

Padangislar 10^{to} September

GERMANS IN AUSTRALIA.

Sir—It is high time for Australians to stop the absurd rubbish about sympathy with Germans even if they are naturalized. They are glad to get away from the tyranny of their own country to a free land, and then some of them have the audacity to state publicly that they would not support the land of their adoption. This, of course, is not to be expected, but good judgment would have been shown by leaving it unsaid. Let the Military Department take the Detective Department into their confidence regarding certain hotbeds of foreigners. Again there are some State schools in the city and country, and also outside police stations, where no British flag is seen flying; and in three instances I have heard the teachers will not fly the British flag. I also understand that in one German town the German flag can be seen flying. In the face of all this, it seems as if we British are mad—as if we have to be kicked about a dozen times before we realize that something is happening. Let those who are in sympathy with the Germans imagine they are in Germany—have been there 20 or 30 years, and become naturalized Germans (if that is possible). Would they at the present moment fight for Germany? No; England every time; and so it is with the Germans here. Well, then, why place confidence in them? New Zealand has awoke to this fact, and the sooner we do so the better. Only the other day I heard that a leading German in this city will never speak or allow the English language to be spoken in his house, unless there are English visitors present; and even now no British flag is seen flying from his door. A German acquaintance of mine has often remarked that he would never allow his children to marry into the English race. Let us wake up, and keep all foreigners at a distance, and from all Government appointments.

I am, Sir, &c., KYNANCE.

To the Editor.

Sir—I sincerely hope that every Briton has read and pondered over the opinion of Sir Josiah Symon and Mr. B. R. Wise—that Australia is Germany's objective. Then I trust they will also note the number of German-born colonists in South Australia (quoted in The Register by the Hon. F. S. Wallis) as shown in the last census to be 32,990. Just now, while the British will not let a German war boat show its nose out of port, we have a good deal of loyalty to adopted country. But Mr. Elkan rather let the cat out of the bag when he made the statement that he would not fight to protect this country against invasion by the Germans, and he says he speaks for others besides himself. Suppose the German war boats were off our coast, would all those 32,990 remain neutral? Is it not a fact that walking freely about our city are many Germans openly speaking treason against the British? Has not a Briton been fired on in one of our main streets from the region of German premises? Was he mistaken for a policeman? Or was it not a military man they thought they were potting

at? What have the authorities done in the matter? So far as we know, nothing. We British are too lenient and easy. Germans speaking treasonably should be arrested forthwith. Let us all, to a man, enlist in the Citizen Volunteers now being formed. Who knows how soon our services will be required to keep our flag flying?

I am, Sir, &c., A. R. CHAFFER.

Glencly, September 9.

Sir—Not being versed in politics, I have studied with great care Mr. Elkan's two letters, and Mr. F. W. Lehmann's speech on this subject. Is this the position? The oath of allegiance merely means that foreigners who enjoy our privileges hold themselves quite free from abstaining to assist Australia in time of war? In fact, they have conscientious scruples, which are insuperable, to doing so. Further, they request sympathy. In these circumstances, one would like to ask the members of our Federal Parliament why Australia gives these people the right of the franchise, admission to all public offices and Parliament, entrance to our banks and Government offices, military training, Government scholarships, and protection against all difficulties, in the same way as if they were able to assist us in time of danger? Neutrality is widely different—at any rate, to the lay mind—from loyalty.

I am, Sir, &c., HENRY S. M. PUGH.

North Adelaide.

Sir—It seems to me that Mr. Elkan should not hold English naturalization papers. Is it not time the South Australian Government cancelled his naturalization papers, and when the war is over, deport him to Germany? I also suggest that the Government should alter the names of townships, such as Blumberg, Hahndorf, and such others, and substitute English names.

I am, Sir, &c., G. A. W. ALEXANDER.

Sir—Australians have frequently chosen Germans to sit in high positions. Naturalized Australians, some will say. Granted. At present we require Britons, not foreigners, whose financial interest is their only stake in this country. Don't let our patriotism be overwhelmed by our localism. The men concerned must be good citizens, otherwise their fellow-citizens would not show confidence in them, but at present our thoughts must go nearer home. We have our homes to guard. A foreigner may be a good citizen, a good Australian, born or naturalized; but is he a Briton?

That is the question. When the flag is raised outside his own doorstep, will he follow it? Australia is at war, and the flag under which he holds his glorious liberties is in the war field; and many a man who may claim to be a good Australian, and be recognised as such by his fellow-citizens, will find that his blood relations and family connections will not allow him to follow the flag. Is it wise to have such men in high positions? Would they not be traitors to their own flesh and blood if, when asked, they refused to give information to their own kindred? Britain was always a haven for refugees, no matter of what nationality, and has always treated them as brothers; but they should be asked to stand down until the war is over. Would a Briton living in Germany be ready to fight against England, or would Germans allow him to fill a position of authority.

I am, Sir, &c., CLEAN TOWEL.

Sir—Mr. Elkan was certainly unfortunate in his remark that German-Australians would take up arms against any enemy but Germany. If he is one with us, and of us, he ought to be as ready to defend South Australia from German aggression as from Japanese or Chinese aggression. If (as he affirms) his people have found "a sanctuary" here, and are happy and contented, they ought to be willing to defend those who have given them this sanctuary, even against Germany. The duty is more incumbent upon them when we remember that our German brethren came here to escape from a cruel and rigorous persecution in their own land. In 1838 Pastor Kavel (the Moses who led his people to this Land of Promise) publicly said:—"On our arrival here (South Australia) we hailed this hospitable shore as a place of refuge to worship God without any disturbance of our conscience, and entertained (and do entertain) the hope to live and die here. We have found what we have been asking for, for many years—religious liberty." We deeply sympathize with our German brethren in this State, as they also can sympathize with us in the present crisis.

sympathize with us in the present crisis. Those who have been brought into contact with them have learned to esteem and to appreciate them. We take up our morning paper, and read of the slaughter of our own countrymen, and our hearts are sad. We also read of the slaughter of our German kinsmen, and again we feel depressed and saddened. We do not forget that every German, as well as every Briton, who falls upon the field of battle is probably the son of some sorrowing father and mother, the husband of some loving wife, the devoted parent of once happy children. The whole bitter experience reveals what a hellish thing war is. It makes one long for a change in the method of government, when the people themselves who have to fight, suffer, sacrifice, and die shall directly say whether there shall be war, and not an autocratic king, or a mischief-making oligarchy. I would like to assure Mr. Elkan that it is indeed a grief to me (and no doubt to the whole community, though I have no right to speak for them) that Britain and Germany should be at war with each other. At the last meeting of the Council of Churches, on the motion of Dr. Bevan, it was decided that a message to this effect should be sent to the Churches of Germany, which I hope will reach its destination.

Can we forget the debt of gratitude we owe to Germany in art, science, theology, and philosophy? Can we forget Martin Luther, Philip Melancthon, Frederick the Elector, Immanuel Kant, Johann G. Fichte, Christlieb, Luthardt, Tholuck, and a host of others, too numerous to mention? We think of the splendid work that Germany has done in the mission field. We, who are Methodists, especially remember that it was Peter Bohler who guided John Wesley into the way of peace, and that some of the finest—the richest—hymns in our hymnbook were written by saintly German mystics. This war is indeed a grief to us for Germany's sake, as well as for the sake of our own people. My own conviction is that, if the people of Germany had had to decide the question whether or not there should be war, they would have said:—"Let us have peace, happiness, and prosperity."

I am, Sir, &c., JOHN BLACKET.
Methodist Parsonage, Norwood.

Sir—I shall be grateful for your permission to answer Mr. Elkan's question publicly, even though he does not desire it. If the cases were parallel—if I had left England for Germany because the latter offered me liberties and privileges which my native land denied me; if in order to obtain those privileges I had become a German citizen—then, I would stick up for the land of my adoption through thick and thin. I would not accept the privileges of German citizenship without accepting also the duties and responsibilities, even though Germany did not compel me to carry out some of the responsibilities. If England threw down the gauge of battle to Germany, as Germany has done to England, I would stand by my adopted country in her time of need, and would fight for her. Mr. Elkan thinks that would be the act of a renegade. I should consider myself worse than a renegade if I became a German citizen for my own ends, and then, when Germany's national existence was threatened in the way that ours is today, stood apart and left to others the task of preserving the liberties which I was so willing to avail myself of as long as they cost me nothing. I will only add that I am proud to number among my friends more than one German-Australian whose views on this subject are not those of Mr. Elkan.

I am, Sir, &c., T. SCOTT.

Sir—The letters commenting upon the antagonistic attitude adopted by many Germans in this State are absolutely necessary to check the too tolerant feelings and expressions anent the "pity for our German neighbours." I have positive proof that some of them are simply biding their time, that their home talk is quite different from their outside town talk, and that all they fear now is that they may lose their property. They would cause us untold misery if an invasion occurred, and I consider that they should all be disarmed, and meanwhile refrain from singing their "Watch on the Rhine," and conduct themselves with all humility. As for ourselves, we should have some training in military tactics all over the State. The local school teachers should be placed in charge, and our men should one and all give up

some of their times of recreation and pleasure to attend drills and learn to handle the rifle. We are too easygoing. The response in money has been splendid. The speeches and resolutions have been glorious. The volunteering has been very good. But the older folk—the stay-here people—are not alive to the gravity of the situation. Certainly the greatest need for troops is on the Continent, but a few more mined British cruisers would let loose an avalanche which would be upon us as quickly as 23-knot vessels could come. We have positively earned this by our offensive doings (may there be more of them), and we must be ready to sell our lives for the hammering of a brutal foe. They say it is a Kaiser's war, but his men are fighting remarkably well for forced soldiers, and showing bitter hostility to England for a peaceloving people. I strongly suggest that school teachers should be relieved of some of their duties, so that they can take charge of squads of men on all possible occasions to give them a little drill, and there should be quite a boom in rifle-range construction. The present requisite number to form a club could surely be lessened with advantage to Australia as a whole.

I am, Sir, &c., RIFLEMAN.