

## ALIENS IN CANADA.

The question of conscription, in so far as British subjects are concerned, having been settled by the passing of the Military Service Act, the treatment of aliens is the most pressing problem awaiting solution in Canada.

Aliens may be classified in three groups,—

- I. Enemy,
- II. Neutral,
- III. Friendly.

I. Enemy aliens are those born in Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and the Turkish Empire, residing in Canada and not naturalized.

II. Neutral aliens are those whose birthplace is Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Spain and certain South American states, and who have not become naturalized British subjects.

III. Friendly aliens are the un-naturalized subjects of France, Italy, Japan, Greece, Portugal, Serbia, Montenegro, Roumania, China, Brazil, and various other South American states.

Aliens of Russian birth are omitted from this classification, as they may be unfriendly or friendly, according to whether they hold Bolsheviki views or not.

I. An enemy alien is a menace to this country, however innocent he or she may appear to be. If this war has proved anything, it has demonstrated beyond possibility of doubt the truth of the old saying that "blood is thicker than water", and that however well a German or an Austrian may have been treated since he left his native land, and however he may have prospered (whether in the British Empire, the United States, or elsewhere), his nature is unchanged thereby. As a German officer once remarked, "You British will always be fools, and we Germans will never be gentlemen." He will always remain a consistently heavy feeder, unchivalrous and gross towards women, and brutal and over-bearing towards those whom he considers weaker than himself. We frequently hear people say,— "Oh, the Austrians are not as bad as the Germans, they have been misled," and nonsense of a similar character. These sapient individuals have probably never heard of Bosnia-Herzegovina, a European province which was stolen from Serbia by Austria not so very long ago. The account of the treatment of the hapless native women by the Austrian army of occupation would not make pleasant reading for "Knots

and Lashings", so will not be dwelt on further.

Aliens of enemy origin, if naturalized, come under the Military Service Act, and if un-naturalized should be conscripted and compelled to do work of national importance, such as farming, road-making, etc., under strict surveillance and for the same rate of pay as the Canadian soldier receives, i.e. \$1.10 per day. This would be much better treatment than British civilians have received and are receiving in the Central Empires today, but on the other hand would be more logical than allowing these gentry their freedom, and a daily wage of five dollars and upwards, as is being done in some parts of Canada at present, while British subjects man trenches and face death for the somewhat smaller remuneration of \$1.10.

II. Aliens hailing from neutral countries, who have come to Canada to improve their condition, or to escape military service, and who have not become British subjects are a favoured class and must be treated tenderly. Nearly two score soldiers of British origin may die in a week at St. Johns, or a few thousand Canadians may be killed and wounded in France or Flanders in one month, but not a single Swede or Dutchman living in Canada must be injured or even inconvenienced. "These things are not done in the higher circles." Shortly after the outbreak of war the writer asked a Swedish engineer living in Montreal how his country stood in regard to it. "To tell you the truth," he replied, "Sweden is not pro-Ally. Our army is officered by men who have been trained in Germany, and we hate Russia." Last year it was proved that the concrete "pill-boxes", which form a defensive zone behind the German front line trenches, were constructed of cement imported from Holland. These have caused the loss of many British soldiers, and the Imperial Government adopted a rather sharp tone towards the Netherlands, which resulted in putting a stop to a profitable traffic for Dutch neutrals. Similarly it has also been demonstrated that, before the entry of the United States into the war, the food supply of the Central Empires was largely augmented by foodstuffs exported in good faith by the great Anglo-Saxon Republic to various neutral countries, and by them transmitted to Germany.

An organization has been formed in Montreal by civilians over military age and by discharged soldiers



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