

AUSTRIAN-BORN PASTOR BEFORE INQUIRY BOARD

Sarnia Clergyman Said to Have Spoken Against British Flag

Sarnia, Feb. 9.—The Rev. Armin Hoseler, pastor of a Sarnia Baptist church, an Austrian by birth, was brought up yesterday for examination by the Board of Immigration Inspectors with reference to his opinions on the war.

Mr. Hoseler is alleged to have said that he would rather live under the German flag than the British, and that when the men of Canada have gone to war the Germans in United States would invade Canada.

The pastor has two sisters in Vienna married to Austrian officers. Mr. Hoseler strongly denied making the statement, and said that he took out Canadian naturalization papers in Winnipeg in 1909, but that he left them in Vienna, while there on a visit. He produced copies of the papers written in German.

The outcome of the inquiry was not made public. Members of the Board were Traveling Inspector Reynolds of Ottawa, Immigration Inspector Pell of Sarnia, and Provincial Detective Stringer, with two local inspectors.

He stated that he had two sisters in Vienna, and that, although he knew that they were in want, he would not send anything to them. "While I donate to the Patriotic Fund here," he said, "I cannot send money to my own flesh and blood suffering in that country."

Mr. Hoseler said that he was loyal and wanted to see the Allies win, but that he placed God before his country, and thought that the people ought to do more praying before expecting success.

Rev. Mr. Hoseler came to Sarnia a few months ago from Forest, where he was pastor of a church. It is understood that he will not contract to stay at this church longer than six months. He says that this is done, as he is greatly interested in work for Jews and might at any time wish to take it up again. Hoseler is an Austrian Jew who became Christianized.