

"SCRAPS OF PAPER"

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir:—In your issue of the 26th instant, there appeared a letter written by a "Citizen," under the heading of "Privileges of Alien Enemies," the contents of which are to a greater degree unreasonable. The writer claims that "in England today Germans, although naturalized, are being segregated, not granted hotel licenses. Possession of naturalization papers, or mere scraps of paper, should not be considered sufficient qualification in these days. Scraps of paper are valueless, there is no market." Now, sir, I am far from being either a German or an Austrian sympathizer, by a long shot, but in his above utterance there is a principle involved that no man with a freedom loving, democratic blood in his veins could ever think of besmearing in the same way as the Germans and the Austrians did and are doing today. British democracy does not look upon the naturalization papers as "scraps of paper," and the reason for the segregation of Germans in England was more as a matter of protection to Germans themselves rather than as a matter of retaliation, such as the "Citizen" suggests. Secondly, the "Citizen" must remember that England cannot be compared to Canada, as regards the conglomeration of nationalities. The segregation idea could never be thought of in Canada. Such utterances are only meant to stir up strife and ill feeling. I do not deny that we have enemies amongst us, but this is a matter of military law and any of those who would prove themselves in any way enemies of Canada, there are proper parties to attend to them, but not in German fashion. I quite agree with the "Citizen" that large numbers of naturalization papers are considered by some people as "mere scraps of paper." However, we must look at the cause of it first and find out who is to blame for such conditions. In ninety-nine cases of every one hundred the blame can be justly laid at the door of the disgracefully defunct Roblin machine. Their game of politics was always the "vote," and to hell with the country! I have witnessed and watched the operations of the Tory heelers on many a registration day, and in many a district, chasing all over the country and in every nook and corner of a town to hunt up any Tom, Dick and Harry that was able to walk in order to get him on the lists, so that his vote could be got for the "progressive, honest and judiciously economical" Roblin government, and if the man happened to be an alien without papers, this commodity was forthcoming in a very short time. I know cases where a man was in the country not fully two years but upon being found a "true" Tory principled man the papers were handed him, and he voted! We see and hear a whole lot of people kicking about the effect, but there are not many who would take the trouble to find out the cause. What we want is not bigotry and prejudice, but education, and men in the legislatures, both federal and provincial, who will conduct the business of the country in the interests of the country, not as private individuals. Now, we have a set of men at present in the Manitoba legislature who are not of the Roblinite ilk, and whose principles and public politics are such as will promote and advance the welfare of Manitoba, and if the same class of men were at the helm at Ottawa we would soon remove the cause of suspicion, bigotry and prejudice which only tends to disorganize and cause ill-feeling and dissatisfaction in every quarter through indiscriminate and unjust criticism by irresponsible people. If the desired and necessary attention had been paid to this matter, instead of corruption and graft, the country would have been in a better position today. The "Citizen" asks, "where is our consistency?" I may ask him: Where would be our consistency if we started to copy the German barbarity, their contemptable treachery, their degenerate, savage morals? We in Canada are differently situated, therefore, we must be always alert, but not in a savage fashion of the Teuton.

I am also a naturalized British subject, and resent such slurs, because I consider the "scrap of paper" in a different light and would not put it "on the market" at a lower price than life itself.

Respectfully,

NATURALIZED CANADIAN.

Teulon, Man., Box 40.