

VARSITY'S DEFENCE OF GERMAN PROFESSORS

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In, this mid-week issue, "Varsity" rises to the defence of her German professors, contending that any agitation against them is simply persecution and hardly consistent with the British traditional fair play.

"Sir Edmund Walker, has secured from each of the gentlemen in question an oath that he is not a German reservist," Varsity says. "The attitude in University circles, though not unanimous, is in general one of surprise at the persistence of the persecution of these men of German birth. Though Professor Benzinger may have a son in the German army fighting Great Britain, or dead, is it decent British fair play to visit the sins of the sons upon the fathers? We may point out that many a gallant British officer from the Prince of Wales downward in rank has relatives fighting desperately in the German army.

"If the dismissal of the German members of the staff could in any way help to win the war in Europe, he would be a traitor who opposed this action. Far from this, it is obvious that these gentlemen would immediately be interned and be a drag, a dead weight, upon the Canadian public. They are performing valuable service now; they hold their positions by merit. They have not been either shown or suspected to be enemies of the country. The suggestion that they have the opportunity to poison the mind of the Canadian youth, and are using it, is puerile. It is an insult to the men and women who are studying under their guidance. Further, these same men and women are the first to contemptuously repudiate such a suggestion.

"The newspapers who have undertaken to follow out this campaign are unfairly influencing the people of the Province. They are spreading the impression, that the University of Toronto is not unimpeachably loyal. Because the University has not acted immediately upon their demand they throw aspersion on the board of governors as possible traitors for attempting to evade the law forbidding trading with the enemy. It is time that such pointed allusions were answered by someone who cares to see fair play."