

THE UNIVERSITY TROUBLE IN TORONTO

Toronto has been in a ferment over the case of three unnaturalized German professors on the staff of the provincial university. There was a demand for their dismissal, but Dr. Falconer declared that he would resign the presidency if they were forced out. A compromise was arranged by which they were given leave of absence, with salary. This seems to have created a still further stir, and the incident is by no means closed. But it has not been alleged that the three professors were using their positions in any way to influence student opinion, and Dr. Falconer has pointed to the plain wording of the Dominion government's order-in-council:

"All persons in Canada of German or Austro-Hungarian nationality, so long as they quietly pursue their ordinary avocations, shall be allowed to continue to enjoy the protection of the law, and be accorded the respect and consideration due to peaceful and law-abiding citizens, and that they be not arrested, detained or interfered with unless there is reasonable ground to believe that they are engaged in espionage, or engaging or attempting to engage in acts of a hostile nature, or are giving or attempting to give information to the enemy, or unless they otherwise contravene the law."

It has been stated that a difference should be made between those in public and private employment. But if this distinction is to be drawn, it should be drawn in times of peace as well as of war. There is much to say in favor of making it obligatory on all holders of public office to become naturalized. But this has not been done in the past, and it would be manifestly unfair to cast adrift at the present time German and Austrian subjects who are conducting themselves in the manner prescribed by the order-in-council just quoted.

It is true, as critics of the Toronto president have pointed out, that British subjects in Germany would not be treated as well, but we surely do not intend to model our conduct on that of the Berlin authorities.

The position taken by the Dominion government, and set forth so clearly, is the fair and reasonable one to apply to all subjects of hostile nations. They cannot object to being placed under surveillance or to having such restrictions placed upon them as will make it impossible for them to cause trouble. They are naturally the objects of suspicion. But, if they show every disposition to go quietly about their work, there is no reason why they should be deprived of the privilege of doing so.