

A FURTHER DEFENCE

The desperate effort continues to make it appear that the provincial government does not need to assume responsibility for the administration of the criminal law. The Calgary Albertan makes this notable contribution to the discussion:

"The Dominion has its mounted policemen even in Edmonton, and those policemen, we are informed, had not merely notified the government, but had actually interviewed and warned the offending editor, thus again acknowledging that the Dominion was responsible."

Is the above written in ignorance or simply to mislead a few people who do not happen to know how this country is governed? It should not be necessary to inform one of the leading Liberal newspapers of this part of the country of the arrangement, made by the Liberal administration at Ottawa in 1905, under which the Mounted Police act in this province. While the organization of the force is under the control of the Dominion government, it proceeds under instructions from the attorney-general's department in the enforcement of law within the provincial boundaries.

If the offending editor has been warned, the Mounted Police official must have acted as the agent of the provincial government. Why, then, when he went right ahead and published objectionable matter, was not the warning followed up?

"There is a German vote in Canada" says the Albertan elsewhere in the same article, "and that German vote may come in handy at subsequent elections and neither party cares to go in and disturb the offending editors. Each party makes a very polite bow to the other and says: 'After you.'"

The Albertan is to be congratulated for its frankness in recognizing what it is that has prompted the leaders of its own party to pursue the course that they have. Even Mr. Sifton did not deny that his government could have instituted proceedings against the Alberta Herald. He admitted in the Legislature that if the Dominion authorities were to take action they would have to request the use of the legal machinery of the province. But, having that machinery in his control, why has he not set it in motion himself? There is no need for waiting for outside pressure.

As for the charge that the Conservative party has also been angling for the German vote, we have only to point out that the necessity of suppressing the Alberta Herald was brought to public notice by The Journal and other newspapers which are in the habit of supporting Conservative candidates, that the Bulletin has come to the defence of the Herald editor, and that the Conservative members called attention in the Legislature to the scandal that the publication of the articles in the Herald involved.

If this means angling for the vote of Mr. Krankenhagen and his associates, it is something quite new in political strategy.

But The Journal is certain that these men are not representative of "the German vote" in Alberta. It has had plenty of opportunity of discovering that the course which it has pursued is warmly approved of by a very large proportion of those of German ancestry, who have no sympathy with the cause of the Kaiser, and are doing their duty faithfully as British citizens.

It is they who most strongly resent the agitation which the provincial authorities have allowed the Herald to carry on without disturbance, for they realize that it places men like themselves, who have nothing in common with Mr. Krankenhagen except their German antecedents, in a false position before their fellow-Canadians. They have been done a great and cruel wrong by the Kaiser's mischief-makers and by the government which has failed to enforce the law against sedition.