

# PARLIAMENT AWAKENING TO PERIL OF ALIEN ENEMY

Discussion of Germans in the Ottawa Civil Service in the Commons  
—Hazen Defends His Secretary, But Does Not Give  
Him Access to Confidential Correspondence.

## Special to The Star.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 11.—There are signs that Ottawa is waking up from the attitude of trustfulness and benevolence which, since the war broke out, it has maintained toward "our friend, the alien enemy." The loss of the Parliament Buildings, whether the work of incendiaries or not, has stirred officialdom as it was not stirred before.

The publications in The Star on Wednesday of a list of Germans holding prominent positions of trust in the civil service of Canada at Ottawa created a very considerable sensation both inside and outside of Parliament. The despatch was immediately telegraphed back to Ottawa papers, which played it up with great prominence, and it was then telegraphed to papers all over the continent. Civil servants of British origin are indignant that such a condition of affairs should continue to exist, especially under present circumstances. The Ottawa Free Press has the following to say on the question:

"We have no reason to believe that the Germans holding high offices in this country are unfriendly towards Canada. But they have less reason to be friendly toward us than had the Germans who carried out the propaganda of plots in the United States reason to be friendly to that country. And the United States had no reason to distrust the Germans there until the evidence was unearthed. We have seen how far other Germans could be trusted. Why should we trust the apparently innocent Germans holding high office in Canada? We do not need to accuse them of the treachery. We do not have to hold them guilty when we have no knowledge that they are. But should we continue to give them opportunity? We do not wish to unjustly insult them, but could they reasonably take it as an insult, be they ever so innocent, if we took reasonable precautions for our own safety, since they know that we know what Germans in every other part of the world are and have been doing?"

## Discussed in House.

The question intruded itself upon the House early in the afternoon; Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of Marine and Naval Affairs, rose on a question of privilege to defend his secretary, G. Heidmann. He declared that Mr. Heidmann was only a child in arms when he came with his parents from

Germany. They had been dissatisfied with their country, and had come to Canada to make a home. The fact that Mr. Heidmann had not been naturalized until recently was due to a misunderstanding in connection with the certificate which his father had secured years ago. Mr. Heidmann was a faithful and trustworthy employe, but it was not true that he had access to confidential documents and correspondence. "I feel," said the Minister of Marine, "that a cruel injustice has been done to Mr. Heidmann. Mr. Heidmann also sent to the Ottawa Journal a long letter (reproduced in yesterday's Star) explaining his position in detail.

General Sir Sam Hughes also rose to defend his chief intelligence officer, Captain Hahn. To-day, he modified his statement concerning him by saying that he was not a German, but a German-Canadian.

Dr. Pugsley declared that Mr. Hazen should not be too censorious of the people of the press. It was better that these matters should be discussed and frank statements made. Such explanations would tend to lessen anxiety.

## Instances of Espionage.

Before the afternoon was through some concrete instances of too great trustfulness on the part of the Dominion authorities were provided by E. M. MacDonald, of Pictou, and Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux. Mr. MacDonald declared that he had no doubt that several Germans had enlisted with the Canadian troops. It was stated that the Germans were wonderfully well informed of movements in the Canadian lines. Mr. MacDonald instanced a case of a man in Nova Scotia who had disappeared for a short time after the war broke out. He returned but the police said that he was a perfectly harmless individual. Later he was arrested and managed to escape from incarceration.

Mr. Lemieux stated that German spies had watched the work of Canadian submarines at Murray Bay.

## The Premier's View.

Premier Borden declared that the orders concerning alien enemies were along the lines of justice and common sense, and were so administered. These men had been encouraged to come to Canada, and it was unfair that they should be treated harshly so long as they behave themselves.

Nobody in the House rose to defend the positions of Messrs. Kastela, Haanel, or Gussow.

The cancellation of the engagement of the Damrosch orchestra is undoubtedly due to the crystallization of public feeling at the capital following the disastrous fire on the hill.