

attaches his signature. When the Hun broke the treaty with Belgium, he treated it as not binding.

Having regard to the learned opinion set out above, it is obvious that "the end of the war," in the statutory sense, is as yet very far removed. It has taken four-and-a-half years to get Europe into its present mess. How long must it take to draft a final agreement which shall so deal with the multifarious problems created by the war as to enable the treaty to be finally signed and exchanged?

STATUTORY RULES AND REGULATIONS.

But apart from the emergency and other statutes which are of temporary duration, one has to consider the regulations made under these Acts, and, in particular, under the Defence of the Realm Act. As to these, the same committee of lawyers says:—

In our opinion, the true construction of the section (they were referring to a section in the Defence of the Realm Act) is that the regulations so issued can operate only during the continuance of the war. The purpose expressed is for securing the public safety and the defence of the realm, which we think mean the public safety so far as threatened by our enemies in the present war and the defences of the realm against those enemies. The powers are given by reason of the national emergency, and vest the executive with an authority so wide that we think it must have been intended only to exist during the existence of the emergency. The provisions for the trial and punishment of offences against the regulations by Court Martial are not such as one would expect to remain in force after peace has been restored. This last consideration is obviously not affected by the provisions of the later Defence of the Realm (Amendment) Act, 1915 (5 Geo. V. c. 34). These considerations force us to the conclusion that regulations issued under s. 1 (1) cannot have any valid operation after the termination of the war.

They then add this:—

The provisions for the trial and punishment of offences against the regulations also cease to have any effect after the termination of the war. It follows that after that date no offence against the regulations could be punished as such, though committed during war, and proceedings against such offenders, though instituted during the war, would automatically pass on its termination.