

Editorial

With this issue the *Quarterly* enters its eighth volume,—healthy, vigorous, and with a greatly increased circulation. During Volume 7 the magazine had a banner year in every respect; several technical changes in cover and set-up seem to have been worth while. The Editorial Committee takes this opportunity to thank all contributors, advertisers and anonymous helpers without whose assistance, both documentary and monetary, the *Quarterly* could not have flourished to the extent it did. With the continued interest and support the *Quarterly* has been getting from every member, our regimental magazine can look to an even better year in Volume 8.

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Since the outbreak of war, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have fingerprinted and registered enemy aliens; where expedient, have interned those who would undermine our internal solidarity; and in accordance with the Defence of Canada Regulations have confiscated firearms and explosives from aliens. Supplementing these and other protective measures, it is the duty of the public to be on the alert and to notify the police promptly of all reasonably suspicious incidents, but everyone is urged to refrain from conjuring up bogeymen out of wild rumours and untrue reports.

Recently the Right Honourable the Minister of Justice pointed out the folly of yielding to Fifth Column hysteria. Malicious falsehoods are often started by Nazi hirelings in order to engender an atmosphere of tension, distrust and fear, to distract official attention from essentials and weaken national morale. Rumours have a tendency to develop into statements of fact and people who pass along untrue or doubtful accounts of a disturbing nature are conforming to subversive aims by promoting defeatism. And thoughtful citizens will do well to confirm "scare stories," and note their origin before giving them credence.

Patriotic but often misinformed persons and organizations sometimes make a nuisance by allowing imagination to override common sense. They envisage a spy lurking behind every lamp post, fancy villainous and hidden motives behind the innocent acts of every foreign-looking stranger. A tall dark man with a Teutonic hair-cut blows his nose as he crosses a railway track. Horrors! That man's a spy! He's sending signals! Recollections of normally harmless events, second-hand gossip, a German or Italian sounding name—almost anything now assumes a sinister aspect to these alarmists who imperiously demand immediate and drastic action by the authorities.

Absurd, you say? No! Innumerable letters, phone calls, messages of every kind, have flooded police offices across the country with fantastic complaints regarding subversive activities. Hundreds of such complaints are received daily; too many to warrant individual enquiries and discretion must be exercised in weighing the significance of each. But nothing can be left to chance and frequently valuable time is lost in disproving vicious fabrications, time that would have been better devoted to pursuing serious investigations.