

The orders-in-council requiring the registration of all residents in Canada owing allegiance to countries with which we are at war, it is to be hoped, will be clearly understood. It affects only a very limited class, and that class, as a whole, will experience from it more benefit than inconvenience.

It is, of course, needless to say—though, because of the exceptional circumstances, we have taken every opportunity to reiterate—that the German element so numerous in the heart of western Ontario is as thoroughly British as any other. If proof of this were needed, it would be found in its munificent offerings to the Patriotic fund and its noble contributions of men to the forces going to the front.

In the western provinces the situation is somewhat different. The immigration has been more recent. Germans and Austrians have come straight from Europe to western Canada, and are comparatively unacquainted with British institutions. Many of them have become citizens, and are pursuing their business in a quiet way, not expressing sentiments at variance with those proper to their new status. If they are citizens at all, the order-in-council does not apply to them.

But there are thousands of Germans and Austrians who have not yet become citizens, and who because of old associations may naturally desire the success of Germany rather than of the allies in the present war. Many of these have been struck by the industrial depression, and are out of employment. They are regarded with suspicion, and find that employers prefer Canadians or men of British birth. While it is very hard for these aliens to get employment in Canada, they are hindered from going out of the country, because of the possibility that they may as reservists go back to Germany or Austria, and strengthen the armies with which we have to contend. If they are innocent of any hostile intention, their plight is a hard one. If they are enemies only seeking an opportunity to take the field against us, or if they are spies, they must be placed where they can do no harm. What is to be done? The order-in-council meets the difficulty at every point. All aliens of Austrian or German nationality must be registered at certain places. Those who satisfy the authorities of their good intentions will be allowed to pursue their avocations without molestation, but those who, upon registration, fail to satisfy the registrars as to the propriety of their presence and actions in Canada, are to be held as prisoners of war by the military authorities. Such Germans and Austrians as are shown to be without the means of providing themselves with a livelihood are to be taken in charge, their dependents, if desired, remaining with them. These will be provided with food, and will likely be put at such work as will not interfere with the legitimate opportunity for employment of ordinary labor in Canada. At the same time, permits will be granted those of alien enemy nationality to become subjects. Where circumstances allow, permission will be given to those to leave the country whose departure will not assist the countries with which we are at war.

Certain German newspapers in western Canada, since the outbreak of the war, have contained strongly pro-German articles, and the militia department has warned the publishers that if they would not have their papers suspended they must cease printing such matter. Care is also to be taken, we understand, regarding the admission into Canada of German papers like the *Staats-Zeitung* of New York, whose publisher, Herman Ridder, is in league with Prof. Munsterberg and Count Von Bernstorff.

From the *Winnipeg Telegram* we learn that pro-German talk has been allowed altogether too free rein in the west. "At *Rainy River*," it says, "a school teacher is openly teaching Canadian boys and girls that Germany is right in this war. At *Wawanesa*, a prominent man is openly proclaiming the virtues of the German government, and actually boasting that he expects and hopes Germany will be the official language of Canada in the near future. In *Winnipeg* a minister occupying the pulpit of an influential church does not hesitate to express his pro-German sentiments, and his disloyal attitude has not even the poor excuse that he was born in Germany. He was merely educated there." How long would Britons be permitted to trumpet the cause of the allies in Germany?

Germans who go quietly about their business, even if they are not British subjects, and if they are very naturally attached to the land of their origin, will be treated with the utmost respect so long as they comport themselves with due decorum. But we must not warm vipers who will sting us when they can.