

TO SOME LETTER- WRITERS

The Journal has received a great many letters dealing with the Liquor Act which it is unable to publish. Its space would be insufficient for a tenth of these, and so, to be fair to all, it has had to put all aside.

There are also numerous letters regarding the employment of Germans and Austrians, in which many alleged grievances are set forth. No good can come from publishing them. The position of the alien enemy living in Canada was clearly defined at the outbreak of war by government proclamation. So long as he behaved himself he was assured protection in his ordinary occupation, and it is not fair to make a general attack upon him or his employers.

Others go further and deny the right of employment to naturalized Germans and Austrians. This is more unfair still. Naturalization is not sufficient to free from surveillance those whose actions have given reasonable ground for suspicion, but to attempt to deprive of their means of livelihood those who are of German origin, regardless of their conduct, is quite out of keeping with British ideas.

There are undoubtedly dangerous people in our midst. When in the early stages of the war The Journal called attention to what some of them were doing and demanded that they should be suppressed many of the very men who are now all excitement thought that we were unnecessarily alarmed and accused us of stirring up ill-feeling against Germans as a race. There was no such intention. The Journal wished to have German citizens, whether naturalized or unnaturalized, judged as individuals then, and there is no occasion for judging them otherwise now.