

WILL CONFISCATE GERMAN HOLDINGS

Government May Take Over Vast Personal Holdings in Canada of the German Emperor.

Ottawa, Aug. 24.—The government is looking into the question of the possible confiscation of German investments belonging to combatants in the present war, which have been made in Canada and which aggregate tens of millions of dollars.

It will be remembered that some two years ago a story emanating from Berlin was published to the effect that the Kaiser William himself had invested very largely in British Columbia timber and mining propositions. His agent in Canada was Baron Alvo Von Alvensleben. It is stated that the latter invested German capital in British Columbia timber limits to the extent of twenty-nine million dollars. No confirmation of this is available from the Dominion department of interior today, but officials are now looking up the matter.

Under the regulations of the department no lease can be granted excepting in the name of a British subject, and legally there may be some difficulty in the way of confiscation. But if it is shown that the investments are really those of German combatants in the present war steps will probably be taken to claim the property for the crown. This will, of course, apply to many other undertakings in Canada in which German capital is involved. The question is being looked up by the justice department as to the rights of the crown in such instances.

It may be that part of Canada's war budget may be financed by the simple process of confiscating German money now in Canada. That has already been done in Germany in the case of British investments there. The cancellation of German and Austrian patents held in Canada is also another likely step.