

TORONTO, DEC. 4, 1914.

Canadian Reign of Terror

Are we to have a reign of terror in Toronto? Is each person to accuse everyone else of being pro-German, when everyone else refuses to become infected with indiscriminating, flag-waving, traitor-denouncing hysteria? The *Toronto World* does not realize its responsibilities as a public organ. Into a community at present very highly strung it throws inflammatory accusations for which it does not bring proof. It backs one side of a case as though to suppose there were another side is treason to the Empire.

The *Toronto World* has a wider circulation than *The Varsity*. To fight fairly and decently it should, at least, not distort *The Varsity's* words, leaving a wrong impression in the minds of those who would do not know *The Varsity*. The *World* says that *The Varsity* "attempts to place these three professors in the same place as our Prince of Wales." *The Varsity* made no such attempt. The argument was, that the fact of Prof. Benzinger's having relatives in the German army had nothing to do with his position in the country. If Prof. Benzinger were to be dismissed on this ground, as the *World* seemed to urge in a former editorial, it would be logical to ask for the dismissal of King George V because it was his first cousin who started this whole trouble.

In a high and mighty manner, without descending to argument or reason, the *World* characterizes *The Varsity's* article as "redolent of the inspiration which comes from pro-German and anti-British advocates". The *World* then quotes from *Varsity's* last issue: —

"The suggestion that they, the German professors, have the opportunity to poison the mind of the Canadian youth and are using it is puerile. It is an insult to the men and women who are studying their guidance. Further, these same men and women are the first to contemptuously repudiate such a suggestion."

The World says, "This is evidence enough that the Germans are poisoning ...

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The minds of the Canadian youths who edit *The Varsity* or they would not yield to such specious pleas." The *World* is not an adept in handling evidence. The profound absurdity of this comment of the *World's* may be glimpsed in the fact that the editors of *The Varsity* who are responsible for that article have never spoken to, or in any way come in contact with, or come under the influence, direct or indirect, of the professors in questions.

Says the *World*, "It seems probable from President Falconer's letter in reply to Colonel Wilkie's communication, that he will accept the popular wish in the matter as the standard of action, and that the resignation of the three professors whose presence on the University staff has been regarded as undesirable will be require."

Does the *World* wildly dream that it represents the popular wish? Even had the *World* any means of finding out the popular wish, so far only one side of the question has been forced on the public's attention, and correct public opinion cannot yet have been formed.

The very title of the *World's* editorial of yesterday contains an unwarranted assumption – “Alien Enemies in Toronto University”. It has yet to be shown that the gentlemen in question, though they may be “alien”, are “enemies.”

We quote from the Order in Council of H.R.H. the Governor General in Council, given out on August 7th, 1914. Being very sensitively loyal, the *World* should obey it to the letter: –

“Whereas there are many immigrants of German nationality quietly pursuing their usual avocations in various parts of Canada and it is desirable they such persons should continue in such avocations without interruption;

“Therefore His Royal Highness the Governor General in Council is pleased to Order and it is hereby Ordered as follows:–

“(1). Such persons so long as they quietly pursue their ordinary avocations, shall not be arrested, detained or *interfered with* unless there is reasonable ground to believe that they are engaged in espionage, or attempting to engage in acts of a hostile nature, or to give information to the enemy or unless they otherwise contravene any law, Order in Council or proclamation.”

Let the *World* prove anything against these “alien” gentlemen in the sense of this Order in Council, and the whole matter will assume another complexion.