

CANADIAN CLUB RESOLUTION

When the British Empire and Allies have triumphed in a cause of honor and the liberty of nations, and the strife of war is over, it is the inmost desire of every true British subject that individually and collectively the British people throughout the world shall be conscience clear. As yet we are scarcely within the enemy's country, but when we get there in force, at an early date, it is the sincere hope of the nation that our men will obey the rigid laws laid down by Kitchener, French and other noble commanders, and show to the enemy and the world at large that Britain's morality, conscience and character are outstanding in war as well as in peace; in the enemy's country as well as on our own soil.

While our soldiers are upholding the highest reputation of our Empire on the battlefields, it is for us at home, where life is ease and luxury compared with the sea and land hardships of our defenders, to guard well the British reputation for fair and square dealing. In Canada, we must not forget that we sent our agents, under government authorization, to Austria, Germany, Belgium, France, Norway, Sweden and many other European countries, to tell of our fertile prairies, our forests and our mines. Upon our representations and a warm invitation, there have come to our shores hundreds of thousands of aliens. Our politicians, with a haste in excess of wisdom, invited newcomers, foreign to our ways and our language, to participate in the full rights of citizenship on the shortest of notice. We can all testify to the fact that hundreds of thousands of these people from foreign lands have become Canadian in thought and in spirit and would, we believe, take up arms in defense of Canada against any European invader, or invaders inspired by European influence. We cannot make these people from alien countries loyal by being suspicious of their loyalty, nor can we, even if we admit that it were desirable to do so, obliterate by one wave of a magic wand, the natural affection for the homeland that burns in every well-constituted breast. Let us be practical. Within the hearts of tens of thousands of Canadian Germans and Austrians there is sorrow—the deepest sorrow—that their respective countries should have been misled into this war by the militarists of Germany, but they still love the native soil—home is home—as many of us love the scenes of our childhood in England, Scotland, Ireland or Wales.

Suspicion breeds suspicion. We have, not thousands, but hundreds of thousands, of people of Austrian and German birth among us. Our inten-

tion is not to deport them. Surely our desire is not to give these Canadians-in-the-making unnecessary offense. This brings us to a resolution to be submitted for the approval of the Canadian Club on Saturday. It reads:

"Whereas the British Empire is at war with Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey,

"And whereas many positions of responsibility and trust in Canada are held by those who have come to us from these countries, and who are still in sympathy with their fellow-countrymen in Europe,

"And whereas such sympathy, though not necessarily inconsistent with an attitude of loyalty to Canada, may in some cases result in injury to the cause for which Canadians are fighting and will in all cases expose the sympathizers to suspicion merited or unmerited,

"Therefore, be it resolved that the Canadian Club of Winnipeg urge the government of Canada, the government and municipalities of Manitoba, to transfer or suspend for the period of the war all those officers or employes who may reasonably be held to be in sympathy with our enemies, from offices or employment in which they have it in their power to do harm to Canada or the British Empire."

Is there a feeling that Premier Borden is lax in his guardianship of Empire interests in this part of the British world? We do not share in any such feeling. Our belief is that he is acting wisely and well, and taking precautions which it is undesirable, in the public interests, should always be made known. The press is co-operating and in close touch with Ottawa authority. A word to the newspapers and practically anything is suppressed that might, in the slightest degree, prejudice Empire interests. If it is believed that there are German enemies or strong sympathizers with Germany in the public service, the Canadian Club's executive will find Hon. Arthur Meighen or Sir Robert L. Borden ready listeners to any representations or suggestions, made in private; not publicly.

By proclaiming from the housetops our suspicions and calling upon the government to do this or that with regard to suspects, we may, unwittingly and with no bad intentions, of course, defeat the very object aimed at. Sir Robert Borden is a man of excellent judgment. We do not think it wise to instruct him in his duties, without very full and complete knowledge that he has shown himself to be a negligent administrator. We see from day to day that Canada is virtually under military rule during the war, and the central government has power to go to any limit in the full protection of the Empire's interests.