

DISLOYAL SETTLERS.

Big Problem to Be Faced in Western Provinces.

That there are literally thousands of prosperous German farmers in the three Prairie Provinces who are enjoying unparalleled prosperity owing to the prevailing high prices of wheat but who steadfastly and stubbornly refuse to contribute to the Canadian Patriotic or other war funds in any way, is the statement of L. A. Guertin, of Vancouver, who has just made a three months' tour of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

Some of these German farmers are admittedly naturalized Canadian subjects who have been residents of the Dominion for some time, according to the statements of Mr. Guertin, but the majority of them are of the hyphenated class who emigrated to Canada from the American side some years ago and have established themselves very comfortably on large farms in the majority of instances. The stand they have taken in regard to contributing, despite their evident affluence, is creating much adverse comment in many of the towns and villages throughout the three Provinces mentioned.

The number of Germans and Austrians—but mostly thrifty Germans—in some of these prairie towns is surprising, according to Mr. Guertin. In some of the towns there are easily one-half or one-third Germans either engaged in agriculture or some of its allied industries. In the case of east Regina, for instance, Mr. Guertin was informed that the voters' list showed that fully fifty per cent. of the residents there were Germans or of German extraction. And they were all well off and had ample money to spend for all the luxuries they desired, due mainly to the high prices they secured for their grain and other products. Mr. Guertin cited the case of one German farmer in Saskatchewan who had 15,000 bushels of potatoes stored awaiting a further rise in prices and declined to sell at the prevailing prices. As there was no actual scarcity of potatoes he could not be forced at present to sell his crop. And with very few exceptions indeed, could these Germans be induced to contribute to the Canadian Patriotic fund or any other of the numerous tag day donations or similar collections which all loyal Canadians have been contributing to so liberally.