

HOW MUCH TOLERATION FOR THE PROFESSORS?

Church Street Library—Bloor St. Viaduct—Musicians Out of Work

The Church Street Library.

Editor of The Star: For some time I have been an almost daily visitor to the Public Library on Church street, where I spend a little time each day reading. However, recently I have had to dispense with this recreation owing to the foul atmosphere in the reading room. There are six large windows, but the centre one on the south side is the only one that appears to be ever open, and that sometimes for only a very small piece. Now, with over two hundred in the room all the time, this is quite inadequate. I am sure our energetic Medical Officer of Health has not had this brought to his notice, or things would be different. Breathing this vitiated air is a menace to all using the room. On going into the building on a bright, clear, frosty day, such as yesterday, you feel stifled the moment you enter the room. Since the cold weather, this room has become very congested with those who, unfortunately, have nothing else to do. A casual look around is sufficient to impress it on anyone that fresh air is an essential and also a strong disinfectant.

A LIBRARY READER.

Toronto, Dec. 14.

The Bloor Viaduct.

Editor of The Star: There has been some talk on the side about the contract for Bloor street viaduct going to a Montreal firm. I want to say, Sir, as a ratepayer of the city of Toronto, that I consider the matter as carried out by the Commissioner, Board of Control, and City Council in the very best interest of the ratepayers for this reason: Just imagine the city of Toronto with a fence around it which would compel the ratepayers to pay enormous prices through non-competition. Go ahead, wise men, sign the contract, and tell the contractor to get on the job, so the unemployed can get to work.

J. A. MCINTYRE.

Musicians Out of Work.

Editor of The Star: Last week's Star had an account of the Musical Protective Association Union going to the City Council trying to get work for bandsmen out of work, by playing concerts at the city fire rinks, which, as a taxpayer, I am glad to see was turned down. Now, why did not the union get busy, all last summer, and the summer before that, too, to try and put a stop to the bringing in of all outside and foreign bands to do the band concert work at Scarborough Beach, Hanlan's Point, and the Exhibition for twice daily throughout the whole season, leaving the Toronto bands idle at home? About \$60,000 was diverted from our bandsmen and taken out of the city by those outsiders and foreign bands. I remember, too, how letters used to be in the paper asking what sort of union it was that ran business like that. No other union in the city could let such conditions happen. Mention was also made of a hard winter coming, and now they have it. Scarborough Beach would have nothing but foreigners, and as for the Exhibition with its Patriotic Year and advertisements of 12 concerts daily, they brought in all outside bands to do the playing. Even when the large sum of money was thrown back on them by cancellation of the Guards' Band they would not give one job to the soldier bands who were offering their lifeblood for the defence of our Empire, and yet that union did nothing. Hope it will be Canada work for Canadians next season.

TIPPERARY.

One of the Professors.

Editor of The Star: I see that the controversy over the German professors at the University is now said to be settled because two are to leave the city and Professor Mueller is to leave the University for McMaster. But there can be no satisfactory settlement of this matter so long as Professor Mueller holds any public position in this country, even though the Baptist community, as one of their representatives said to me to-day, "has enough toleration to use his scholarship, provided he leaves politics alone."

It seems to me that this toleration is on a level with the professor's patriotism. Does the Baptist community, generally, approve of this example of "kultur" being sustained in their midst?

Dr. Falconer is quoted as basing his policy of non-interference on the order-in-Council which protects alien enemies who peacefully attend to their own business; but it would appear from the editorial and other comments in the press that he and the public have forgotten how Professor Mueller lashed out at Principal Hagarty for speaking the truth about the origin of the war to his pupils.

Was that peacefully attending to his own business?

Dr. Orr hit the nail squarely when he said that these men should be either teaching as usual or be in the detention camp; and it equally true that they are far more dangerous enemies to the King than any of the reservists or laborers whom we have put there so far.

Did not Professor Mueller give us another proof of his capacity by herding some half-dozen of the teaching faculty into endorsing his vituperations and demanding an apology from Principal Hagarty. If he could do that with men supposed to be intelligent as well as patriotic citizens of the British Empire, to what lengths could he go with others?

Further, it appears that he persuaded Dr. Falconer and Varsity into a tacit endorsement of his actions, for not a word of censure upon him or of apology to Mr. Hagarty has come from either. Yet an offence so public and so hostile should at once have received an equal rebuke! What would have come of it in Berlin?

There has been much talk of "British fair play" in this matter, but history shows that fair play is no method to use with savages. Strict justice marks the limit of their understanding and respect, and Professor Mueller boasts himself as the protagonist of the worst savage in history, of one who, knowing the good, set up Attila for his example and the Huns for his people's.

I am no friend of Mr. Hagarty's—I do not know him at all, and I write this without his knowledge or suggestion; but it appears to me that his experience with Professor Mueller is but a sample of what we may all expect from him and his if any foolish generosity about fair play continues to give them their freedom.

N. W. HAYDON.
Toronto, December 12.