

# R.N.W.M.P. START REGISTRATION OF ALIENS IN CANADA

## Inspector Jennings Takes Up Important Work—Great Influx of Germans

### MANY HUMOROUS INCIDENTS NOTED

## Mounted Police Will Round Up All Who Have Failed to Come Forward

The registration of German and Austro-Hungarian aliens was formally commenced this morning by Inspector Jennings, R.N.W.M.P., who has been appointed registrar for the Edmonton district. Despite the fact that the opening of the registrar's office had only been announced through the columns of English journals there was a steady influx of German citizens throughout the morning, and the inspector anticipates that the percentage of aliens who will come forward voluntarily will be very high.

The proceedings this morning were not without their humorous incidents, and also brought to light some of the methods by which non-English speaking aliens are utilized by political workers. Evidence in the latter direction was presented by a German who was quite certain that he had voted in at least one Canadian election and that he had later secured a homestead, despite the fact that he could not recall ever having been naturalized.

#### Served in German Army

Another stately native of the German Empire with the physique and bearing of a major general, announced his desire to register. He had been in Canada 18 months, was 42 years of age and had served in the Landstrum. The registrar endeavored to find out whether or not the applicant was liable for further military service. In response to questions the Teuton admitted that he had served in the artillery division, but added enigmatically that this service was now obsolete. The registrar asked for his military papers and when these were presented it was shown that the applicant had served in the artillery division as a tailor. Just how he evolved the idea that even clothing for the artillery service was now obsolete was not explained.

In the long string of applicants who waited upon Inspector Jennings this morning there was but a solitary Austrian.

#### Repudiate Fatherland

None of the aliens who appeared expressed the least desire to return to their native lands or to participate in the great conflict. Without exception they had all seen military service at home, but are now apparently quite content to remain away from the theatre of war. There was no hesitation about signing the undertakings not to leave Canada, nor to render any services to the enemies of the country. Most of the men, who ranged in age from 22 to 45 years, took their identification cards phlegmatically and promised to report on the 15th day of each month at the office of the city chief of police. A lone applicant announced a desire to leave Canada. He produced deeds to show that he owned a farm in the United States, and said that he would like to go to it in the spring. He will have to apply to the registrar for a permit to leave, before he attempts to cross the line.

#### 3,000 Aliens in District

It is estimated that there are 3,000 aliens in the Edmonton district who must register under the order-in-council. Registration is compulsory for all subjects of the German Empire, Austria-Hungary and Turkey, who are over 18 years of age.

The Edmonton district includes the city and all territory within a radius of 25 miles of the city. Aliens living outside this area, when in Edmonton, should make it a point to register. No alien affected by the order can become naturalized without having a certificate from the district registrar that he is a fit and proper person to be naturalized. No such alien can leave Canada without an exact (written permission) from the registrar nearest to his point of residence. The local offices for registration are located in the public market building on 101st street, and the office hours during which registration will be conducted will be from 9.30 in the morning until 6 in the afternoon. The offices will close at 1 o'clock Saturday afternoons.

#### Postmaster Will Assist

For the purpose of advertising the registration more widely copies of the order, printed in German and Austrian will be forwarded to all postmasters in the district and exhibited in the offices.

The fact is emphasized that aliens coming under the provisions of the proclamation calling for registration have nothing to fear and much to gain by offering themselves at the registration offices at the earliest possible time. They are asked simply to give an undertaking not to leave the country and not to render assistance to the country's enemies, and after registering and fulfilling these obligations will not be subjected to any interference. After a reasonable time has elapsed the services of the Mounted police will probably be utilized to round up those who do not come forward. They may look forward to being interned.