

# WILL HYPHENS MUZZLE HUGHES?

*Professor Riethdorf, born in Germany, late of Woodstock College, of the Patriotic Speakers' League, would-be recruiting agent for the Canadian Army has been on another visit to the United States. He has been studying the political situation there—the complications of Hughes, Hyphens and Wilson, including the Irish-Americans. He claims that the Hyphens are out to defeat Wilson and to muzzle Hughes*

**P**RO-GERMANISM in the United States is getting stronger every day. There was a time when the Irish-Americans entertained a sympathetic neutrality toward Britain. That is all changed now to a large extent. To be sure, there are many Irish who still heartily favour the Allies, but close observation leads me to the conclusion that there are as many people of Irish descent or birth in the United States who pray for a victory of the Central Powers. On the one hand, this is due to the fact that many friends of the Allies have modified their animosity towards Germany since Mr. Wilson's victory in the submarine controversy. The Lusitania outrage no longer arouses them. It belongs to ancient history. Many a time I heard Americans other than Germans exclaim: "They are all crazy over there. They do not know what they are fighting for." American superficiality and indifference and ignorance never showed themselves in a worse light to me than during the last two months. More than once I exclaimed: "Canada for me—Canada has a soul!"

Furthermore, adroitly, the Pro-German propaganda is making much of the Irish Rebellion and Casement's execution, of the blacklist of the Allies and their interfering with the American mail. A regular campaign of misrepresentation and deception concerning these questions is under way, Americans are constantly being told of the outrageous insults they are enduring at the hands of the Allies, especially the British. The result is that the Kaiser camp attracts many Irish recruits in particular.

These people are taking lessons at the feet of the German-American Alliance, and consider Prussianism a sweet and innocent lamb. They believe that Prussia is fighting for freedom against "perfidious Albion." It is almost inconceivable to find highly educated Irish, even judges of the high courts, to

By F. V. RIETHDORF

whom history is a blank, who know nothing concerning Prussian militarism and diplomacy, to find these men apparently as ignorant as the Irish of limited education. Hatred against England has been fostered in their minds for generations. They live in the past. They take it for granted that the stories of Irish persecutions of a hundred or more years ago, however exaggerated and magnified, are true of the Ireland of to-day. Their Pro-German friends tell them that Roger Casement is a martyr and that Germany would never treat a man of his type as the British did. What nonsense! Supposing a Polish nobleman succeeded in bringing about an insurrection in German Poland at the present time with the help of a power at war with Germany, what would be the fate of such a man in case of capture? Without the formality of a trial he would face a firing squad within 24 hours. In my judgment, the arch-traitor Roger Casement has received more consideration at the hands of the British than any other government in the world would have accorded such a man, least of all the German government.

**T**HE question naturally arises: How will the Pro-German propaganda affect the presidential election and politics generally?

Theodore Roosevelt stands in the forefront to-day as the best-hated man in the United States, that is, best hated by the Pro-Prussian element. No man knows their aims better than the valiant Colonel. They therefore were bent on preventing Mr. Roosevelt from getting the Republican presidential nomination. Quietly the politicians of the Republican party were informed that they could count on the almost solid German vote, irrespective of party, if they

would only turn down Roosevelt. They were successful in their efforts.

The nomination of Charles G. Hughes was the result. The politician most responsible for that result was Governor Whitman, of New York, in whom the Pro-Germans place absolute trust. More than once he was highly praised editorially by the leading German democratic newspaper, the N. Y. Staats-Zeitung. To be sure, the pro-Germans have no illusions as to Mr. Hughes, especially since he congratulated Theodore Roosevelt on his powerful speech at Lewiston, Maine, which carried Maine back into the Republican column.

**H**AVING accomplished Roosevelt's defeat for the nomination, the pro-Germans are now determined to prevent the re-election of Mr. Wilson, though he is much less objectionable to them than Mr. Roosevelt. Knowing fully well that Mr. Hughes in the presidential chair will not do their bidding they are trying to tie his hands by electing congressmen irrespective of party opposed to a vigorous policy towards Germany.

In New York State, Tammany Hall gave the Democratic nomination to Judge Seabury, after satisfying itself that he is acceptable to the pro-German element. He was unopposed in the primaries of his party. On the Republican ticket Governor Whitman had a rival for the nomination. Thanks to strong pro-German support, Mr. Whitman defeated his rival. In the Republican fight for senatorial honours the pro-German vote gave the nomination to Mr. Calder, defeating Mr. Bacon, the Roosevelt-Roosevelt candidate, who favoured universal military service.

In my humble judgment, the election of Mr. Hughes is a foregone conclusion, and it is to be hoped that the American voters will defeat the purposes of their pro-German brethren and follow Roosevelt.

## FRENCH CANADA'S CRITICS AND ITS RECRUITING

**T**HERE seems to me to be an anti-French political movement developing in Ontario. Vicious attacks upon French Canada appear from time to time in certain Ontario newspapers; and other Ontario newspapers deem it necessary to send special commissioners to Quebec—as to a terra incognita—to explain the poor "habitant" to the critical people of Ontario. Nothing could be poorer patriotism—or poorer politics. The most superior Ontarioan does not dream that all his censoriousness and critical comment will obliterate the French-Canadian race or remove them bodily to another corner of the globe. They will remain in Canada. They will be here to live with, and do business with, and co-operate with in building up our nation, long after every present critic has joined their futile critics of the past in the silent grave. And the worst possible patriotism is to create ill-feeling between these two permanent Canadian races, or to say things and take steps which will make more difficult their complete and harmonious co-operation in creating the Greater Canada of the future.

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**S**OME of the men who are bitterest against "the French" are men who know better. For they are students of politics. There never has been a movement against "the French" in this country that has not ended in total ethnological failure and the crushing defeat of the ill-advised men who launched it. This battlefield of prejudice and passion is the graveyard of many a promising ambition. Yet—from the Ontario point of view—it often looks like a fair field. One George Brown once ploughed it with vigour, planted it with all the industry commonly shown by sowers of tares, and seemed for a time to reap a satisfying crop. He carried Upper Canada irresistibly. There was no standing against him in the Upper Canadian constituencies when he was slamming the French "habitant" and hierarchy with the convincing eloquence of which he was master. The Conservative party, led by the redoubtable Sir John Macdonald, was as chaff before the wind of his stout denunciations. He was so successful that he made the government of his country impossible, and compelled the creation of Confederation.

But did he win? His great antagonist—Sir John

By THE MONOCLE MAN

Macdonald—took the opposite line. He stood for tolerance toward the French-Canadian. He appealed to his fellow English-speaking Canadians in Upper Canada to "live and let live." He formed an alliance with French-Canadian leaders, like Sir George Cartier; and success crowned his banners. I do not mention this with the idea that success is an invariable proof of rightness; but merely as a hint to localized Ontario politicians who seem to imagine that, because it is always easy to stir the unthinking of one race or religion against another race or religion, they will tread the golden highway to political power by thus following this easy path of parochial and temporary popularity. They might consider, too, a somewhat similar battle between Meredith and Mowat in Ontario local politics when it was the Liberal leader who stood for toleration.

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**T**HE present is another period of easy and popular criticism of "the French." They are not enlisting in as great numbers as their English-speaking compatriots. We are in the midst of a great war when our righteous determination to win and destroy for all time the menace of Prussian Imperialism raises to furnace-heat our indignation against any class that hangs back from its high and obvious duty. Consequently, our patriotic instincts, our love of liberty, all the best that is in us, joins with less noble prejudices to condemn a people who not only enlist less commonly than the rest of us, but who also persist in speaking a language we do not understand, and in worshipping before altars of which many of us disapprove. It is very simple at such a time to raise a wave of feeling against "the French," and to base a political, office-seeking movement upon its strength.

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**B**UT is it good and far-seeing patriotism? Is it British? Is it the method by which Britain has built up and holds her Empire? The education of the French-Canadian has been all against his participation in an Empire war. Every time a French-Canadian enlists for this war, he fights his way free from an entangling mass of natal and hereditary

influences of which the average English-Canadian knows nothing. Yet thousands of them have enlisted and are fighting under the British flag. I think that, if true British statesmanship were handling the problem—this situation—it would give a generous measure of praise to the thousands who leap the barriers of their youthful environment, and go forth to die under the flag—and await with patience and in silence the slow processes of education, conducted by events, on those who have not yet gone. I do not want to repeat the arguments of M. Bourassa—a man lamentably responsible for much of the present unsatisfactory situation—but it is true that the English-speaking Canadian did not respond to the call of duty as promptly as did the British-born living in Canada; and for precisely the same reason that delays the French-Canadian:—i.e. the fact that his education was largely pacifist, and that he had no such hair-trigger appreciation of the duty of going to war as had any man trained in any European country. But events convinced him. Moreover, none of his leaders continued to preach the old, pusillanimous, pacifist doctrine. There was no English Bourassa. But we must remember that there was the pause when the "English sparrows" beat us all to the colors, and give our fellow Canadians of French origin time to adjust their old ideas to this new world with its blinding lights and its crashing cataclysms.

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**I**F we are going to make a success of our titanic task of building up a Greater Canada, we must search out and develop the best that is in the various ingredients from which we must compound our final whole, and not widen the gaps between our constituent races by insisting upon the differences, and pointing with rancour and sometimes with sinister motives to the deficiencies. We all have our deficiencies. If each Canadian race is going to feed its natural prejudices on a study of the deficiencies of the other, then good-by to the dream of a progressive and permanent Canada! It is seldom difficult—it is easy in a time of stress—to harden a solid Ontario against a solid Quebec, and a solid Quebec against a solid Ontario. But that is the way that nations are wrecked. If Switzerland were to pursue that policy, there would soon be no Switzerland—but a fortified frontier in the Bernese Alps.