

Bishop Budka

In the Legislature, this week, Mr. D. A. Ross made a series of statements regarding Bishop Budka, one of the Ruthenian religious leaders. Those statements were:

That Bishop Budka is more responsible than any other individual person "for the deplorable state of affairs existing in the Polish and Ruthenian settlements of Manitoba," and should, therefore, be deported;

That Budka is not a bishop, and that he and his college chum, Karmansky "have sown the seeds of sedition and disloyalty in this fertile soil";

That Budka receives instructions from an Austrian consul south of the international boundary line, and is a menace to British interests in Manitoba";

That he and Karmansky are "aided and abetted in their disloyal crusade by Ottawa politicians who are always waving the flag and flaunting their loyalty in our faces."

The charge that is most serious and should be investigated is that Bishop Budka "receives instructions from an Austrian consul south of the line."

It is almost beyond belief that it is possible, during war times, that a citizen lately from the country with which Canada is now at war, is not content with living in the enjoyment of freedom, but is actually engaged in sowing seeds of discord in Manitoba communities, where a foreign language is spoken.

Mr. Ross has said enough to warrant the authorities in looking carefully into Bishop Budka's conduct. He is not a backward prelate and only a few days ago addressed a public meeting on the subject of bi-lingualism, declaring in most emphatic words, that Ruthenians would stand for their language to the last ditch, or words to that effect.

When it is remembered that men who were recently M.P.'s, and possibly some of those who are M.P.'s today, have been the chief promoters of foreign language publications, even German publications, the boldness of an Austrian like Bishop Budka is not to be wondered at.