.**

But in the army which is commonly termed the Austrian army, were thousands of Ruthenians who, of course, were called upon for military service. It was this fact which prevented Ruthenians in Canada rushing to the Canadian colors in thousands. They could not kill those who but a few years before had been their kinsmen. Ruthenian settlement was only ten years old in Canada, said the Bishop, in pointing out the error of expecting his countrymen to fight the Ruthenians of Europe, Galicia, especially, where in most cases a much longer period of their life had been spent.

Bishop Budka said another difficulty was that Ruthenians were badly versed in the English language. The majority of the men in Canada, eligible for military service, had been educated in Galicia in their own Ruthenian tongue. They had come here and taken farms among their own people in the Ruthenian colonies, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, or Alberta. They had not bothered to learn the English language, leaving that to their children.

Despite all this, Bishop Budka said 2,000 Ruthenians were in the Canadian contingents. They had enlisted as Poles and Russians. He knew of some Ruthenians with such names as Smith, Jones, O'Connor, etc., assumed for the purpose of getting to the front.