

# DO NOT HAVE NO FEARS IF THEY ABIDE LAW

## Government Issues Reassuring Statement to Germans and Austrians in Canada

Ottawa, Sept. 2.—The assurance to persons of Germany and Austro-Hungary that so long as they respect the laws of the country they will not be interfered with is repeated in an official statement issued this afternoon by the government. It is as follows:

It has come to the attention of the government that many persons of German and Austro-Hungarian nationality who are residents of Canada are apprehensive of their safety at the present time.

In particular, the suggestion seems to be that they fear some action on the part of the government which might deprive them of their freedom to hold property or to carry on business. These apprehensions, if they exist, are quite unfounded. The policy of the government is embodied in a proclamation published in the Canada Gazette on August 14. In accordance with this proclamation restrictive measures will be taken only in cases where officers, soldiers or reservists of the German Empire or of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy attempt to leave Canada, or where subjects of such nationalities engage or attempt to engage in espionage or acts of a hostile nature or to give information to or otherwise assist the King's enemies. Even where persons are arrested or detained on the grounds indicated, they may be released on signing an undertaking to abstain from acts injurious to the Dominion or the empire."

The proclamation after stating that there are many persons of German and Austro-Hungarian nationality quietly pursuing their usual avocations in various parts of the Dominion and it is desirable that such persons should be allowed to continue in such avocations without interruption," directs as follows:

"That all persons in Canada of German or Austro-Hungarian nationality, so long as they quietly pursue their ordinary avocation, be allowed to continue to enjoy the protection of the law and be accorded the respect and consideration to peaceful and law abiding citizens; and that they be not arrested, detained or interfered with, unless there is reasonable ground to believe that they are engaged in espionage, or engaged or attempting to engage in acts of a hostile nature, or are giving or attempting to give information to the enemy, or unless they otherwise contravene any law, order-in-council, or proclamation. Thus all such persons so long as they respect the law are entitled to its protection and have nothing to fear."