

TREATMENT OF ALIENS

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir:—Have read with interest a number of letters in your paper on the alien enemy question, and as our government, sooner or later, must face this problem, a word from me may not be out of place.

We have all heard of the guilt of the Central Powers, and how that Germany must pay to the full limit of her power. To this, all good citizens agree, and the question I would like to ask is, if the people of Germany are to be burdened for decades to come to pay off their war debt and as much of ours as they are able to pay, would it not be quite as fair to make the disloyal Germans and Austrians living in Canada pay to the full limit of their power also? Few of these people brought money to this country. Today many are well off, and while being willing to partake of the prosperity of the country have proved, in many cases, to be enemies of the land which gave them shelter. Farmers and other employers of labor know only too well, how many of these fellows have acted during the past few years of the war.

Today we have in our midst, as a result of the war, widows, fatherless children and disabled soldiers by the thousands, many of whom are suffering from the murderous use of gas, and could not the government expropriate a great deal of the property held by the aliens who are disloyal, and the proceeds of sale of said property be used as a relief fund for those who have suffered through the effects of the war. The burdens of the loyal citizens would be lessened considerably by some such plan. Of course, judging by the loud protests from certain quarters, there is not and never has been any unpatriotic people in Canada. These protests are being taken for what they are worth as the average criminal never admits his guilt. I do not mean to say that every man who has come from Germany or Austria is disloyal and to show that they are not all the same I will cite you two cases, both born in Germany, but naturalized British subjects for many years, and living in Canada. The one stated publicly on more than one occasion that after the invasion of Belgium he felt ashamed any longer to call himself a German, and I don't think any better proof of his sincerity is required than to know that his only son enlisted, went away with the first contingent, and in all probability is either killed or wounded long before this. The other has never condemned anything the Germans did, but on every occasion as far as he dared has tried to uphold their actions and place the entire blame on the side of the Allies, and the only punishment he has received so far is to have to report occasionally. Do you think these two men deserve the same treatment, I don't.

One writer has stated that many of them are here because the immigration agents painted the country in too glowing colors. Agents of all kinds are inclined to present the bright side, and the average Britisher who has come to this country has as much to complain of in that

respect. Another argument advanced is that they do all our dirty work, but I would like to know what other kind of work a great many of these people could do. In conclusion I may state that I don't believe it is anybody's intention to do an injustice to any of those people who have behaved themselves according to the way they have been expected to behave, but the guilty ones should be singled out and a just punishment given them. Thanking you, I am,

Yours Truly

BRITISHER.