

"THE HALF-ASSIMILATED GERMAN."

The National Review, which feeds on the German peril and dreams nightly that Kaiser William has landed an invading army in Britain under cover of a friendly fog, carries its anti-German bias into the discussion of Canadian politics. In the December number its Canadian correspondent, E. B. O., says: "The Canadian newspapers are still packed with political leading articles. More especially the Liberal organs, which have been raising a barbaric yawp of triumph because there has been a Liberal victory at a bye-election in an obscure Ontario constituency which contains a number of half-assimilated German settlers (it takes two generations to digest the Teuton immigrant) who were persuaded that England wanted Canada's three battleships so as to be able to go to war with Germany. The naval aid question is still good for a leading article two or three times a week, and for any number of pin-point paragraphs, but nobody reads these pronouncements on a subject which might just as well be forgotten until the Dominion Parliament reassembles."

It has been conclusively shown that in the portions of South Bruce in which electors of German ancestry predominate there was no greater drift toward Mr. Truax than in other parts of the riding. His election was a protest against the naval policy of the Borden Government, but it was a protest also against its general policy, and especially its extravagance and failure to relieve the farmer of unnecessary taxation burdens. To assert that the South Bruce victory was due to "a number of half-assimilated German settlers who were persuaded that England wanted Canada's three battleships so as to be able to go to war with Germany," is to set the German electors of South Bruce down as a lot of ignorant foreigners unacquainted with the very fundamentals of politics in Canada.

The truth is that the people of this country, like those of the other overseas Dominions, are determined to control their naval expenditures as they control their expenditures upon land defence. The native Canadian, the Briton, the German, and the settlers of all other nationalities are united on that principle. Mr. Borden still talks of one Imperial navy instead of five national navies, but he knows that in the end he must return to the sound democratic principle of the control of Canada's naval defence by the Parliament and people of Canada.

A statement by Mr. Arthur Meyers, former Minister of Defence in New Zealand, published by The London Daily Mail yesterday, indicates that in New Zealand, as in Australia, the question of defence is not a party issue. Mr. Meyers said:

"The people at home must recognize that while there is a growing desire on the part of the Dominions to assume their share of the burdens of Imperial defence, there is a growing feeling against placing all responsibility, power, and work in the hands of the authorities in London. You can best insure the permanent co-operation of the Dominions by basing it on national sentiment. This national sentiment in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and elsewhere is the very corner-stone of national growth. You must recognize in England that the national spirit of the new lands of the Empire is not only inevitable, but, rightly directed, can be made the sure basis of Imperial security and prosperity."

The national spirit of the new lands is no less dominant in Canada than in Australasia, and no party can hope to run counter to that spirit and win out. The National Review and other organs of the centralizers only make themselves ridiculous when they suggest that the revelation of the national spirit in the South Bruce election was due to "half-assimilated German settlers."