

ANTI-BRITISH SENTIMENT MOSTLY RESTRICTED  
TO FEW LUTHERANS IN THE RURAL DISTRICTS

**Mennonites Are Traditionally Opposed to War Under Any Conditions and No Charge of Pro-German Leanings Can be Made Against Them**

---

**VARIOUS FACTORS HAVE INFLUENCE ON ATTITUDE OF GERMAN-CANADIANS**

---

**Many of the German-Canadians Resident in Cities and Larger Towns Left the Fatherland Because of Prussianism Which They Still Hate**

---

**BY HEW TRILL**

**W**ATERLOO, Ont., Sept. 1.—General and indiscriminate charges against the loyalty of the German-Canadians of Waterloo county are common. In so far as they are general and indiscriminate they are ill-advised, and unfair. In the main they are unfounded and unjust.

These people differ widely from one another in origin, in their reasons for immigration, in subsequent development, and in religious faith. Each of these factors vitally affects their attitude towards the present war.

Many are of Pennsylvania Dutch extraction. They are the descendants of the men of the Mennonite Church, who for the sake of religious freedom and from hatred of war—for their faith is akin to that of the Friends—fled from Holland, Switzerland and Germany to Pennsylvania, the Quaker settlement, and thence followed the U. E. Loyalists in 1798, and subsequent years into Canada, where they made the first settlement in the interior of Ontario in Waterloo. To accuse such people of disloyalty or Prussianism is absurd.

#### Prussianism Hated.

Many more came straight to Canada from Germany to escape the military system.

While they and their children may feel a certain sentimental tenderness for the Fatherland, those in the cities express the most bitter hatred for "Prussianism." They would flee Canada also to escape from it. They would fight rather than suffer its yoke. Those who live in the cities, in constant touch with British ideals of democracy are emphatically and deeply loyal to Canada, though they may not have realized fully that Canadian citizenship is citizenship in the British Empire.

In the rural districts, however, a firm conservatism has been set up among the Germans who have immigrated during the last fifty or sixty years. They are little moved by the outside world. In such an atmosphere German traditions and sentiments have suffered little change. Old people may be found who speak only German or English very haltingly.

#### The Lutheran Church.

Half of the inhabitants of the rural districts of the county are Lutherans in religion. Their church has strong leanings towards German nationalism. It frowns on any change from its custom of holding its services in German. It is a state church in Germany. Most of its pastors in Canada and many in the United States, whence the Canadian branch is governed, are Germans. Many of them have seen military service. They conduct free classes in the German language. They rule their congregations with rods of iron.

From this analysis it is evident that charges of disloyalty have little likelihood of foundation in fact.

against the Mennonites, many of whom are Pennsylvania Dutch, or against those particularly in the cities, who fled from Germany to escape the very militarism which the Allies are now fighting. This leaves the more recent arrivals who left for other reasons than to escape military service, the Lutherans of the rural districts, and any special emissaries who may have been sent out by the Imperial Government.