

ALIENS AND LICENSES

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir:—I notice that the License commissioners have received an anonymous letter drawing attention to the fact that an alien is applying for an hotel license, but being anonymous they threw it out. Why?

Doubtless the writer of the letter in question (like myself) is of opinion that there is no reason, because he happens to draw attention to an obvious and advertised fact that the finger of every hostile alien in the city should be pointed at him. I, too, do not sign this letter, trusting that you will appreciate my reasons, and out of your generosity under existing conditions publish it in the public welfare.

Under normal conditions the commissioners' contention might hold good, but we are not living in normal times, and therefore rules, when possible public safety is concerned, should be relaxed. In England today, Germans although naturalized, are being segregated, not granted hotel licenses. Possession of naturalization papers or "mere scraps of paper" should not be considered sufficient qualification in these days. "Scraps of paper" are valueless, there is no market.

Judging by the press report there was no libel, no underhand charge, the letter merely raises a question of fact, viz., Are Germans or Austrians applying for licenses or are they not? If they are, then is it

desirable or expedient to grant same? I say no, emphatically "no," and I think all loyal citizens will agree with me.

Our authorities should as a matter of course protect us from such scandals, not wait for attention to be called by individual citizens.

Transpose the cities and nationalities and ask (A) would an Englishman in Berlin be granted a license or any privilege?

(B) Would it be needful to call official attention to the application?

I answer "no." German officials would turn down the application of any alien enemy whether naturalized or not.

Where is our consistency? In our midst the flower of our youth is being trained to become soldiers to go across the seas to kill Germans in the defence of our empire, and daily we are receiving heart rending lists of names of those who will never return. Yet right here we not only harbor the German and Austrian, but actually propose giving him official license to run an hotel which may easily become a rendezvous for all the disgruntled and also the dangerous alien element in the city.

Hoping this appeal will not be made in vain, I am sir, yours obediently,

A WINNIPEG CITIZEN.