

GERMAN-CANADIANS

SEEK NATURALIZATION

Government Has Received a Large Number of Application Papers.

Special to The Star.

Ottawa, Ont., May 12.—Strangely enough, the bulk of the applications being received at the Secretary of State's office for naturalization under the new Imperial Naturalization Act are from Germans who have taken out Canadian naturalization papers previously. Evidently the applicants are anxious to get rid of the appellation, "German-Canadian," and to be classed as British subjects. For the present there is no inclination on the part of Parliament to grant original applications in the case of men of alien enemy origin, and it is expected that the applications will be held up for some time at least. The Lusitania horror has not increased the inclination to grant such applications.

So far the courts differ widely on the question of granting British naturalization to men of alien enemy origin. Chief Justice Meredith holds that the Act is in abeyance so far as the latter are concerned for the duration of the war. Chief Justice Archambault of Quebec holds a different view. He declares that by virtue of two proclamations dealing with people of alien enemy origin in the Act is enforced for those not registered or interned.

The first proclamation issued on August 15 grants the same rights to men of alien enemy origin who believe themselves, the same right as British subjects. The second proclamation, issued on October 28, declares that men who are registered or interned shall not have the right of naturalization. The implication the Chief Justice holds, those those not registered or interned shall have the right. Chief Justice Harvey of Alberta holds that the finding of the famous case of Lynch, who went over to the Boers in the South African war, and who was adjudged guilty of treason for having changed his nationality in time of war applies here. He declares that for Canada to naturalize Germans would be conniving at treason. These conflicting judgements cannot, of course, weigh with the department. Still, in view of present circumstances, no applicants of alien enemy origin will have their application concurred in.

The certificates are not yet prepared, and only a limited number of applications have been granted. These are men who desire to travel. In their case temporary certificates are granted.