

are thoroughly worthy. Recognition of that fact will make for harmony and for the loyalty and true national feeling which a Government should make easy rather than difficult."

Had the Government at the outbreak of the war ruled that enemy aliens, no matter for what cause, must remain alien enemies till the end of hostilities the men for whom Mr. Euler speaks would have had no ground of complaint. But the Government has been granting naturalization to enemy aliens who were admittedly German subjects at the outbreak of war, and has voluntarily provided machinery for the very class of cases that in Kitchener and elsewhere are of exceptional hardship. Why was the order in Council promulgated if there was no intention of permitting naturalization under its provisions? Men long resident in Canada who are for Britain and democracy, and against Germany and militarism, and desire that there shall be no doubt as to their attitude, may well feel aggrieved that the Government, after making provisions for clearing up any doubt, now fails to carry out the law.

There is, of course, every reason to make sure that only men who are Canadian in heart shall be permitted to become beyond doubt Canadian in name also. There are people in Kitchener who should have been interned when the war began as dangerous alien enemies. The following from The Orillia Packet of September 26 shows how one of these German-plated Canadians repaid the leniency shown him:

"A letter from an Orillia soldier in France tells of a strange experience that Quinn Butterfield had during the recent drive. A party of Germans were being marched to the cages past the 40th Battery, when Quinn was surprised to hear one of them call, 'Hello, Butter! How's hockey?' Looking more closely he recognized a member of the Berlin hockey team whom he knew well. The renegade had a broad grin on his face, but got no very friendly reply to his greeting. Another of the prisoners came from Chicago, and spoke English fluently. It is evident that some of our hyphenated citizens have succeeded in getting 'home' since the war began."

Men who desire to have any cloud upon their citizenship removed, and especially men whose sons are battling for freedom with their fellow-Canadians, ought not to be treated unjustly because there are some renegades and traitors among the foreign-born residents of Canada or their children.

A PROBLEM OF CITIZENSHIP.

The Privy Council of Canada in September, 1917, passed an order providing for the naturalization of persons of alien enemy origin in these terms:

"The Minister observes further that many persons of alien enemy origin who came to Canada many years ago, during infancy, and have grown up believing themselves to be British subjects, now that questions of nationality are being carefully scrutinized, find it impossible to show that they have become British subjects, although they have voted and held municipal positions for many years. Many others believe that they became British subjects through the naturalization of their parents, but they are unable to prove it, because the records are not available."

There are in Kitchener not a few citizens—some of them residents of almost fifty years' standing—whose sons or grandsons are serving with the Canadian forces in France, but who find it impossible to show that they have become British subjects, although during the term of their residence in Canada they have regarded themselves as such and exercised from time to time all the rights and privileges of citizens. Some ninety of these men have taken all the necessary steps to secure naturalization under terms of the order of the Privy Council. Their names were forwarded to Ottawa some time ago through Crown Attorney Bowlby. The Secretary of State has taken no action on the application, and his failure to do so prompted Mr. W. D. Euler, M.P., to make the following plea to the State Department: "I would like to ask, on behalf of these men, careful reconsideration. They are in a most unfortunate position through no fault of their own. To-day, with the loyal desire to be technically as well as morally citizens of Canada, they have no country and no legal claim to the protection which citizenship ought to provide. Let the Government make all diligent investigation before granting naturalization and they will find that the large majority of these men