

Canada Preparing To Refuse German Manufacturers.

While Canada is sending a powerful army of trained soldiers to oppose the Germans, the seven millions remaining at home are lining up for an assault on German trade. The destructive force of the movement to "boycott Germany" has enormously more scope in Great Britain, where German goods to the value of \$145,000,000 are purchased every year, than in Canada, where German imports are slightly under \$15,000,000, with about \$1,500,000 from Austria-Hungary.

Three public bodies, the city of Winnipeg, the Board of Control and Public Utilities Commission of London, Ont., have already taken steps to strike Germany off the list of business acquaintances. Decisions such as these are bound to be contagious and it would not be surprising if by the end of summer the whole country has been swept into united action.

The large retail stores in Toronto and Montreal, according to statements of responsible officials, have stripped their shelves of German goods, and where sales of such goods were held since the war began, all identifying marks had first to be obliterated.

"From the first days of the war," said one of these officers, "women customers commenced to make close examinations of articles for foreign marks, and the repeated question: 'Did this come from Germany?' roused our managers to the new turn in public sentiment. We took action immediately, and either rid our warehouses of German goods by the quickest route, or sold them as bargains, covering up signs of their foreign source."

The women of Ottawa have been the first to start aggressively on the trail of German trade by a local propaganda. They are losing no time in equipping recruits with the new ammunition. The object of attack is not so much the actual German goods now in Canada, for to kill such commodities would merely embarrass Canadian importers and wholesalers, but rather to attach the stigma to the name of "Germany," which will probably stick long after peace has been restored. Meanwhile incidental hardships to loyal Canadian merchants are liable to follow. To mention only one instance—seventy-five per cent. of the cheaper forms of cutlery used in Canada come from German factories. Stocks now on hand were laid in during times of peace and the holders of them are innocent parties. So serious was the declaration of war to Canadian wholesalers in hardware lines that the cutting off of German supplies has deprived them of a source of import which cannot be duplicated in any part of the world. One Toronto firm has sent a representative to England with samples of German cutlery to see what can be done in duplicating them for this country's demand. It is feared that several years would be required in making patterns and perfecting the product, but the Canadian dealers are willing to transfer the business even by scaling up their former range of cost prices.