

In its last issue "Der Courier," the German weekly published in Regina, whose pro-Germanism the Free Press recently commented upon, makes a savage attack upon this newspaper. In the opinion of "Der Courier" we are "blind with fury," we have set ourselves up as "official censor," we are consumed with a "hatred of nationalities," etc., etc.

This charge, as the readers of the Free Press well know, has not the slightest justification. When the war broke out the Free Press was one of the very first newspapers in Canada to plead for generous and tolerant treatment of the German population of the Dominion. It pointed out that the war placed them in a delicate and difficult position. As for the German publications of Canada, it recognized that their position, too, became a difficult one, but it assumed that they would content themselves with printing the news dispassionately as it came and studiously refrain from expressions of sympathy with the enemies in the field of Britain and her Allies.

The Free Press did not expect Canadians of German birth and ancestry to forget, must less to spurn, their blood relationship. It recognized that to ask that would be asking some thing unnatural. But it did ask and did expect that any feeling for Germany which such relationship prompted and excited be not given public expression to. For a German publication in Canada openly to support or sympathize with the German arms is not in our opinion merely disloyal, it is a breach of ordinary decency and ordinary honesty.

Of this breach "Der Courier," and all the larger German publications of Western Canada, have been guilty. Let us look again at the issue of "Der Courier," that of April 21 last, criticism of which produced the "Courier's" three-column attack upon the Free Press, already referred to. It was our complaint that the telegraphic news in this issue had been selected and prepared, and presented with heavy type, in order to make it appear to the "Courier's" readers that Germany was winning the war.

The issue in question contained at least twelve columns of telegraphic war news, which would equal in length at least nine columns of the Free Press. Now throughout these twelve columns, in practically every line of it from start to finish, the German, Austrian and Turkish arms are represented as operating successfully. It matters not what it is. If it is the Russians in the Carpathians the advance is always checked and stopped. If it is a French attack the attack is a failure. England is in terror of Zeppelins. The Turks are equal to any attempts upon the Dardanelles.

One of the sub-headings used in these twelve columns reads: "Berlin and Vienna declare that the offensive of the Allies on both fronts is completely broken." The British losses at Neuve Chapelle are given in full under a heading reading "Enormous Losses," but there is complete silence as to the German losses. A Vienna despatch reads: "An unshakable confidence reigns in representative circles in the final victory of the Austrian armies over the eastern and southern armies."

Under the heading of "Significant Words" we have a Berlin despatch stating that the inhabitants of Alsace-Lorraine have not only responded to call to the German standards, but are offering "numerous volunteers for the defence of the Fatherland." A despatch from Berlin, headed "A Friend of the Germans and Austrians," ascribes to the late King Charles of Roumania the hope that Germany and Austria "would emerge as victors from the bloody strife."

"Favorable financial condition" is the heading of a Berlin despatch referring to Germany and needing no further description. Another heading reads: "France Threatened with Depopulation." From Amsterdam comes the following: "An energetic word—Germany is going to ask the United States whether she is going to be a neutral or an enemy."

So much for the telegraphic news. In the same issue of the

"Courier" there appear several "literary" articles, all from German writers and all pro-German. One of these describes a couple of trips around the harbor of Antwerp, and expresses joy at the flying of German flags there. Another, four columns in length, bears the title, "The Death Trap of the Tenth Russian Army Corps," being an account of Hindenburg's victory in the Masurian Lakes.

To characterize such an issue as pro-German is, according to the "Courier" to be "blind with fury" and to be eaten up with "hatred" of the Germans. The claim is made that "telegrams are telegrams" and further that they have been printed as received (from where?). This may be, but it does not alter the fact that the source of many of these telegrams is, as the "Courier" well knows, under strong suspicion. Of those issued by the different war departments the "Courier" has, as we have shown, selected only those unfavorable to Britain and her Allies.

The "Courier" is not very frank and not very truthful when it claims that it has "in no way sought to carry on propaganda for a German-Canadian party." There is also a touch of hypocrisy in the statement that it does not consider "the founding of such a party desirable." There is only one possible comment to this and that is to republish an extract from an article in the issue of the "Courier" here under review. It reads as follows:

"What's the use of all our associations and societies if we do not devote them to our own interests, if we do not put them in their full strength behind our demands, if we do not lend their help to the few German candidates?"

"By German candidates we understand men who have German blood in their veins and can speak German, and who are therefore in a position to appreciate the qualities of our racial brothers (Stammesbrueder) and to fight for them."

"When at length one of our countrymen succeeds in getting a seat in Parliament at Ottawa, others will soon follow him, and then our wishes will have some consideration shown them."

"The whole of German-Canadiandom in Western Canada has got its eyes on the Dominion constituency of Swift Current, which is to form the nucleus of the greatness we hope to attain later on."

All in all our German fellow-citizens in Western Canada have revealed themselves since the war began as a keen disappointment. Truly there are many Germans amongst them who have some real appreciation of British institutions and British freedom and of the democratic spirit of British countries. But it is simply blindness not to recognize that behind the pro-German organs of Western Canada lies a considerable body of readers who have continually pressed the editors of the organs to appear in as loud a pro-German dress as they dared.

Protestant or Catholic, Liberal or Conservative, it has made very little difference. All the German organs of this western country have been whole-heartedly behind the cause of German militarism and German autocracy. They have supported at heart a Kaiser who boasts of his divine right. They have supported a state wherein the military party dominates the civil power. They have supported a constitution based on enfranchisement of wealth, powerlessness of popular assemblies and irresponsibility of the ministries. What is the explanation?