

BISHOP ACTIVE WITH AUSTRIANS

Ruthenian Prelate's Arrest Interests West—A Defence

(Canadian Press Despatch)

Prince Albert, Sask., July 10.—

The arrest of Bishop Budka and one of his priests, Father Bossche, charged with sedition in this district, has aroused tremendous interest. Budka is a Ruthenian Bishop who issued a pastoral letter at the outbreak of the war calling on Austrians to return to their country and fight. He narrowly escaped arrest at that time, and later military authorities have had him under surveillance repeatedly.

So much criticism was aroused at the time he issued the pastoral letter calling for recruits for the Austrian army that prominent Ruthenians in Yorkton district at the time held an indignation meeting, calling on the Bishop to retract his statement and to change his attitude. If he did there was no public apology. His release on \$3,000 bail, pending his trial on Monday, has been the signal for a renewed outbreak of discussion in alien enemy sections in Saskatchewan.

Rev. Father T. O'Donnell of The Catholic Register is greatly surprised by the arrests of Bishop Budka, the Ruthenian Bishop of Western Canada, and Father Bossche, which were announced yesterday in a Canadian Press despatch. He is convinced that there must have been some blundering on the part of the officials.

Speaking to The Globe he said: "Bishop Budka is a Ukrainian Ruthenian which is, of course, a nickname for the Little Russians. He is a Catholic Bishop, in charge of the Ruthenians in Canada, of whom there are 250,000. Father Bossche is a Redemptorist father. Bishop Budka's father and mother have been killed by the Germans; his Bishop at home was taken prisoner and sent to Siberia by the Orthodox Church under the Czar.

"Father Bossche is a Belgian. Both of them are thorough Canadians in their sentiments and are strongly pro-ally. They have no reason for liking the Germans directly or indirectly, and their object has been to teach the Ruthenians to be first-class Canadians and to serve Canada and the Empire in every possible way. They have taken part in Red Cross work and done everything to show themselves to be loyal as other Canadians are. I know them quite intimately.

"I have not received full information of what has happened, but I have had a telegram from Bishop Budka, in which he says that a charge has been trumped up against him and that he is entirely innocent. He is a very intimate friend of Archbishop McNeil's. These two men have every reason to hate everything Austrian and German, because the Germans and the Austrians have destroyed their country and their relatives. The Bishop has had no tidings of his relatives and believes they have been entirely wiped out."