

DROPPING THE GERMANS

The Toronto University governors have been occupying an embarrassing position. Three of the professors—Benzinger, Mueller and Touws—have been a long time out of Germany and are said to have been efficient in the work to which they had been assigned. But at heart they were Germans, and, like all the representatives of their nationality, have been sympathizers with Germany in the war. Public opinion quickly asserted itself. The retirement of the Germans from their positions was demanded. The governors of the university would have liked to let them go.

When Prince Louis of Battenburg had to surrender his place on the British admiralty, simply because of his family associations, it was not surprising that the German professors in Toronto were objected to. But Dr. Falconer, the president of the university, is supreme. No appointment or dismissal can be made without his consent, and his withheld consent to dismissal in the case of the professors.

The decision to relieve them for the balance of the session, on full pay, is a compromise, and Mr Osler resigns from the board of governors as a protest against it. The men themselves must see the wisdom of departing from Toronto and from Canada, under the circumstances. They may be innocent of wrongdoing, but they simply cannot be trusted.

Kingston was saved a lot of turmoil by the hasty retreat of a German professor on the outbreak of the war, and it has been saved from an experience such as Toronto is passing through by the refusal of the governors of Queen's School of Science to tolerate anything that is suspicious and German in its origin.