

## ALIEN RESIDENTS.

In times such as this patriotic citizens who cannot serve their country on the fighting line should at least be careful to scrupulously observe all regulations passed governing the conduct of the people of Canada during the period of the war. We have previously drawn attention to the Royal Proclamation dealing with the treatment of alien Germans and Austrians, but it seems necessary to again refer to this subject. It has come to our notice that a good deal of unwise talk has at times been indulged in by certain irresponsible persons, whose indiscreet and unwarrantable remarks are calculated to engender unnecessary hard feeling, and may possibly lead to consequences of a deplorable nature.

The proclamation states emphatically that all alien residents, natives of those countries with which the Empire is at war, must register their names and place themselves under police supervision. Having done this they must be accorded the full protection of the law, and are privileged to follow their usual occupations without molestation or interference. It may be taken for granted that the authorities are using every precaution against spies and alien enemies. If any person has reasonable grounds for suspicion against men of this class it is, of course, his duty to acquaint the proper officials with the facts. But he is defeating his own object by indulging—as we hear has too frequently been the case—in sweeping accusations and rather bloodthirsty threats in the bars and other public places of the city. Riots have before now been incited by these means. Men who hear that they are threatened may perhaps be excused if they in turn become so panic-stricken as to arm themselves against possible violence. We do not suppose that there is much danger of anything of this kind taking place in Vernon; but we have reason to know that the authorities have recently been subjected to a good deal of annoyance and uneasiness on this score.

It may save some unpleasantness if those who have been too careless in the past will realize that a Royal Proclamation is something that cannot safely be treated with contempt, and that those who are hereafter found guilty of acting in contravention to its admonitions may find their liberty summarily curtailed.