

PEMBROKE GERMANS WITHDREW DEPOSITS

From Post Office--Pembroke People Think Pastors of German Churches Might Submit Case of German Residents Through the Press.

Ottawa, Dec. 2.—A Journal man, now in Pembroke, arrived to find the air full of rumors and suspicions. The older Germans, who want nothing better than to be left alone, seem to be victims of the pro-German activities and expressions of some of the more recent arrivals from the Fatherland. To the German-Canadian who sees the straight course justice and sympathy should be extended always. Here is the process suggested in Pembroke, by which the air might be cleared:

Let specific denials be forthcoming from factory managements that Germans (recent arrivals some of them) are employed in the munitions plants.

The German pastors should publicly announce their loyalty to Canadian institutions through the local and Ottawa press.

Certain individuals accused of approving and enthusing over the Lusitania and Cavell murders might repudiate the charge made in current gossip.

If the report that Pembroke is the centre of German secret service (spy) activity, is mere suspicion, let denial be made through channels that will be recognized as authoritative.

All this is due to the great majority of German-Canadians who have remained true to the land of their adoption under very distressing conditions.

Pembroke residents suggest that no better medium could be used to voice the local attitude than that excellent little German weekly, the Deutsche Post, published in that town.

Withdrew Savings.

Pembroke, Ont., Dec. 2.—“I firmly believe that the Germans in Pembroke have been advised to take their savings out of banks, particularly that bank run by the Government,” said Postmaster W. A. Moffatt to the Journal. The majority of the German accounts in the Post Office Savings Bank have been taken out, and

although I am doing all I can to reassure my old German depositors they are returning very slowly indeed. Mr. Moffatt states that the average German savings account was some \$300, and the money withdrawn runs into very many thousands.

The total of funds withdrawn from post offices and banks in the neighborhood is variously placed at from half a million dollars to a far greater sum. Some weeks ago there was a concerted run on the banks at Eganville by Germans, and Mr. Moffatt states that the total withdrawn is believed to be in the neighborhood of \$400,000. There has been a small run on the banks at Killaloe.

Altogether half a million dollars is regarded as a conservative estimate of the totals withdrawn. Where has all this money gone? was the question raised by the Journal.

Some local men hold that it is hidden away in old socks. One bank manager believes that much of it is in circulation among the German settlements, the Teutons loaning cash to their poorer neighbors at a low rate of interest to prevent them from borrowing from Canadian institutions. Still another theory is that the money is making its way to Germany by an underground railway via the States. If so it is going over in cash Canadian bills as neither post office nor express companies have issued an unusual number of orders.

The suggestion has been made that the number of Canadian notes sent across the border by the German settlers was a contributory cause of the big discount at which Canadian money was accepted early in the war at many American cities. A German paper is published in Pembroke which tells its readers all about the Teuton histories. It carried the advertising of the Dominion war loan last week, but the local bank manager says that not a single German has subscribed for a nickel of it, although the rest of the town has come forward handsomely.