

Germans in Canada

To the Editor of The Daily News.

To preserve a philosophical attitude in daily life is difficult at the present moment, for the great contest now going on in Europe has been a violent shock to our attention, but it is a vital necessity to keep sane and talk rationally over matters that are bound to come before us at intervals. Our late past years of luxury and peace in Great Britain have been founded on a misconception of our aims as a nation, of our right to possess a leading place in the sun-lighted spaces of the world. Certain spectres of national decay must now be laid low by the flashing of the unsheathed sword. The words of Coleridge, "Slaughter is God's daughter," may be ridiculed by a slothful generation; they take on a new significance by the strong red glare of reality. We must now rise from our lethargy, our indulgence of every sort, our laxity of manners, and our sensitiveness to personal inconvenience. War is the great scavenger of thought!

I have read the letter of the late Mr. D. R. Wilkie, printed in The Daily News, regarding the employment of German professors on the staff of Toronto University. His remark about employing "equally competent men who are British subjects" clearly shows he was no student of languages, for a linguist prefers to learn from a native teacher. The University has for the past decade done its best to elevate the standard of learning, which was previously pathetically low in comparison with universities across the border, post-graduate courses in American universities being often necessary to fit properly Canadians for professional positions in the United States. In plain English, that a tremendous amount of "rot" has been brought forward against these German professors is a fact, for I have taken the trouble to inquire. There has developed since August a species of Canadian who is daft on "the German" and can only see "a spy" in each and every one of them. Throughout Ontario there are hundreds of Germans with their families—large ones—who are first-class cit-

as from every aspect. Sir Harry Johnston, in a lecture given a few weeks ago to a big audience in Con-
-vention Hall, said: "Germans will
-ways be welcomed as colonists in
-lands across the seas, for they
-re the best type of settler that any
-uropean nation can desire within
-s territories, especially if they be
-nder a more liberal form of gov-
-ernment than their home adminis-
-tration. Germans have played a
-most considerable and never suffi-
-ciently recognized part in the foun-
-dation and the development of the
-British Empire, French North Af-
-rica, the United States, and Spanish
-America. German names stand out
-in connection with great achieve-
-ments in New Zealand, Australia,
-South Africa, Nigeria, Congoland,
-East Africa, British Guiana, India
-and the Himalayas. It is true that
-these German pioneers were for the
-most part employed by the British
-Government, but they brought their
-German patience, their German
-thoroughness, their scientific accur-
-acy, their cheery endurance of
-hardships, their frugality, to the
-foundations of these white men's
-colonies or these white men's pro-
-tectorates." This is the opinion of
-a genuine Britisher who has thor-
-oughly studied the question.

To show that in writing in this
-wise I am still thoroughly British,
-it may be mentioned that I have two
-sons, four brothers—two recently
-killed—and six nephews serving in
-the front, all of them officers,
-some in high command, under the
-flag of Great Britain.

Now, and for months to come,
-"sanity" should be our watchword;
-and "fair play" is what will appeal
-to every high-minded Britisher. Ger-
-mans on this continent need not be
-thought disloyal; Canadian influen-
-ces will have penetrated them.
-Where their home and hearth have
-been built up, to that land German
-loyalty will be consecrated, and
-with us they will voice "The Maple
-Leaf for Ever."

John G. English.

Toronto, Dec. 4, 1914.