

## BISHOP BUDKA VINDICATED.

For the past few years despatches have from time to time appeared in the public press impugning the loyalty of His Lordship Bishop BUDKA, the head of the Ruthenian or Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church of Canada. These despatches, which have usually emanated from Winnipeg, are said to have been originally inspired by a group of dissatisfied Ukrainians who have repudiated the authority of the Bishop and have been endeavoring to establish in Canada an Independent Ukrainian Church. Be that as it may, the charges against the Bishop were so persistently repeated that, despite the disclaimers of the Bishop himself and of the Catholic Truth Society, the Knights of Columbus, and other organizations on his behalf, they gained very wide public credence. In March last Dr. BLAKE, M.P. for North Winnipeg, a sincere friend and admirer of Bishop BUDKA's, with a view to putting a stop to the rumors asked the Government in the House of Commons certain questions regarding these charges of disloyalty, and it was stated in reply that there was no evidence to substantiate them. Even this, however, did not apparently suffice to rehabilitate the Bishop in the public estimation. On April 25 it was announced in the press that the Winnipeg Branch of the Great War Veterans Association had decided to exert every effort to have Bishop BUDKA interned and deported as an alien enemy. Bishop BUDKA, without awaiting any further move, at once demanded that the Veterans should furnish formal charges and that a public investigation of them should be held without delay. In answer to this demand eleven charges were formulated.

Judge PATERSON was designated to hold the investigation and after several postponements, first on account of the strike and later at the request of the Veterans, the matter finally came on for hearing on October 27. At the opening of the proceedings Mr. C. L. MONTEITH, who appeared for the Veterans, stated to the court that he could not substantiate any of the charges that had been made. He, therefore, asked leave to withdraw them and to substitute the charge that Bishop BUDKA, having registered as of alien enemy nationality, had failed to report to the Registrar of Alien Enemies. This charge also fell to the ground. The one witness called to support it gave evidence that the Bishop had been excused from reporting. Mr. T. J. MURRAY counsel for the Bishop, then asked that, notwithstanding the withdrawal of the original charges, he be permitted to call evidence in refutation of them, and after argument, this permission was eventually given. The evidence then submitted on behalf of the Bishop included many of his pastoral letters, newspaper reports of addresses which he had delivered to his people in various parts of the West, and articles written by him and published in the "Canadian Ruthenian." It appeared from these that the Bishop had repeatedly during the war appealed to his people to rally to the flag of the British Empire, and to deem

It a sacred duty to sacrifice both blood and treasure in its support. He emphasized the debt of gratitude and the obligations as citizens which they owed to Canada, their adopted country, in return for the protection and the opportunity for advancement which she had afforded them. He urged the formation of Ukrainian battalions and the enlistment of Ukrainians in other Canadian regiments and appealed for continued prayers for the success of the British arms. The Bishop gave evidence on his own behalf, and submitted to a lengthy cross examination which covered, without objection, a very wide field. Other witnesses deposed to the Bishop's public support of appeals on behalf of the Red Cross and the Patriotic Fund as well as for the sale of Victory bonds. It was also shown that Bishop BUDKA had continuously insisted on the necessity of his people, particularly the children, learning English, and becoming thoroughly proficient in it. Further, that he had himself delivered numerous addresses with the object of instructing Ukrainians in their duties as Canadian citizens and had arranged for the delivery of similar addresses by others.

The judge at the close of the hearing suggested that, as the charges had all fallen to the ground, there was nothing for him to decide, but at the urgent solicitation of Mr. MURRAY he consented to deliver a formal judgment. This he has now done. After disposing of the charge of failure to report, which he finds the Bishop was not under obligation to do, Judge PATERSON says "at the hearing not a tittle of evidence was produced against the Bishop to warrant such charges having been made," and that "there were no grounds shown why there should be any doubt cast upon Bishop BUDKA's loyalty to Canada."

Wide publicity should be given to the result of this enquiry. Bishop BUDKA's spiritual subjects are said to number a quarter of a million. They are a hard-working people and those who are on farms in the Western Provinces are described as making the best of settlers. Bishop BUDKA would appear to be doing his best to make good English-speaking Canadians of them. He is, therefore, entitled not alone to British fair play, but to the respect and support of all who have the future welfare of Canada at heart.