

# A GERMAN-CANADIAN WRITES TO

## OTHER GERMAN-CANADIANS

Editor The Journal.

Sir—As a German, I would like to say a few words through your paper to the German people of our Dominion.

I have no doubt that there have been many times when you as Germans have thought that your feelings have been hurt, perhaps by some remarks which have been made, either through the press or by someone whom you have heard express their feelings of contempt against the Germans. But when we stop and think of the awful deeds which the German soldiers have committed against the women and children of Belgium, and of their unrighteous methods of warfare, and the murdering of innocent people with Zeppelins and submarines, by which they have violated international law and decency, can we expect anything else? Is it not human nature to speak out against such diabolical crimes, and we, as a German people, ought to overlook and forbear with those who, in a passion, say nasty things against the German people, and yet have made no reference to the German people in this country.

We, as a German people, have always been respected until this war broke out. There has now been a bitter feeling created in the hearts of some against the Germans which I expect will take a long time to die out, for all of which we can blame the German army on account of the crimes committed by order of the kaiser.

Let us, as Germans, so conduct ourselves that we may still, in spite of what Germany may do, retain the respect and good-will of those with whom we may come in contact.

Now, I would like to say a few words to the pro-Germans, if any of them should happen to read this. It is hard to understand why or how the people of German descent living in Canada, or anywhere else under the British flag and protection, can be in favor of or have sympathy with Germany in this war, and I fancy that in most cases it is due to ignorance of the causes that brought this war about. The murder of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria at Sarajevo, by a Servian, could easily have been settled had not Germany interfered. Germany saw in this her chance to provoke war, for which she had been preparing for the last forty years. She had also sent out her spies to spy and find out the condition that the rest of the nations were in, so far as being prepared for war, and she did not want to miss the chance to become a world power. Germany has laid the blame for this war on England. Now, my friend, did not Germany sign a treaty to protect Belgium, and was she not the first party to break that treaty and to make light of it, and was not England in honor bound to protect Belgium after signing a treaty that she would? Now, the fact that England was unprepared ought to be conclusive evidence that she did not seek war with Germany. Why was Germany making such great preparation when no nation was seeking a quarrel with her? Now just take a little time and divert your mind of all prejudice. You have enjoyed the blessing of living under British rule. Contrast this with living under the kaiser's rule. Which would you prefer? No one dares molest you as long as you behave yourself and are willing to work. You can always make a good livelihood and are not overburdened with taxes. Is it honorable on your part to defend Germany in her actions in this war? Think of the crimes against women and children and of her unholy methods of warfare. We have an empire to be proud of, it is the best under the sun, and I am proud to belong to the British nation, a nation that has always stood for right and true liberty, and will not stand to see the right crushed by a stronger power. Now, my friend, England is not fighting against the Germans as a German people, but to break down that ungodly militarism which has honeycombed the German nation, and I think that when this war is over even the German people in Germany will thank England for the day when they regain their true liberty, which they cannot get as long as they are ruled by the kaiser.

Now, my friend, just take a calm view of the situation in your quiet moments, and make a study of this question. Let your better self speak to you, and I am sure you will arrive at the conclusion that Germany is in the wrong. Yours,

F. C. LIERSCH.

Attwood, Ont. March 31.