

A PRO-GERMAN AGITATION THAT MUST BE STOPPED

The Journal the other day called attention to the extraordinary comment which the Bulletin had to offer on the letter which it published from Mr. Krankenhagen, the editor of the Alberta Herald. Since the latter thrust himself into the limelight and the Bulletin gave him its blessing in the task which he has assumed of correcting "the wilful exaggerations" of newspapers like the New York Sun respecting Germany's conduct of the war, much interest has been manifested in the Herald in Edmonton and elsewhere. Not unnaturally people would like to know something about the character of the matter that has been appearing in its columns.

The issue of September 10 repays study. Some war poetry is published. One is entitled "Wir Tragen Das Schwert" (We Carry the Sword). In a footnote the editor explains that "this magnificent poem appeared in the Berlin Lokel-Anzeiger on August 2, after the outbreak of the war." The last verse, of which the following is a literal translation, gives the idea of the whole production:

And we all, as is our duty,
Now leave hammer and plough.
No—they wish not peace,
And now it is enough!
Master, thou callest us to Germany's defence,
And we carry the sword.
Thine is the victory and thine is the honor;
Make us worthy of our ancestry!

This may be magnificent poetry, but should a newspaper published in a British country be allowed to circulate it when it is against our arms that the German sword is being carried?

Turning over to the next page we find a lengthy article entitled "Der Krieg Und Du" (The War and You). It is signed "Ch. B."

"How shall we Germans on foreign soil act towards this war?" it asks.

"The Germans in the United States have already answered this question, while in all the great cities meetings have been held in which in English speech and with anger the hellish lies of the English press have been made clear and thrown back.

"We here in Canada naturally cannot do this. An English colony would not allow such meetings. But in a friendly and neighborly manner all can, and should, who are adept in the English speech, co-operate, to influence public opinion. Alas! however, we Germans have the unfortunate characteristic that we are tempted to ape other nations. Are there not many who have denied, and even today deny, their nationality? Is it any wonder that we are called 'Dutchmen?' . . . Wake up, you German, and if anyone ask you, say 'Yes sir, and I am proud of it.' . . .

"As a German" the article goes on, "point out to your neighbor the true causes of the war."

These "causes" are set forth at length. The argument is that which the German minister to the United States and the N.Y. Staats-Zeitung have been presenting to the people of that country and which has confirmed American public opinion in its conviction that the Kaiser, and the Kaiser alone, is to blame for the conflict. With much detail the Germans living in Alberta are shown how they are to go about showing that Germany is right and Great Britain is wrong.

The article concludes:

"Envy of Germany's industrial expansion is the true explanation why England under Edward VII. detached itself from the friendship of Germany and fell into the arms of France. And it is the cause of England's participation in this war.

"And now, neighbor, let me ask you yet another question. Are you only 'just a Dutchman' or are you a German and proud of your descent?"

Other matter that has appeared in the Alberta Herald is along the same line, and The Journal submits that it is imperative for the authorities to take steps to prevent further pro-Kaiser agitation through the German paper's columns.

It isn't hard to imagine what would happen to a man who, at the present moment, undertook to "influence public opinion" in a city in Germany in favor of the cause of Great Britain and who told the Germans that the German press was telling "hellish lies"

about the British. He would be politely but firmly requested to take his position alongside the nearest barn while a firing party was commanded to discharge its painful duty.

We are not in the habit of doing things in this way in British countries. But we have the right to insist that the King's enemies in our midst should at least keep silence and not set out, as "Ch. B." does, to spread sedition and general unrest. If the article from which the quotation is made is not seditious, we cannot conceive what the word is supposed to convey.

We have given those of German descent who have come to our shores the fullest measure of liberty. It has been enjoyed by them to an extent which was not possible in their old homes across the sea. The great majority, we know, fully appreciate this, and, no matter what their sentimental attachments to the Fatherland, are prepared to act in this crisis as becomes Canadians, whether they are full-fledged citizens or not. And it is they who have the most cause to complain of such an attempt as is being made in the Alberta Herald's columns to launch an agitation on behalf of the Kaiser.

Busybodies like "Ch. B." are creating a prejudice against all Germans which has not manifested itself strongly up to the present but which, if it gains any large proportions, is likely to be followed by the most serious consequences.