

# The German Professors

To the Editor of The Daily News

That the decision of the Board of Governors of Toronto University regarding the German professors "would please no one," was a foregone conclusion, even in the minds of the members of that Board itself. That the fact of their being retained did not evoke more public criticism has been a matter of surprise to many old graduates. That the matter is not yet settled is certain. What then of a letter that appeared in The Daily News on Saturday characterizing as "rot" the objections that have been brought forward against German professors?

Professor Mueller and his sons brought the German professors at the University into the limelight. Their unreasonable protest last September was responsible. True, no charges against these professors have been substantiated, but the British people rule the British Empire, and when popular clamor demanded the resignation of Prince Louis of Battenburg, First Lord of the Admiralty, he resigned, although no charges were substantiated against him, and although there was no shadow of suspicion concerning his loyalty or ability in the mind of the King, or of his Ministers.

The Empire is at war. Does the writer of that letter know that in England this is called "The Professors' War;" and that the enticing of foreign students to German universities and the placing of "made-in-Germany" professors in universities the world over, were part of the deep-laid schemes of German politicians? Why is it that our great Provincial university lags so far behind McGill and Queen's in its readiness to take up its military duties and its part in active service? It was a corps of Queen's engineers that did the work at Valcartier. Are we going to allow German "Kultur" rather than British civilization to be the guiding principle in moulding the minds of our great Provincial undergraduate body?

Again, the writer says that Col. Wilkie clearly showed he was no student of languages for a linguist prefers to learn from a native teacher. Does he know that Prof. Squalr and Prof. Cameron are native Canadians? I sat under both of them during my undergraduate days and no one, then or now, dreamed of challenging their French, or leaving their classes for those of native teachers. British subjects have even proved themselves "equally competent" with the best the world has produced anywhere.

We have no quarrel with our German citizens, but since last August they have in many cases branded and isolated themselves. I live in a county where quite one-third of the population is of German origin and

they have not specially signalized themselves as British subjects. No one questions their thrift, their industry or their qualities as settlers, but their loyalty is still to the Fatherland and not consecrated to British ideals. They use and enjoy all the privileges of British liberty; but in their hearts it is still, "Deutschland uber alles." It takes more than three generations of Canadian influences to permeate them. Possibly Germany's defeat will do more to make them good Britishers than all our tolerance and all our teachings.

We are living through the most crucial stage of our Empire's existence; we are fighting for our Imperial life. Our children must be taught a broad, staunch, untainted loyalty to all that British represent. Colonel Wilkie can no longer speak for himself or for the cause he had so much at heart; but God give us more men like him and like the admirable Colonel Denison.

Graduate.

Listowel, Dec. 7th, 1914.