

ALIEN HAS EQUAL RIGHTS WITH ALL BRITISH CITIZENS

Judge Taylor Gives Decision in Case of Austrian Against C.P.R.

An alien so long as he is well-behaved and law-abiding has equal rights with a British subject in a British law court. This was held to be the case in Judge Crawford's court when an Austrian, who had not become naturalized sued the C.P.R. for damages for injuries received while loading rails for the company near Wetaskiwin. The company claimed that being an alien the plaintiff had no rights in the Canadian courts and they further pleaded that since coming out of the hospital, he had signed a document settling his claim for \$45. At the time of the accident which was of a very serious nature the man was earning \$15 per week. The accident occurred last April and the plaintiff was still unable to work.

In giving judgment in favor of the alien his honor said that similar judgments had been entered in Manitoba and British Columbia, which held that under the order-in-council passed last August alien enemies who were engaged in lawful avocations and were peaceable citizens were entitled to the same treatment in the courts as British subjects. His honor gave judgment for half pay from the time of the accident until the present date and \$4 per week until the plaintiff was fully recovered. As to the document signed by the plaintiff agreeing to accept \$45, his honor held that he did not know what he was signing and could not be bound by it.