

VICTORIA'S DEFENCE.

In discussing the recent anti-German riots in Victoria the editor of *The Week* places the blame squarely on the shoulders of the military authorities at Ottawa.

After reviewing the conduct of Alvo von Alvensleben and other British Columbia Germans since the outbreak of the war he declares the authorities refused to take any action toward interning these men but allowed them to escape to the States. He instances a number of Germans by name and enumerates their offences against the British flag in detail. He asserts that the immediate cause of the riots was the conduct of a man named Kostenbader, a German by birth and a naturalized Canadian, who flaunted the German flag on the Saturday when the rioting commenced. This man, he declares, was not arrested even then but was allowed to get across the border.

"Without going further, and much more might be said," he continues, "is it any wonder in the face of these incidents alone that the supineness of the authorities led our citizens to feel that the time had come for them to take matters into their own hands? At any rate these are among the chief reasons why they did so. It is not for *The Week* to apportion the individual blame for such regrettable neglect, it rests with the Militia Department of the Dominion Government, who are responsible for all such matters. Possibly their local officers are a little lacking in initiative, but the responsibility must be traced to a higher source."

This is a clear-cut assertion and may draw a categorical reply from Ottawa. If it leads to a more thorough investigation into the activities of alien enemies on this coast generally it will be well worth while.