

LUTHERANS IN CANADA ARE LOYAL TO EMPIRE;  
ALLIANCE OF CHURCH AND STATE REPUDIATED

**Galt Student Pastor Defies Any One to Point to a Single Dis-loyal Utterance of a Naturalized Canadian Lutheran—Takes Strong Stand**

---

**FREEDOM IN CANADA IS APPRECIATED;  
GERMAN MILITARISM DROVE THEM HERE**

---

Older as Well as Younger Members of German Origin Approved the Pastor's Sermon—Hearty Singing of "God Save the King"

Galt, Sept. 13.—The German Lutheran Church of Galt is loyal. The Kaiser is not its head. Its head is God. It is loyal to the King, to the British Empire and to the Dominion of Canada. Statements to this effect were made in the Lutheran Church here last night by the student pastor, Rev. E. H. Beckman. Other features of the service were the whole-hearted congregational singing of "God Save the King," and the enthusiastic expressions of appreciation on the part of the members as they left the church.

#### Of German Parents.

Mr. Beckman is the son of German parents and this is what he says of his relation to Canada:

"I have been told that I should sympathize with Germany in this war because my parents are German. But I do not. There is nothing in common between the Kaiser and me. My parents left Germany to escape the Prussian Militarism. They came to Canada to better themselves and they did better themselves. I owe everything to Canada, everything I am or hope to be. Under no circumstances could I turn against this, my native country. If my church, the Lutheran Church, were not loyal to Britain and to the King, I would not continue in its ministry. I would no longer remain a member of the church. With Martin Luther I declare, 'Here I stand, I can do no other.'"

#### Singing Was Hearty.

Perhaps even a better test of the loyalty of the Lutheran congregation of Galt was unconsciously put, when, at the end of the service the national Anthem was sung.

The congregation might put others to shame by the volume of their praise of King and country. The number of congratulations that were showered on the young preacher after the service might well have turned his head. Outside, where free rein could be given to personal feelings, the older men gathered into groups. Did they talk about the war? About Germany? Even about the sermon? No, they talked of those things which are discussed in front of every church throughout the land, business, food and children.

#### Church and State.

In his sermon Mr. Beckman denied that the Kaiser is the head of the Lutheran Church. "The Kaiser is the head of the Lutheran Church in Germany and only in Germany," he declared. "Unfortunately at the Reformation, the civil power of Rome was so great as to force an alliance between Luther and the German princes. Later these officials demanded the powers they were granted, as a right and they were strong enough to make good their demands, though they had no right to them. That is why the Lutheran Church is the state church of Germany. But Lutherans believe in the separation of church and state. The Lutheran people of this continent and many of Germany have realized for years what a curse this connection is. It is a curse to the church and to true religion, and there is a movement to do away with this connection between church and state and to absolve a religion from this baneful influence, not only in Germany, but in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The King of England is head of the Anglican Church in the same way as the Kaiser is head of the Lutheran Church in Germany. But Lutherans know no Kaiser in Canada. It was not until we came to this country that we were able to apply freely our teaching of the separation of church and state. We shall never forget the gratitude we owe this country for that."

"There is no more reason," declared Mr. Beckman, "for calling the Lutheran Church German because it was born in Germany than there is for calling the whole Protestant Church German because it took its birth in Germany. The Lutheran Church is not confined to any language, nationality or clime. Its service is held in more languages than any other church in the world, in 21 languages in America alone. It is folly to say that the Lutheran Church is German in principle. It is loyal wherever it is and recognizes the civil government as a divine institution. It teaches always 'to render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and to God what is God's.' That is why there are Lutherans fighting in the ranks of the Allies, British, French, Russian as well as in those of Germany."

#### Not Matter of Expediency.

"Our loyalty is not a matter of expediency," declared the preacher, "it is a matter of religion based on the word of God. Not alone since this war are we loyal, we have been loyal since the foundation of our church. Not recently alone have we taught patriotism, but from the Sunday School up we have been teaching true loyalty. We are loyal in our service. Every Sunday throughout the land, we read before the Altar the prayer for King, country and Government. We warn our members against any act of sedition or treason. Those who resist the state, resist God, and the Lutheran Church will not countenance anything contrary to this doctrine."

"There have been a few disloyal utterances on the part of Lutherans in Canada," the preacher admitted. "There have been a few pro-German statements made. But I defy anyone to show me one disloyal statement that was made by a naturalized Canadian Lutheran. And

when you consider that there are 500,000 Lutherans in Canada, mostly of German extraction, very few utterances of a pro-German nature, is one of the best testimonials to the loyalty of the Lutheran Church. No one will hold our church responsible for the few individuals who have proved disloyal. I defy any man to prove that the Lutheran Church as a whole is disloyal in principle or practice. It is not always the most noisy who are the most patriotic. If that were so the rabble and intoxicated would be the true patriots."

#### Wanted the Sermon.

Mr. Beckman went on to say that he had been told when he announced he would preach on the relation of the Lutheran Church to the war, that he would antagonize many of his older members of German origin.

"I called on them," he declared, "and asked them if they would be offended. They said no, that there were rumors going around which were absolutely untrue, that they were as loyal as the most loyal Canadians, and that they had been unjustly persecuted long enough."

To prove that he had the Lutheran Church behind him in his statements, Mr. Beckman read the following resolution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Eastern Canada:

"Since our last convention things of great moment to the world have taken place. Our country has become involved in war, the greatest in history. As pastors and people we have been true to the Gospel teachings of our Church. We render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's. We honor our King. We are loyal to our country and Empire. Some of us have sent our sons to the battlefield in its support. We have assisted in the aid of the suffering and distressed and we stand ready to do all we can for our country which gives us the religious liberty and protection which we enjoy."

Referring to this article, the Committee on President's Report said: "We commend the hearty loyalty of our people to our beloved British Empire in the present war crisis. Our loyalty as Lutherans to the flag of the country whose protection we enjoy is historic and is not a mere matter of policy with us, but of principle and of faithfulness to the teaching of God's Word, which saith: 'Let every soul be subject to the higher powers. For there is no power, but of God: the powers that be are ordained by God.'"