

in the Editor of the Free Press.

Sir: A despatch from Saskatoon dated May 6th, which appeared in this morning's Manitoba Free Press under the heading "Suspected plot in West to aid enemy," and which recites the arrest of Iko Zanulynski at Vonda, Sask., is altogether misleading and places the Ruthenian population of Western Canada in an unenviable and unfavorable position. This despatch is to the effect that the above named is collecting funds in the Vonda district for the inhabitants of Galicia, a province of Austria, which fund may be used for military purposes against the allied armies. This is so far from the truth that a short statement of the nature of the fund and the reasons for its collection is absolutely necessary in justice to our Ruthenian population.

The collection of this Ruthenian fund had its inception in April, 1914. The proximate cause is to be found in the floods which inundated the province during the preceding months and ruined thousands upon thousands of acres of crops. The Dniester and its tributaries, flowing from the Carpathian Mountains, overflowed their banks, with the result that starvation stared millions of the inhabitants of the country in the face. The publication of this news in Canada and the United States moved at once the relatives and friends of the stricken people, and subscriptions in aid of the suffering Galicians were solicited on all sides. The Canadian Ruthenian, being by far the largest Ruthenian paper in Canada, was appealed to, and its space was freely given to assist the sufferers. On May 27th, 1914, the Canadian Ruthenian forwarded one thousand kronen (\$204) by Dominion Express orders Nos. 551600, 551601, 551602, 551603 and 551604 to Siksky Hospodar (the Ruthenian Farmers' association), with headquarters at Lemberg, Austria.

Since that time, and on account of the war, no further monies were forwarded, and the Canadian Ruthenian, which has collected something over \$2,000, is holding this fund until the restoration of peace, when it will be turned over to the proper authorities for distribution among the suffering inhabitants of the Ukraine.

Since no one at the present time can forecast to whom the Province of Galicia will belong when peace is restored, it is evident that this fund can have no possible effect upon the outcome of the present great European conflict. Moreover, its title, "After the War Fund," should be a sufficient guarantee that it is collected for charitable purposes only.

It might be mentioned in passing that the fund being collected by the Polish Relief committee, of which Sir D. Cameron, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, is president, is of a similar nature. Fully three-fourths of the Poles who will be the beneficiaries of this fund are in Austria and Germany. The Saskatchewan Government, in its usual generous spirit, has contributed \$2,500 to the relief of suffering among the Polish people in Europe, and no one would suspect our sister province of assisting the enemies of the Empire at this time of stress and trial. In the incident under review the object of the fund is similar in every respect to that collected by the Polish Relief committee, and when the facts are known our people will appreciate the value of the assistance given, as well as the injustice of the reflection cast upon their efforts.

THOMAS A. TROT.

Winnipeg, May 6