

The Future of Germans in Canada

The Toronto News is afraid there may be trouble with the Germans in the Canadian West after the war. In Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, it says, there are naturalized citizens of German and Austrian blood who regard their new citizenship too lightly.

"Now in war time a firm hand is laid upon them and the vigilance of the mounted police does not easily relax. When peace comes, what then? These men, with voting rights, have been consolidated in opposition to the spirit of British nationalism. It will be possible for any politician of the baser sort to exploit these people, to establish a party or a group frankly anti-British and to offer temptations extraordinary to the official Opposition."

The notion that the West is full of men whose hearts are full of **sedition**, and who are kept in order only by the mounted police, is somewhat pessimistic, and we do not think the pessimism is warranted. It may be that some newly-arrived Germans are more German than Canadian. But their true interests, and those of their children, are with Canada, not with Germany; and generation after generation will become still more Canadian.

At present we are all under the influence of the present war in Europe. But the war will last a year or two at most, while we hope Canada will endure and grow for centuries. We are all deeply interested in this war, because we want to see Canada Canadian and British, not German. That is desirable for citizens of German blood, as well as for others.

After the war we do not look for much trouble with Germans in Canada. They will be thinking of Canadian questions, not of German questions, and as Canada grows, and its national spirit grows, racial differences will become less and less important. We should be able to cultivate a patriotism which will unite our citizens of all races in a common love of Canada, and a common desire to promote its welfare. We can offer the newcomer a citizenship far superior to that of Germany, with greater freedom and wider opportunities, with a country vastly greater in extent than Germany, and possessing rich resources. Time is on our side.

As to the politicians of the baser sort, we hope our contemporary will do its best to discourage them. But we do not think there is much danger of the formation of a solid German vote. We expect to see Germans dividing on party lines like the rest of us. They should neither be specially favored nor persecuted, but treated like other citizens, having the same rights and duties as others.