

Enemy Aliens and the Authorities

It should not be necessary for municipal councils or public meetings to pass resolutions denouncing the practice of employing enemy aliens in munitions plants. Nor should it be necessary for newspapers to expose and denounce the employment of these men in these places. Unless the country is drifting through the war entirely uncontrolled, with all lights out and the engines idle, such matters as the whereabouts and present employment of all **enemy aliens** is being carefully looked after.

If **enemy aliens** are, in large numbers, working in munitions plants, the Government is responsible, and it must be assumed that the Government knows all about it and accepts the risks of permitting it. It is not an affair in which the general public can be held responsible; the Munitions Board, being an Imperial body, has no authority in such matters in Canada; every citizen assumes, therefore, that the Government is taking every necessary precaution. If this is being done, official assurance to that effect would be timely.

The raiding by a crowd of soldiers of any place where an offensive alien is supposed to be employed is bad business. But unless there is law, there is bound to be lawlessness. The authorities should not overlook enemy aliens. If a returned soldier is, because of his uniform, flouted by a foreigner, it should be possible for him to report the fact in a quarter where it would receive attention and the offender and his employer be quickly checked up. It would be better for the authorities to provide facilities for handling complaints, and to provide also the zeal to handle complaints efficiently, than allow mob law to seek justice by those crude methods which injure alike the just and the unjust.