

ALIENS IN THE COURTS.

Parliament Likely To Enact Legislation At Coming Session.

Special to The Star.

Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 27.—The status in Canadian courts of alien enemies resident in the Dominion may be the subject of legislation at the approaching session of Parliament.

Since the outbreak of the war special judicial decisions have been rendered with regard to the rights of alien enemies resident in Canada. In a number of cases the defence has been set up that being alien enemies in Canada they are incapacitated from enforcing any rights in Canadian courts. But Justice Hodgins, of Toronto, and other judges have ruled that all persons in Canada of German or Austro-Hungarian nationality should be allowed to enjoy the protection of the law, so long as they quietly pursue their ordinary avocations and do not engage in espionage or acts of a hostile nature. The question of the rights of an alien enemy has not, except in a few isolated cases, been dealt with in the courts since Napoleonic and Crimean days, so that the need of Parliamentary action to definitely settle the matter is believed in official circles to be pressing.