

GERMAN MENACE IN CANADA.

Toronto World.

The feeling that we have not been strict enough in our treatment of enemy aliens is growing rapidly in Canada. Hundreds of Germans are still holding important positions with Canadian firms; even in the government service itself, men of German extraction, perhaps of German sympathies, are found occupying most responsible positions.

One of these things that has delayed decision in this war has been the failure of the British people to grasp the fact that one active German spy, allowed to live amidst British war-time activities, can do more harm to the British cause than five hundred Britishers at the front can do to the German cause. The Germans hold this failure as another example of our inefficiency.

People in England have awakened much earlier to the peril of the alien enemy at large than have the people of Canada. Much more stringent measures have been taken there to watch and control these people than have been applied here. In Toronto, for instance, there are a large number of Germans, who, with the knowledge of not being able to leave the country, can do practically as they please. The fact that they report to the police once a week in no way prevents them from plotting and conspiring together to do as much harm in Canada as possible, and to partially nullify the effort we are making in the war.

Popular feeling is crystalizing into a mandate to the government that all Germans must be dismissed from positions of trust, and many people go so far as to say that every German now in Canada should be interned in prison camps or placed under stricter surveillance than at present.

The Anglo-Saxon is apt to pride himself on the fact that he treats his enemy with a certain amount of contempt and refuses to be afraid of what he may do. This pride has cost us dearly in the present war. If we were fighting a nation that governed itself by the ordinary standards of humanity, a certain amount of toleration towards individuals of that nation living in our midst might be permissible. But as the Germans have proved themselves utterly dead to every feeling of honor or decency, we must treat them accordingly. If some injustice to individuals results the German nation has only itself to blame. Judged by his kind, no German, no matter how long he has been in Canada, can be trusted, and we must take the needed measures to protect ourselves accordingly.