

Foreigners in Toronto

An Austrian citizen of Toronto has sent The Star the following letter. It is by way of reply to a letter from another correspondent, who, while saying that he fully approved of the course taken by this paper in advising Canadians to give a practical demonstration of the worth of free institutions by treating all foreigners considerately, yet thought that these strangers among us ought to show, in some way, their disapproval of the war into which we have been dragged. An Austrian citizen of Toronto writes in reply:

"Editor of The Star: In answer to the letter headed 'Foreigners in Canada,' I wish to state that I wrote in two weeks not less than 20 letters to all my friends between Vienna and the Adriatic Sea. I plainly declared that the Canadian people had a right to express their indignation about this European war; that I, for myself, could not see any reason why I should turn a gun against the English race, which I appreciate the more the longer I am living among them. Of course, I forgot not to point out the chivalrous and dignified attitude of the whole Toronto press towards us Austrians and Germans, even in these times of war. If all people on the American continent who do not agree with this war would write only one letter each to a friend in Europe, stating their own convictions, the war would be fixed up in a month. E. S.

"Toronto, 17th August, 1914."

Many other citizens of Canada who are of German or Austrian birth are as genuinely concerned for the welfare of Canada as are our own people. Their interests are the common interests. They were of foreign birth, but they came to the new world to seek a new life. Here they have earned a livelihood, have acquired homes, built up businesses, and here their children were born. It is here that they will be buried when their days are done and their descendants after them. Their greatest interest in life, as Arthur Hawkes once said in a speech, is in their children, "those little Canadians creeping on the floor."

There ought to be greater exactitude in speaking about "foreigners" among us. Men who are naturalized subjects are Canadians now and foreigners no longer. The acceptance of that principle is essential to the building up, by **immigration**, of a new country like this. No doubt it is necessary for the authorities to list and to some extent enquire into the antecedents and present doings of foreigners, but towards naturalized subjects there ought to be an attitude of confidence by officials and the people at large. The man who is a father with young Canadians playing about his door, is not likely to be blind to the advantages, to him and his, of the future in such a country as Canada.