

The general result, therefore, is that, so far as any department of Government or executive officer is exercising any power given by a Defence of the Realm Regulations, such power will be lost on the day of the termination of the war. It follows that if such powers were exercised after that date the individual exercising them would be liable in a civil action for any infringement of rights, whether to person or property, that he might commit, whether wilfully or not.

It is difficult to exaggerate the far-reaching results of the above conclusion. It points clearly to the necessity for passing some special Act which shall enable some of these regulations to be continued.

#### PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE CROWN.

There is one power in particular which must be provided for. I refer to the power to *take* possession of land—a power which has been very freely exercised during the war. There is no express power to “keep” possession, but the committee are of opinion that the power to take implies a corresponding power to keep and use. As to property so taken which, in fact, exists in specie at the end of the war, there would be no legal right to detain it from the owner after the date of the termination of the war.

I have said enough to put forward the views of a number of lawyers on these difficult questions, and venture heartily to agree with them. In my opinion, persons concerned will be quite justified in shaping their various courses upon the basis that the law as above stated is the law of the land, and will remain so until varied by the Legislature.

#### THE PAST                      THE JURIES.

It was pointed out in these notes some time since that the services of our grand juries had been suspended during the war. The grand jury has for the time being disappeared; yet the country survives it, and there is no evidence that the administration of the criminal law has been in any way prejudiced. Indeed, the trial of persons charged with offences has been expedited by the abolition of what was really a useless, although picturesque, step in the proceedings. We no longer read in our papers “the