

### BISHOP BUDKA'S CASE.

The Toronto News gives prominence in an article on alien enemies to the case of Bishop Budka, one of the leaders of the Ruthenians of Western Canada. The News writer says:

"In isolated instances the active seditious may, too, become a special menace, as when his individual prominence or community influence warrants more particular consideration in connection with his capacity for doing mischief. This is apparently regarded as the case at Prince Albert, Sask., where Right Rev. Dr. Budka, the Ruthenian Bishop of Western Canada, with Rev. Father Posky of Hafford, has been arrested for openly preaching sedition to the Ruthenian flocks—of course, in the foreign tongue. Bishop Budka has been in the limelight before, a pastoral letter issued by him in July, 1914, at the outbreak of the war between Serbia and Austria, but before Great Britain entered the struggle, causing a furore. In this letter Bishop Budka called upon all Canadian Ukrainians to return to Austria and fight for that country. He also instructed his clergy to offer up prayers for Austrian success. He is an unnaturalized Austrian, formerly in the Austrian army."

The fact is that Bishop Budka and Father Posky were acquitted as soon as their case was brought before the courts upon what was clearly an untenable charge. A correspondent of The Globe, directing attention to the disposition made of the case, argues with force that in the interest of national unity, so necessary at this time, and of the mutual confidence which should exist between all denominations and races, the Press, which from one end of Canada to the other reported the arrest of Bishop Budka, should give equally prominent notice to the fact that there was no case against him.

We must not make the mistake of supposing that an Austrian subject is necessarily in sympathy with the war policy of the Austrian Imperial Government. The Bohemians are Austrian subjects under the laws of nations, as Bishop Budka and his Ruthenian flock are, but Bohemians often face shameful death on the gallows or the short road of the "firing squad" rather than serve against the Allied armies or do anything to strengthen the cause of German militarism.

It is a cheap and easy way to popularity to start a "Hun spy" hunt, but many innocent people may suffer from the indiscriminate denunciation of everyone with a foreign-sounding name.