

"Under the operation of State laws, a great many in the past four years have availed themselves of this ease of change to disguise their German blood and nationality by the adoption of surnames less suggestive of their origin. While we can fully sympathize with their desire in the matter, we maintain that a surname or patronymic is an unavoidable blood inheritance, and unless, in the eyes of the law, some very strong reason is given for its change, it should remain a permanent possession of the inheritor.

"Adequate legislation should be passed to correct the above referred to imperfections in the laws governing the changes of surnames in the various states of the Union."

If Ontario has as yet no legislation upon this subject, some of the above considerations may well be weighed in adopting a statute, if a general statute is deemed advisable. While space does not permit a consideration of the character of legislation best fitted to deal with the existing facts, it is submitted that the common law should be amended to make the assumption by any individual of a new name a misdemeanour. To require a special Act of the Legislature in each case of proposed change of name, would perhaps in the end be the most prudent method of meeting what may, without it, become a serious evil.

NEW YORK.

WM. SETON GORDON.

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This subject has received attention in England in connection with the Alien Restriction Bill as amended.

It is there provided that the name by which an alien was ordinarily known on the 4th Aug., 1914, is to continue to be that by which he is to be known, and no alien may for any purpose assume or use or continue the use of any other name. Another clause deals with aliens being members of partnerships or firms carrying on trade under names other than those in use before that date. In special circumstances and on special grounds the Secretary of State may grant exemptions from this, but he is not to do so unless satisfied that the new name is in the circumstances of the case a suitable one. This is not to apply to women assuming a husband's name, or names assumed in pursuance of Royal license, nor the continued use of a name by any person who assumed it