

Pembroke has no reason to be grateful to the two city newspaper reporters who visited the town last week in the role of sensation-mongers and were responsible for the publication broadcast throughout Canada of the lurid stories regarding "the German menace" here. While locally there had been some little differences and misunderstandings which were more or less inevitable because of the peculiar conditions here, there was absolutely no warrant for the three-column headlines which the Ottawa Journal and Toronto News used in featuring a lot of silly prattle from a couple of young men who knew nothing of local conditions and hence could not in any way sympathize with the views of either side. It seems clear that in their efforts they had little concern for the peace or good feeling of the community and that their stay in town was more in the interests of the subscription departments of their papers than the general weal. In a letter on page three of this issue Mayor Morris gives his own version of the original interview with the Journal representative, and this bears out completely the view taken of it by The Observer last week. The reporters remained in town all week, and every night their stories, some of them based on facts of which little notice was taken locally and which were magnified out of all proportion, were prominently featured, while much fiction was also published and the young men drew freely on their imaginations to give a sufficiently lurid coloring to their yarns. Locally they served to revive racial feeling, though regarded by many with amusement, but where the facts were not known the stories would doubtless be accepted as correct, so that Pembroke has received a good deal of undesirable and unmerited publicity. The articles have not done any good service to the town, while the newspapers in question have certainly not enhanced their prestige here. Practically all the stuff published was speculative and as such harmful at a time when feeling is running high, and it would be well if in future reporters bent on such errands could be kept out of the community. The Observer last week expressed its views on the local situation generally and at Monday night's Council meeting Mayor Morris gave expression to opinions with which we heartily concur. Without making any pretence at superior judgment or desiring to appear egotistical we would remark that if our German friends will but follow the course outlined in The Observer last week and the lines laid down by Mayor Morris Monday night there need be nothing but harmony here.