

ALIEN ENEMIES IN THE CANADIAN WEST ARE  
RESTRAINED BY NORTHWEST MOUNTED POLICE

There Are Probably a Quarter of a Million Such Immigrants West of the Great Lakes, But They are Closely Watched by Authorities.

## "PROVINCIAL BUND" IN SASKATCHEWAN DEMANDS USE OF GERMAN IN SCHOOLS

"Scarlet Riders of the Plain" Have Situation Well in Hand and Unruly Ones Are Promptly Attended to—No Untoward Development is Likely

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CALGARY, Alberta, Aug. 13.—In proportion to population the West has enlisted a great many more men for the war than the East. Manitoba and Saskatchewan have furnished 34,000 recruits, Alberta and British Columbia, 35,000. Calgary and Edmonton have supplied 7,000 men apiece from amongst their own people and a great many more from contiguous rural parts. Regina, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Medicine Hat have done equally well. Winnipeg has despatched a formidable force. These towns and many others still have thousands of men training under arms. In departing to fight for Canada, the Empire and civilization this Western Canadian army leaves behind it west of the Great Lakes probably 250,000 alien enemies. Altogether aside from Manitoba and British Columbia the Royal Northwest Mounted Police have under surveillance in Saskatchewan and Alberta alone no fewer than 175,000 German and Austrian men, women and children. This is something like 20 per cent. of the total population of 900,000.

### Germans Are Hostile.

The Austrians in the West being a polyglot lot are divided against themselves. Many of them are Slavs and sympathize with Russia and her allies rather than with the Teuton cause. With the Austrians as a whole there has been little trouble. A few emancipated young Germans have gone to the front and to wounds and death as Canadian soldiers, but the German immigrants in the West are as a rule doggedly opposed to Great Britain and the nations fighting by her side. This seems to be true no matter what part of the Fatherland they come from, Prussia, Bavaria or Saxony. Nor has naturalization improved them. I have it on the highest authority that the unnaturalized Germans are more easily handled than those who have taken out papers as Canadian citizens. Those who are still aliens can be summarily dealt with by military officials, whereas the naturalized Germans must be prosecuted as British subjects. This involves delay and emboldens a certain proportion of the alien enemies to proclaim their views rather boldly. This is one unfortunate result of the reckless system of hasty naturalization for political purposes which obtained so long in western Canada.

### Political Naturalization.

The abuse long obtained in the prairie Provinces. The party in power persistently railroaded thousands of unqualified foreigners to the high status of British citizenship in order to win the next general election. For the same purpose thousands of British citizens were wrongfully disfranchised in Saskatchewan and Alberta in order to keep the Liberals in office. The improper naturalization of unprepared aliens may have been practiced in Manitoba and in the older parts of Canada, but it became doubly dangerous in the newer and more sparsely settled Provinces. A better naturalization law is now upon the statute books. It is a question if we still place an adequate valuation on our priceless British Canadian citizenship, but the harm was done in Saskatchewan and Alberta by a Federal Liberal machine co-operating with two Provincial Liberal machines.

### Political Cowardice.

It is also true that vote-seeking politicians have too long countenanced special privileges for Germans and other foreign immigrants—privileges, which are neither granted to nor asked for by new comers from England, Ireland, Scotland or the United States. Outside of Quebec bi-lingualism, even multi-lingualism, has been used to emphasize diverse nationalities and to hinder the establishment of a homogeneous population.

### German "Bund" in West.

In the last two years the Germans of Saskatchewan have established what they call "The Provincial Bund" on the lines of the Deutscher Bund which met at Detroit recently with the avowed purpose of forcing the hands of the politicians at Washington and in the State Legislatures. As far as we have heard no member of the Saskatchewan Bund has offered Canada independence after the war under a joint protectorate of Germany and the United States. The Saskatchewan Bund set out to assert its power in municipal, Provincial and Dominion politics. I understand that it demands the use of the German language in public

schools. The organization avows no political affiliations. Presumably it aims to hold the balance of power wherever it can, and to exact special advantages for Germans whenever this is found possible. There is a similar organization in Alberta. All this dangerous bedevilment of public affairs has been rendered possible by a lack of courage on the part of politicians, who have ever looked for votes regardless of the source. What the West needs is such directness and strength of purpose as that displayed by the Whitney and Hearst Governments in dealing with the Ottawa School Board.

### R. N. W. M. Police on Guard.

The chances are, however, that despite the former truckling of politicians to separatist elements in the population there will be no serious trouble with aliens in the West. The Royal Northwest Mounted Police, considerably strengthened in numbers since the war began, keeps its eye and hand on every part of Saskatchewan, Alberta and the territories to the north. I have it from a high official that there is less anxiety to-day than 12 months ago, over the attitude and possible action of alien enemies. No outrage has been perpetrated west of the Ontario boundary, such as the dynamiting of a Windsor factory. The police find no evidence of any organized preparation for an uprising. As in the East a few Germans have been arrested in trying to leave the country, and some violent pro-German newspapers from the United States have secured some circulation. It is claimed by the R. N. W. M. P. that these papers have exerted little influence for evil though a Teuton journal published in Regina for a time lost caste with local subscribers because of the suspicion that owing to pressure from the Canadian authorities it concealed much of the news concerning German victories.

### Some Unruly Germans.

This optimistic view I obtained in Saskatchewan. A less confident tone is taken by Alberta officials. In one city a number of Germans, who became particularly bold after the sinking of the Lusitania, have been tried for sedition. There is in one section of the country, where these foreigners are watched with persistent care with a view to preventing organized action. On the whole one leaves the West with the impression that the Scarlet Riders of the Plain have the situation well in hand, and that, whatever the purposes of alien enemies in the country, nothing untoward will occur. Contingents of interned Germans and Austrians are employed in building Government roads near Banff in the Rocky Mountains. There is a possibility also that some will be used in the harvest fields. Meantime there is a demand in certain quarters that newly naturalized citizens of alien enemy origin be disfranchised until the reconstruction period after the war is well over.

It may be added that of 5,000 alien enemies interned by the Dominion Government for all Canada, over 2,000 are held in the West. The camp for Manitoba and Saskatchewan is at Brandon, where the prisoners number 800. At the Lethbridge camp in Alberta there are only 75 prisoners at present, the rest having been sent to work in the Government parks in the mountains. It is likely that the men in the Brandon camp will shortly be put at the same kind of labor. Two British Columbia camps are at Vernon, where the prisoners number 600 and at Nanaimo, where they number 650. There are other camps at Castle and Revelstoke and some prisoners are being paid for work on the Provincial highways. About 800 alien enemies are still at large in Port Arthur and 3,200 in Fort William, but they are all Austrians, mostly Slavs and well behaved.

