

Observer's Remarks

In the Montreal Daily Mail, a journal second to none in consistent advocacy of the very closest Empire relations—in every particular—there appears a eulogistic report of a concert given by the New York Symphony Orchestra, under the leadership of Walter Damrosch. Damrosch is an American citizen, the son of a distinguished German father. He is a true citizen of the country of his adoption. Appended is an extract or two from the Mail's report of the Montreal event:

The Princess theatre was packed from pit to dome and there was quite a number standing last night, at the concert given by the New York Symphony orchestra under the leadership of Walter Damrosch. The program was variegated enough to satisfy the most catholic taste, ranging from Handel to the moderns, Elgar and Enesco.

Sir Edward Elgar's overture "Cockaigne" (In London Town) was the first offering, and proved such a spirited success that Greig's "Anitra's Dance," from the Peer Gynt Suite, was given an encore.

At the close Mr. Damrosch beckoned his man to rise, and the sonorous "Marseillaise" resounded through the house amidst the greatest enthusiasm, after which "God Save the King," in which a great part of the audience joined, brought this most satisfying concert and evening of unalloyed musical pleasure to a fitting close—alas, all too soon. There were many who wished that it might be, as in New York, only a public rehearsal for a following concert.

The music of the master composers of Britain, Russia, France and Germany was presented, and hailed with unalloyed delight. Our indignation is aroused as we read of the destruction of the art that we can see in Louvain, Brussels and other great centres. We must be consistent and also honor the art that we cannot see, but hear, it matters not the flag under which it has been inspired. As well think of using an axe to our Bechstein pianos, as to turn from the works of the great Beethoven, Bach and Mendelssohn because our nation is at war with the land of the birth of these noble men.

Our greatest Canadian musical leader, Dr. Vogt is of German descent. At least one of Canada's ablest and most devoted public men, Sir Adam Beck, finds himself by accident of birth, the descendant of German forefathers. Sir Adam has been among the most active of Canadians in the work of organizing the Canadian overseas forces. Waterloo, the centre of a great German-Canadian community, has contributed nobly to the Patriotic Fund. Canadian journals, speaking for the daily and weekly press at large, have appealed wisely and well, and most effectively to the Canadian people, to act as large-minded, generous citizens towards the vast population of German descent resident in Canada. As Britain is the cradle of liberty, so let the same be truly said of Canada. Our quarrel is not with the German people, or with Germans as a class, but with a bad, notorious German system, built up and fostered by a vast military autocratic clique within the German empire.

It is natural that we should look for enemies of our Empire amongst Germans and Austrians. The ramifications of the German system of espionage is world-wide, and, to be sure, Canada is not overlooked. But all our suspicions must be governed by reason, not prejudice. If we err, let it be on the side of caution and protection in the interests of Empire, always suppressing feelings of race hatred. The time is bound to come when the great Teutonic and Anglo-Saxon races will discover a common bond of friendship. It is the history of relationship the world over that the more closely united, the bitterer the feelings when passions are stirred. We have only to look across the border to the North and South struggle to find proof of the terrible hatred that takes the place of friendship when old friends fall out. By every means of legitimate warfare Canada is in this struggle to conquer the German spirit of lust and power. The unity of the Empire, and the good-will of our own people from many nations demand that all we do shall be done in honor. Let us guard well against prejudice and against hatred, never forgetting, however, to rigidly enforce all laws enacted for the protection of our country, and also to promote the noble spirit of British patriotism that leads of men to sacrifice life itself for a cause admittedly just and honorable.