

NOTHING TO FEAR

Germans or Austrians, thousands of whom are sincerely loyal to the British flag and British laws, have nothing to fear in Canada. Britain is fighting to-day for the very liberty that we should exemplify in our daily walk and conversation. Germans and Austrians who live honorably among us have far less to fear in Canada than if they were residents of their respective countries. The Dominion Government speaks for Canadians in these words:

"That all persons in Canada of German or Austro-Hungarian nationality, so long as they quietly pursue their ordinary avocation, be allowed to continue to enjoy the protection of the law and be accorded the respect and consideration to peaceful and law abiding citizens; and that they be not arrested, detained or interfered with unless there is reasonable ground to believe that they are engaged in espionage, or engaged or attempting to engage in acts of a hostile nature, or are giving or attempting to give information to the enemy, or unless they otherwise contravene any law, order-in-council, or proclamation. Thus all such persons so long as they respect the law are entitled to its protection and have nothing to fear."

This is not an order in form, but it is an order in fact. It will be lived up to by government and people. We do not desire to belittle any man's country by contrast, but where under the sun is there greater liberty or safety than right under the British Flag? It is for honor and liberty of the world that Britain is fighting today. All men living under the Flag shall have liberty and freedom, no matter what their nationality. We cannot conceive that any true Canadian, or a true Britisher, has any deep prejudice against Germans or Austrians, loyal residents of our country. The war is not against the German people as a people; it is for the preservation of honor among nations, confessedly violated by the German war lords; it is for the protection of the weak against the arrogance of those military strong; it is for equality, for living and let-living. The issues are so plain that even the blind may see.

The nobility of liberty under our Flag should not, however, be taken or mistaken as any sign of weakness. Those who would play traitor at a time like this, should be dealt with as the law allows, to the fullest extent. Canada extends to all men, of whatever nationality, protection and fair play; nothing more, nothing less. Let us be generous, courteous, kind and absolutely just to all races within our borders, so long as all races obey in spirit and to the letter, the just laws of our country.