

## THE RIGHT TO INTERN BRITISH SUBJECTS.

The Journal has from the first contended that where there is at all a reasonable suspicion that a person of German ancestry was acting in a manner that was liable to hurt the Allied cause he should be interned and that this should apply to those who are naturalized as well as to those who are not. To make it necessary to prefer a charge of sedition against a naturalized person would mean that many dangerous persons would not be interfered with.

We have had experience here, as elsewhere in the Dominion, with many such, against whom a sedition charge probably could not be proved. Allowing them to remain at liberty has created much uneasiness and has brought about agitations against all people of German birth or ancestry which have been most unjust.

By leaving those alone who have not conducted themselves properly we have involved in real hardships those whose conduct has been exemplary in all respects. It is these well-behaved German-Canadians who had the most reason to find fault with the leniency shown the other class. These are views which have been stated over and over again on this page, but as often as they appeared, they have been met with the contention that it was impossible to take the course suggested with naturalized citizens.

It didn't seem reasonable that the authorities should be denied such powers in war-time. But the point has now been settled by a decision made in the English High Court of Justice, a report of which appears in the London papers now arriving here.

Arthur Zadig, a naturalized citizen, was interned. He took proceedings and the internment camp commandant was called on to show cause why a writ of habeas corpus should not have directed to him to bring up the body of the applicant. Zadig was interned under a regulation made in accordance with a Defence of the Realm act passed in November, 1914. Various arguments, based on the inherent rights of the subject were offered by Zadig's counsel, but the Lord Chief Justice, with all his associates assenting, held that all these considerations should, and were deemed to be, incidental to that of securing the national safety. Accordingly the full right to intern British subjects was upheld.