

SHORT TALKS WITH WESTERN EDITORS

Winnipeg Saturday Post: I am glad to see that the Dominion government is beginning to wake up to the necessity of looking sharply after the German spy menace in Canada. When the comprehensive system of espionage established and carried on by Germany in practically every country of the world is borne in mind, there is no reason to doubt that Canada has been overlooked. In view of the value of the Dominion, the chances are that it also has its underground system of German activity, which would be all the better of a little blowing up. It is not necessary to get into any kind of panic to the prejudice of inoffensive people, but the authorities should be on their guard all the time, and if they err on the side of severity rather than leniency no one will be disposed to blame them.

We do not need to go to any other country for specimens of pro-German organs in the press. Such are to be found in this country, and in the west, too. These organs do not rest content with the dissemination of false and misleading information concerning the war and its causes; they further assert that adverse criticism of Germany should be forbidden in Canada, and an impudent request to this effect was recently sent to Sir Robert Borden. While it would perhaps be giving to such journalistic freaks an importance which they do not deserve by demanding their suppression and the punishment of their conductors, the preservation of the unity of the Dominion unquestionably calls for drastic action. If the pro-German scribes would only reflect for a little they would realize what would happen in their own country to anyone who ventured to even mildly criticize their government and its actions. Punishment, swift and stern, would be the result. It is a pity that pro-German advocates are so ready to abuse the hospitality so freely tendered to them in the Dominion. But what can be expected from the products of a system the main feature of which is to extinguish a sense of everything that is honorable and above-board. To obtain the advantage, no matter how foul and degrading the means may be, that is the rotten gospel of German militarism. The Dominion government need have no hesitation in dealing with such blots upon our civilization, and in any action it may take in this direction it will have the approval of every right-thinking man and woman in the Dominion of Canada.