

Mr. Wiesner's Appeal to Other Canadians of German Ancestry

"Vanity, Napoleonic ambition, tempted the kaiser to start this war. Common sense will tell you that it is utterly impossible for the kaiser to win. Even supposing the impossible, what are the German people going to gain? The same militarism, the same absolutism, the same taxation, the same drudgery, a world full of enemies and not a single friend. And what is more important, there would not be any German race left, as it will take years of fighting, starvation, killing, to end this war, if the kaiser has his own way. Only the cripples will survive. The flower of the nation will be sacrificed on the altar of the nation's stubbornness and selfishness."

This is the opinion expressed by Mr. Frank Wiesner, a German-Canadian residing in Revelstoke, and who through the Vancouver Sun, issues an appeal to his fellow countrymen all over the world, in favor of stopping the war at present raging in Europe. In this appeal he says:

"Germans, friends, brothers; while the monstrous, heartless Hinotaur of war mows down the flower of every nation; while blind, ferocious fury destroys the harvest of centuries, do you, German brothers, ever stop one moment to consider who carries the responsibility, the blame, for all this terrible destruction and devastation?"

"Christianity, civilization, even culture, appear to be the only miserable means of nations to annihilate each other. A perverted conception of national duty, an outlived idea of patriotism, race-hatred, are the inspirations for the soldiers to kill each other."

"Seventeen million men, the strongest, fittest, healthiest of Europe, are withdrawn from the work of creation and set at the business of destruction. And who carries the blame for it; who is the real cause of it all? Was it the iron hand of necessity or the free and powerful arm of an individual, or both?"

"I am not a seer, whose mental eyes can penetrate the veil which covers up the threads, the unknown hand that weaves the destiny of nations. But as I listen to the simple inspiration of my inner nature, as I hark to the intense pulsing of the life of nations, I feel that cruel necessity caused the war; that this war had to come in order to show humanity the foul foundations upon which the life of present-day society is resting. The time was ripe for a European conflagration, but it took the spark of a vain, ambitious ruler to start it."

"The kaiser's temper conquered his better reason, when he proposed and accepted the war against four nations. His ambition was stronger than the consideration for the welfare of his people. Give a selfish individual unlimited power over people, and he will lead them to destruction. No one could blame the people for the starting of the war. Human nature is too young yet, too pliable, easily influenced by a stronger mind. Human nature has to learn by bitter experience to whom it may safely entrust its well being. Every hour in the school of national life represents a century."

"What disgusting vision opens before our eyes! Will you wait for its realization, German brothers? Awake, arise, ally and protest against the continuation of this terrible war, if you intend to save your race from total extinction!"

"Even if we admit that there was a reason to start the war, there was a necessity for Germany to expand, the reason has fallen. Though the nations do not officially announce the change in their views, they have changed their conception about life, about man, about property, nevertheless. The time has come where we realize that there is room for everyone of us in the world. If not in Germany then elsewhere, if we only show our sincere intention to be useful members of society. A good

man will be welcomed anywhere. Under the present condition, the excuse, the necessity for expansion may be justified in the minds of all rulers; but to the minds of the people it appears to be a fallacy, as it is plainly proven by the fact that the sentiments of practically the whole civilized world outside of Germany are turned against the Germans."

"There is not the slightest possibility of satisfying the demand of the kaiser for more land. For two reasons—if the kaiser wins he will have no German nation; and if he falls his chance will be still smaller. For these two main reasons I earnestly appeal to your commonsense, German brothers, to your noblest feelings, to protest against this war; to form an alliance against the selfish intentions of the kaiser. As he does not consider the welfare of his own nation, he shows plainly his incapability to carry the responsibility, the sceptre over a nation. Cast off the shackles of the Hohenzollerns, grasp the opportunity to institute political freedom; do not be at the mercy of other nations!"

"Turn your courage, your enthusiasm, for the benefit of the nation, to the political regeneration of Germany, and not, enslaved as you are, to the destruction of it, because the selfish desire and insane ambition of a single man demands it."

"What Germany needs is a spiritual conquest over outlived ambitions and ancient political conceptions, and not a material, military conquest by Krupp guns and German strategy. Without any war Germany could have captured the world with her commerce. There are a hundred other ways of settling matters of this kind. Do not listen to the smooth language of the churches, which only pray for the material victory of the respective rulers, but listen to the noblest instincts of your nature."

"While the greatest members of our race dreamt the idealistic dreams of a better, happier future, a healthier and stronger race and a free nation, a few egotistic, ambitious materialists shaped "by the Grace of God" the future destiny of Germany to further their own selfish ends. They drained the people through high taxation of their hard earned money to satisfy Napoleonic ambitions; to fill, or rather to disgrace, a few pages of history with their evil deeds."

"Destruction, slaughter, death, misery of the people are nothing to the kaiser. Every strategic plan is of divine inspiration, every bullet carries the blessing of civilization into the camp of the enemy. Human nature is not the purpose, but only a means to his own selfish end."

"Germans, do you realize what it means, that the kaiser never, never will give up as long as there is one man fighting for him? Do you realize what it means to the German race? Annihilation. For the sake of your own, arise and cast off the shameful shackles of imperialism. Prove your courage against the yoke of militarism and do not yield weakly to the enslaving chains of a single degenerate!"

"Consider the white race, as the time will come when every one of us will be needed, be he German, British or otherwise. Are selfishness and gratification of an outlived national desire the only instincts of the German race, dominating all the other sound, noble impulses? It is a perverted sense of duty, if you try to save the national honor by killing not only all of your own, but also the best of other nations. Where is the expression of all the ethical teachings of our greatest philosophers, where the practice and realization of Goethe's and Schiller's divine idealism? Awake, arise; revolt, oh pride of the German race, and sweep the selfish creed of the Hohenzollerns off the earth."

"I prefer, a million times, to be a

a traitor to a selfish kaiser than to be a traitor to my own people. Such a treason is your duty, which you owe not only to your own race but to humanity in general. The hour has come in which political freedom is within our grasp. Take it.

"Do not deceive yourself that you are carrying the blessings of German culture and idealism into the other lands, because you are not. It's destruction, devastation, death, misery and hatred. The kaiser and his junkers are only influencing, deceiving, poisoning the mind of the people, if they say that the ultimate result of this war will be a blessing.

"The kaiser was responsible for the start of the war; but you alone, German brothers, will be responsible for the continuation of this war for the spreading of the conflagration. Prove your willingness to discontinue the war by doing your own house-cleaning first, and you will be giving the best, the noblest, that human nature can give.

"Hundreds of thousands of Britishers are flocking into the field of their own free will to protect one of the greatest treasures of a nation—political freedom. And your own people are driven like sheep into the fighting line to gain—a Napoleonic victory for an insane emperor.

"Remember the nineteenth century, when the greatest of our race created the deepest, sweetest musical compositions, enriched all fields of natural science, when our poets and philosophers filled our hearts with enthusiasm for all the good, beautiful, ideal in human nature and life; and listen in the twentieth century to the same divine inspiration of human nature, and the world will bless you for ever and ever.

"Your sincere brother,

FRANK WIESNER.

"Box 445, Revelstoke, B.C."