

# VINDICATION OF BISHOP BUDKA

## FULL RECORD OF INVESTIGATION

(THE NORTHWEST REVIEW, DEC. 6, 1919)

Throughout the duration of the war, the Right Reverend Nicetas Budka, Bishop of the Diocese of Canada of the Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church, was the victim of periodic attacks which were given wide publicity by the press, more particularly in the Provinces of Manitoba and Ontario. As a rule, these attacks were inspired by members of a comparatively small group of Canadian Ukrainians, who, while remaining in the background, were enabled to obtain for their fabrications, all necessary publicity through the medium of credulous editors and scheming politicians. The attacks alleged disloyalty on the part of the Bishop; in reality, they were founded upon jealousy, religious prejudice and hatred on the part of those who prompted them. As a consequence of the wide publicity obtained, a very considerable number of Canadians arrived at the wholly erroneous conclusion that Bishop Budka was in reality, a disloyal citizen.

From time to time the defamatory accusations were answered and refuted by Bishop Budka himself, by The Catholic Truth Society of Manitoba, by the Knights of Columbus and by other organizations and individuals; enquiries made in the House of Commons received from the Government the reply that investigation had been made but no evidence to substantiate the accusations had been submitted. In spite of this, however, the general charge of disloyalty was repeated and continued to receive publicity.

In the Winnipeg press of April 25th last, appeared an announcement that the Great War Veterans, through their Association, were bringing every pressure to bear upon Ottawa to secure the deportation of Bishop Budka, that every constitutional step possible was being taken by said Association to get the Bishop back to Austria, and indignation was expressed at the alleged laxity of the authorities and intimation given that trouble would occur if action was not taken promptly.

On May 1st a large deputation of Great War Veterans waited upon Hon. T. C. Norris, Premier of Manitoba and made a demand for action leading to the deportation of Bishop Budka. The latter had then been absent from home for several days. Immediately upon his return he publicly announced his desire for a most searching investigation by a properly constituted authority, at the earliest possible date, in order that his conduct, his citizenship, his utterances and his writings during the past five years, should be most carefully enquired into. He stated his further desire that such investigation should be held in public and that an opportunity be given to all who had any complaint to make concerning him, to appear and be heard. He further announced that instructions had been given to his Counsel to endeavor to arrange for the holding of such investigation at once.