

The Anti-Canadian Nationalism of "The Canadian Ukraine"

Is this country to be made use of as a mere bedding-out ground for the subjects of the conscription-ridden countries of continental Europe, who are to be allowed to come here and continue Europeans in mind, to be moved back again across the Atlantic when the Governments of the countries they came from want them as fighting men?

This is a question of the foremost essential importance to the Canadian people. It is thrust before us flagrantly, in a manner which must make even the most thoughtless Canadian think seriously, by the pastoral letter which Bishop Budka, of this city, the Ruthenian Bishop in Western Canada, has addressed to all the people in this country under his episcopal jurisdiction.

"To all the clergy and all the faithful of the Canadian Ukraine," this extraordinary pastoral letter begins, in which Bishop Budka, speaking with the fulness of his ecclesiastical authority, undertakes to exercise the functions of a chief mobilizing officer for the military authorities of Austria-Hungary and shepherd the men of "the Canadian Ukraine" back to take places in the ranks of regiments that will fight in co-operation with the military power of Germany against the allied nations upon whom Germany and Austria-Hungary have forced a war which will be the most terrible in all history.

"The Canadian Ukraine" is a land which is unknown to the world's geographers outside the educationists in this country of the stamp of Karmanski, engaged by the Roblin Government in carrying on the bilingual school system designed to prevent the making of European immigrants into Canadians and to foster among them their old-world national and racial hatreds, and instill in them devotion to the ideal of establishing themselves on Canadian soil as separate nationalities, the purpose of the politicians engaged in this nefarious anti-Canadian work being, of course, to secure "solid votes" among these people.

"The Canadian Ukraine" is a favorite slogan used by Karmanski, whose work in the Normal school at Brandon for training teachers for the Ruthenian schools in this Province was so warmly praised by Mr. Coldwell, the Minister of Education, in charge of the activities of the Roblin regime in bedevilling the public educational system of this Province for political purposes. Are the Canadian people in this country going to allow the continuance of this propaganda of educational inefficiency and anti-Canadian nationalism, with its menace to the future of our country?

Bishop Budka, speaking with the ecclesiastical power of which his mitre and crozier are the visible outward symbols, calls upon all the men of "the Canadian Ukraine" to remember their duty towards Austria, sets forth the "duty" of all who would be liable to conscription if they had not come to Canada to return to Austria and "join the colors," all deserters, he adds, having a gracious offer of pardon extended to them if they will immediately report their readiness to go over and fight. As for those of "the Canadian Ukraine" who have made up their minds to stay in this country, proclaims the Bishop in conclusion, their duty is to "help"—presumably by cash contributions.

This episcopal proclamation by Bishop Budka is a striking manifestation of the danger that this country may become a land inhabited by different peoples, speaking foreign tongues and cherishing divergent national ideals, instead of a land peopled only by Canadians cherishing a Canadian national ideal. Canada does not ask the newcomer to forget his old home, from which he came to this country to improve his condition and give his family a better chance in the world. But Canada has the right to insist that he shall become a Canadian and recognize that his first duty is to the country which is his home. This is a matter of vital importance to our country. People of foreign origin who have come to Canada to make new homes and do not feel that their first duty is to Canada and to the Empire of which Canada forms part had better be got out of Canada and kept out.