

Registered 15th September 1914

GERMAN AUSTRALIANS.

To the Editor.

Sir—I do not wish to continue the perusal of The Register any more, and I therefore release you of the balance of your contract. Please ask your runner not to leave it at my house for the future.

I am, Sir, &c., E. ELKAN.

[This request has been complied with, and the balance of unexpired subscription—1/2—has been sent to Mr. Elkan.—Ed.]

Sir—The excellent article in The Register of September 12, hits the nail on the head. Mr. Elkan, and any other indiscreet naturalized Britons, of his way of thinking, must realize that “they will not be permitted to be half-Britons and semi-foreigners.” It is quite time this all-important fact became clear to them. The fear is that there are many men who gladly enjoy the freedom and privileges which British rule affords, yet who, if their national flag were floating in the breeze, would turn upon their benefactors. Our German friends must understand that if their sympathies be with their Kaiser, they should at once go to him, and serve him. In any case they must not needlessly express disloyal views when the nation befriending them is demanding loyalty without dross—when, to live peacefully among peaceful people, particular care is necessary. I commend The Register leader to the notice of all. It is clear and distinct in its utterances, and all fair-minded German-Australians should see the wisdom and justice in it.

I am, Sir, &c., MEPH.

Sir—The article in The Register of Saturday on the attitude adopted by a German in Australia is not only logical, forceful, and right, but is opportune. If there is a solitary man in Australia who will not fight for us, turn him out; and confiscate all he owns, irrespective of the suffering which certain guiltless ones may have to endure. A policeman has to arrest his own father if his father does wrong, and if the wrong be serious enough it might mean the execution of that father; but the arrest must take place just the same. Would we tolerate a Judge who would not sentence his brother? If this war proves that a naturalization paper does not oblige a foreigner to swear to fight, if necessary, there must be an alteration in the oath of allegiance. Some of our own people are very shortsighted and too soft for war. I have offered myself as a sharpshooter if a force suddenly descends upon part of Australia. I am absolutely in that thousands in South Australia thank The Register for its straight-the-shoulder leader.

I am, Sir, &c., RIFLEMAN.

Sir—Kindly permit me, with reference to Mr. F. W. Lehmann's letter in The Register of September 12, to deny emphatically that I added in any way to his statements in my report, which was fair and impartial to the best of my belief, and was made from notes taken when the speech was delivered. Mr. Lehmann states:—"The Liberal Union ex-President, Secretary, and a few members of the Murray Bridge branch were on our trail at Summerfeldt, and made themselves conspicuous. They had brought along The Mount Barker Courier reporter, "hence his unfair report." It is true that I was taken out by the Liberal Union people, but why did not Mr. Lehmann say that I went out as The Daily Herald representative at the express invitation of Mr. J. Jenkin (President of the Murray Bridge branch of the United Labour Party) who asked me to go to Summerfeldt. I approached Mr. M. Parish, one of the selected candidates, and a speaker at the meeting, to take me out—a distance of 15 miles, but he said that he would be unable to do so, as he had to take several others out. I informed Mr. Jenkin, and he said, "But Mr. Smith, the Secretary, is not going; so you can have his seat." I again saw Mr. Parish, but he stated that there was no room. On learning that the Liberal Union Secretary was going out I approached him, and he courteously agreed to take me to the meeting. In regard to

the fairness or otherwise of the report. I need only state that Mr. Lehmann appears to have arrived at this opinion six days after the report appeared, and apparently not until some person pointed out how indiscreet he had been. Mr. Lehmann was in conversation with me on Saturday morning, when he asked me if I was coming along to vote, and again at night, when he made some jocular remarks. I spoke to him again on Sunday and on Tuesday, and he did not challenge the accuracy of my report. It was not until Thursday morning, when he bailed me up in an unseemly and undignified manner in the street to make his complaint. I have been at Murray Bridge eight months, have reported innumerable public meetings, and have never had the accuracy or impartiality of my reports challenged before. I leave the public to judge whether I reported Mr. Lehmann fairly or not.

I am, Sir, &c., G. R. HANDLEY.
Murray Bridge.

Sir—We, the undersigned, were at the Labour meeting at Summerfeldt referred to in Mr. Lehmann's letter in The Register, and we emphatically state that the report of Mr. Lehmann's remarks published in The Mount Barker Courier and The Register is a fair and impartial report of what he stated in regard to the war, and is certainly a more faithful account of what he said than his own interpretation in his letter in to-day's Register.

We are, Sir, &c., F. A. HEIN (Chairman of the meeting), O. JAENSCH, E. S. KUCHEL, H. B. KUCHEL.
Murray Bridge, September 12.

Sir—An English squire was approached by a farmer, who said:—"Your worship, my bull has gored your cow. What is to be done?" "Oh," said the squire, "of course, you will have to pay for the cow." "Your worship," said the farmer, "in my confusion I made a mistake. It was your bull that gored my cow." "Oh," said the squire, "that is quite another matter." I am reminded of this anecdote by some of your correspondents, who condemn Mr. Elkan's resolution not to fight against Germany, but say that if they were naturalized Germans they would not fight against England. Patriotism is of two kinds. One leads a man to sacrifice himself for his country. This is noble. The other leads him to glorify his country at the expense of others. This is simply egotism. It appears that most of those who condemn Mr. Elkan's courageous pronouncement are inspired by the latter kind of patriotism. Personally I think Mr. Elkan is quite right, and deserves praise for his courage. It would be monstrous to expect him, although a naturalized Briton, to fight against his native country. Only an inflamed patriot of an inferior order could blame him. I take this opportunity of protesting as strongly as I can against the sentiments expressed by a much-respected citizen at the A.N.A. meeting the other night. "Our country right or wrong!" This is abominable. It implies that there is no such thing in international affairs as regard for justice and honour. England, as I said at the same meeting, has not always been in the right. She has sometimes been atrociously in the wrong, as in the case of the opium war, and, probably, in the case of the Boer war. Your inflamed correspondents should read Galsworthy's "Moby." I note with amusement the cowardice of many of Mr. Elkan's critics, who yelp at him under the shelter of anonymity.

I am, Sir, &c., PARIS NESBIT.

Sir—I certainly think that a stop should be put to all disloyalty in our midst. The names of the persons concerned in it should be struck off their naturalization papers, and they should pay a £5 penalty yearly until they can prove their loyalty. They should not be allowed to hold property anywhere within the Commonwealth, and all children should be compelled to learn the English language in the public or private schools. If these conditions were enforced, we should soon know who was loyal and who was not.

I am, Sir, &c. AN OLD HAND.

[We have been overwhelmed with letters on this subject; but, as the correspondence has already accomplished its purpose, it is now closed.—Ed.]