

# SAFER FOR ALIEN ENEMIES TO BE TREATED AS ENEMIES

**Mr. Bonar Law, Supporting Internment Measure, Indicates Reasons**

**WANT NO NEUTRALS  
IN GREAT BRITAIN**

**Those Not for Us Must be Regarded as Being Against Us**

**BY W. A. WILLISON**

**Staff Correspondent of The Daily News in Great Britain.**

London, May 14.—The alien exodus has begun. Numerous Germans and Austrians have voluntarily given themselves up. At all the London police stations this morning the police were paraded and received their instructions for carrying out the Government's internment order. Tottenham Court Road Station was particularly busy as the noon hour approached. Luggage of all descriptions was piled in the parade ground. Four clerks at hastily improvised desks were working feverishly taking the names of the surrendering men. Parties of aliens arrived in taxis, furniture vans and cabs, loaded with luggage. Others came on foot, also heavily laden. Like scenes were enacted in other parts of the city. The great movement will continue for some time. There are thousands of alien enemies in London who to date have carried on their businesses undisturbed. Undisturbed, that is, until the last few days when public opinion, maddened by the loss of the Lusitania and the "gassing" of brave men at the front, has taken matters in its own hands and mobs have wrecked many a German establishment. There was little wrecking yesterday. The rain poured down in torrents all day. But this afternoon there were a few disturbances, showing that the anger of the people is not yet appeased.

**Won Unionist Support.**

The order of the Government has at last gone forth for the internment of all alien enemies. In the House of Commons yesterday Mr. Asquith introduced the question in a speech which won the applause of the house. In supporting his proposals, Mr. Bonar Law said: "I heartily welcome the statement which the right hon. gentleman has just made. It is quite evident that the country is thoroughly aroused on this question and is liable to get out of hand. After what had happened—of which we have further evidence in the reports which appear to-day—nobody can be surprised, and I think I may say further that however much we deplore, and every one does deplore, outbreaks like those that have taken place, however strongly we feel that they are contrary to the whole instincts of this country, and however strongly we feel also that the Government and the House of Commons—as far as they can—should prevent such outbreaks, yet I cannot say that it is with regret that I see this evidence

of the feeling of the country, however deplorable the manifestation of it may be, for it shows that we as a nation are now realizing that this is not a war between armies, but a war between nations and that every individual, whether civilian or not, has got to throw his weight into the scale.

**A Definite, Reliable Policy.**

"Nobody wishes to impose unnecessary hardship on innocent people, and the arrangement which the right hon. gentleman has proposed of a committee the names of the members of which are not given, but which, I feel sure, will command the confidence of the House, will satisfy us that a definite, reliable policy is being carried out. Nobody will desire to see interned anybody who could safely be left at large in this country; but that does not end the subject. There are also Germans who are British citizens. I would be the last to suggest that British citizenship having been given should count for nothing. Therefore, the presumption which the right hon. gentleman sets up seems to me the right one. Indeed, I do not think there is anyone in this House who would suggest that every one of German origin should be interned. I know myself more than one case where men born in Germany have sons fighting for us in our army. Nothing could be more intolerably unjust than that men of that kind should be interned when, perhaps, their own sons have fallen in the war fighting on our side. We all feel that.

**Can be no Neutrals.**

"On the other hand, at a time like this, there can be no neutrals in Great Britain. Every one who is not for us is against us and I believe it is the case that under German law a man may take British naturalization papers without losing his German nationality. I actually read a statement in the Reichstag pointing out as a reason for the particular Bill which authorizes this, that men, for instance, could not join our Stock Exchange unless they became British subjects. Obviously, that being the case, many men must or may have become British subjects purely for that reason and have not changed their feelings, and are as strongly in sympathy with Germany as if they had spent their lives there. They are a danger to this nation, and I say that in my opinion the higher the position they occupy and the greater their wealth and influence the more power, if they have the will, they have to injure us. Therefore, if there is any class which should be closely regarded it is precisely that class of German citizens in our midst. The proposal which the Prime Minister has made for dealing with these seems to me a good one—at least, I cannot think of a better. It seems to me far better than to make a hard-and-fast rule that every one who has not been naturalized for five years, for instance, should be interned. It enables cases of this kind to be dealt with upon their merits, and while nobody wishes to act unjustly we do wish to feel that this danger is being guarded against and that the Government are taking adequate steps to meet it.