

PATRIOTIC WORDS OF GERMAN PASTOR

At the meeting held last Friday evening in connection with the Conference of the Evangelical Association in Pembroke a sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Derier, of Campden, Ont., in which sentiments of ardent loyalty to the cause of the Empire in the present struggle found expression. It was an address which would have been well received at any patriotic gathering anywhere in Canada, and being given at a large assembly of German-Canadian clergy and laity it probably expresses faithfully the sentiments of the great majority of our fellow-citizens of German extraction, and will give pleasure to all. We have had the privilege of taking a summary of the address from Rev. Mr. Derier's original manuscript, and we are pleased to give it prominent place in The Observer, believing that public expression at this time must do a great deal to allay the feelings of suspicion and distrust which have been entertained by many since the war opened towards those of German extraction.

The sun, the speaker pointed out, had failed in its efforts to set upon the British Empire — the inconceivably great king that rules the day could not cover the far-reaching territorial bounds over which King George V. by the Grace of God sways his sceptre, and we Canadians are of the firm conviction that it is clearly the height of folly for a far less mighty monarch to undertake a task so manifestly impossible. We live in an Empire seven times greater than Rome in the zenith of its glory and power, an Empire that has protected us as a darling in a mother's bosom from the onslaughts of every intruder; an Empire whose fleet has been absolutely yet unselfishly supreme for a hundred years. "The British Empire," declared Mr. Deenier, "is by no means a delicacy made to order for a fanciful and hungry Emperor. I confess that Germany is a good-sized whale, but in the effort to swallow this British Jonah head and tail it is bound to strangle to death. If the Kaiser will persist in his endeavor to wear the British Empire as a cloak he will find it more cumbersome and uncomfortable than David found the armour of Saul."

Rev. Mr. Deenier here explained that his purpose was not to give a patriotic address pure and simple, but rather to use the national slogan, "Your King and Country Need You," as a starting point, and, having given it its present-day setting, branch over and launch out into the field of Christian activity, emphasizing the urgent and insistent call for self-sacrificing service in the Sunday School and the Young People's Alliance.

The slogan, he said, is one that is very familiar in these days of ghastly, bloody, conflict, and unspeakably frightful extravagance with human life and property. After dealing for some time with the causes of the war and referring to the contradicting voices clamoring for a hearing in order to justify their participation in the struggle, Rev. Mr. Deenier declared that if it is a war for undefeatable, imperious world dominance the nation or ruler

that strives for it will without doubt share the same fate as did Napoleon at Waterloo, for history will repeat itself. "And Right is Right, and God is God, and Right the day must win."

The gripping challenge, "Your King and Country Need You," is pealing forth its thrilling message from shore to shore in this fair land of ours till it has gotten hold of the very warp and woof of our beings. It has stirred the citizens of our Empire to such glowing zeal and perseverance that it has begotten within us a spirit of enterprise before which no obstacle seems insurmountable. Asking why it is that the attention of the world is to-day fixed upon Canada, why it is that we have the admiration of nations, the reverend speaker answered himself by declaring that it is because we have heard the call of King and country; because "we are going forth half a million strong with a spirit of self-denial, of self-sacrifice and of sanctified determination that utterly defies defeat and that is prepared to pay the price for a victory that will bless the whole world, our enemies included; for it will lead them on to full-orbed liberty and to a realization and recognition of the common rights of men within their own borders and throughout the world at large."

Rev. Mr. Deenier then went on to pay tribute to Canadian mothers and fathers for the noble sacrifices they are making at this time in sending forth their gallant sons in such numbers "to fight the bloodiest and most cruel battles ever waged in human history till victory shall perch upon our banners—for Britons never shall be slaves!" By sending her sons and by spending millions upon millions of dollars for the prosecution of the war Canada was unquestionably confirming her loyalty and her inseparable union with the Empire of which she forms such an important part.

The reverend gentleman then proceeded to review the attacks being made upon another enemy — the drink evil—which Lloyd George had declared to be the greatest of all. Province after province is to-day liberating itself from the shackles of this giant monster; while England, which had become so alarmingly ingrained with the people that it seemed well-nigh impossible for them to free themselves from its thralldom, the impossible is being gradually achieved. England has awakened to the fact that by tolerating breweries, distilleries and grog shops within her borders she is harboring a mighty foe within while attacking a desperate foe without, which is indeed a dangerous position to be in. Hence she has set to work converting her drink-making plants into munition factories. All possible forces are being utilized in response to the call, "Your King and Country Need You."

The speaker concluded with a strong appeal to the young people to give themselves in service to the King of Kings, from Whom earthly rulers receive authority to govern and before Whose throne they must some day bow and bring Him homage, and crown Him Lord of all.