

CONESTOGO AND DISTRICT ARE STRONGHOLD  
OF PRO-GERMANS BUT WHAT CAN BE DONE?

**Interesting State of Affairs in the Rural Sections of Waterloo  
County is Discovered by a Staff Reporter of The  
Daily News**

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**PASTOR OF LUTHERAN CHURCH THERE  
CROSSES FREQUENTLY TO THE STATES**

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**He Has Served in the German Army and Now Has Brothers  
Fighting Against the Allies—Services Are All Held  
in German**

Conestogo, Ont., Aug. 31.—“You can't intern the whole county!” This somewhat alarming truism met The Daily News correspondent, who went to investigate the war sentiments of the German inhabitants of the rural sections of Waterloo County, in which Conestogo is situated.

Besides, who would do the interning when the Magistrate, Mr. Henry Halle, and the constable, Mr. Jacob Kienzle, who is also postmaster, of Conestoga, are openly pro-German; when the Reeve and Deputy Reeve and three of the four Councillors of the township were elected on an Anti-British platform; when the German Lutheran pastor, Rev. Mr. Hansen, has one brother in the German army and another in the German navy, while he himself served under the German colors?

#### Crosses to United States.

Who is to lay information when the services in the church are conducted entirely in German; when the animated conversations that take place at the village store—so animated, indeed, that they sometimes almost end in blows—are held in German; when the few Britishers in the district are regarded with suspicion and when the intimation of investigation closes the ~~German~~ mouths like those of disturbed clams; when to give information of pro-German utterances is to court ostracism from every tradesman and neighbor?

Who is to investigate why Pastor Hansen has found it necessary to go across the line so very frequently since the outbreak of the war—that Pastor Hansen, who has not taken out naturalization papers in the United States or in Canada, who before

he war was emphatic that if there were a war Germany would wipe the earth of any opposition?

Who is to find out what it was that Pastor Leinke a few days ago imparted—in German—to the delegations that waited at each of the four stations before Berlin for the train from Detroit—each delegation getting on the train, going with Pastor Leinke to the next station and then getting off to make place for the delegation waiting him there? That same Pastor Leinke who was born and raised in Germany, who left the pastorate at Conestogo for the Lutheran College in Waterloo, and whose sermons were so anti-British that he was forced to register as an alien enemy.

#### **No Bond of Empire There.**

"I do not believe they would fight for Canada unless they were forced to do so," said one to The Daily News speaking of the Germans of the district with whom he is well acquainted.

"I do not believe they would become British citizens in black and white unless they were compelled to. Few, if any, of them have taken out naturalization papers. I believe they would assist the enemy in case of a raid. There is no bond of Empire here.

#### **Kaiser the Head.**

"The traditions of the Fatherland linger longer here than they do in the cities. They do not read anything but their own local German paper. There was a great fuss when their German papers from outside were stopped. They do not go about much. Many of them have never been further from home than Berlin or Waterloo. Few of them have been to Toronto.

"You know the attitude of the Lutheran Church. The Kaiser is the head of it. The pastor rules them with a rod of iron. The German character seems to need a leader, a dictator. They have not much individual initiative. They never break away."

"And their pastor is a German and a trained soldier, whose brothers are fighting against Great Britain, and he finds it necessary to take frequent trips to the United States. His services are all held in German though most of his congregation speak English as well as you or I."

#### **Some Pennsylvania Dutch.**

It is only fair to state that the German inhabitants of the rural districts of the "German Tract" include a large number of Pennsylvania Dutch, many who came from Germany to escape military service and that about half of the community belong to the Mennonite Church which is so strongly opposed to conflict of every kind that they will not even go to law—the debtor among the "old Mennonites" kept the

money and the bond. Its payment was a matter of church discipline. The Daily News informant was speaking particularly of the others. He made the distinction above noted. The attitude of the people in Berlin will be discussed in a subsequent article.