

The position of the two political organs on the question of the conduct of foreign newspapers published here concerning the war, illustrates about as well as anything could the curse of partisanship. The Free Press has been loud in its denunciations of "Der Nordwesten" (the German paper here), "West Canada" and any other Tory foreign paper which has been saying things prejudicial to British interests. The denunciation of the Free Press was very proper and no fault is to be found with it so far as it went. As these foreign papers belong to Conservative interests and have been brought into being for the purpose of bolstering up the local government, the Telegram naturally thought that some prejudice might be created against its beloved party and government, by the attacks. This faithful organ, therefore, cast about to find some antidote, and it found said antidote in the columns of "The Logberg," an Icelandic weekly that has long been printed in the city and as Mr. Thomas Johnson, M.P.P., is a director a political point might be scored against him. Quotations from this paper indicate that the editor printed some things that were offensive and calculated to insult and injure the British colors.

The point which we wish to make is that if the Free Press was sincere in its denunciations of "Der Nordwesten," "West Canada" and similar publications, why did it not extend its criticism to "The Logberg," which has long been recognized as a Liberal newspaper? On the other hand, the spectacle of the Telegram tearing its hair wildly and denouncing "The Logberg" for minor offenses, while allowing papers like "Der Nordwesten" and "West Canada," etc., to go scot free simply because their object in life is to support and bolster up the same party from which the Telegram draws its living, is apt to provoke the laughter of the gods. If either paper were sincere and desired to serve the public interest, it would denounce all foreign publications, no matter what their political stripe might be, which had been guilty of offense.

A discriminating public must recognize that an offense of the nature complained of is just as bad when committed by "The Logberg" as if it were committed by "Der Nordwesten." For the party press on one side to denounce the other side, is surely a unique proceeding. What do these papers imagine the public to be? Are they convinced that the entire population is just as rabidly partisan as they are? Do they imagine in a crisis like the present, when everybody should stand shoulder to shoulder opposing the enemy and prepared to fight every effort to prejudice British interests, that the people cannot see through the little, cheap partisan sham? The incident merely serves to illustrate what The Tribune has for many years denounced as the frightful curse of partisanship. In the face of such a crisis as we are at present opposing, what do the public care in which alleged party interest these foreign publications are being maintained? The question the public has to consider is, should they be allowed to carry on the pernicious campaign in which they are indulging, or should they be suppressed? The incident also serves to demonstrate the necessity of cultivating one language and one school in a country such as ours where there is such a heterogeneous population. Let us make Canadians and British subjects out of all who come to our shores. Instead of drilling the foreign population in vicious partisan politics our aim should be to make them patriotic citizens, prepared to take their share in the responsibilities of citizenship, and in helping to make

Manitoba a loyal British province, devoted to ideals of freedom, democracy and liberty such as has been exemplified under the British flag ever since it began to wave. The maintenance of these foreign organs for the purpose of bedevilling the foreign population and leading them in wrong paths will surely bring a terrible harvest in the years to come.

It is but fair to the Free Press to state that since the above was written, our contemporary prints an article this morning criticizing "Der Saskatchewan Courier" for an offense similar to that of which the foreign papers above referred to have been guilty. Our contemporary points out that "Der Saskatchewan Courier" is "Liberal in politics."