

ALIEN REGISTRATION OFFICES IN SEVEN CITIES ARE CLOSED

Registrars Have No Further Duties to Discharge—Natu- ralization Laws

(Western Associated Press.)

OTTAWA, Ont., July 10.—The government has closed alien registration offices at Sydney, Ottawa, Toronto, Brandon, Regina, Calgary and Victoria. The registrars at these places have no further duties to discharge.

The government, therefore, has made an order directing that aliens at such points who wish to naturalize will not be required to produce certificates of character from the registration offices of their districts.

There has been considerable naturalization since the war began. A good many Germans and Austrians in Canada have disavowed allegiance to the kaiser and have sworn adherence to King George of Britain.

Some naturalization authorities have hesitated to grant certificates to the embarrassment of aliens who wished to declare their loyalty. Others have granted the certificates when there was no objection taken to the character of the applicant.

There are two naturalization laws in effect in Canada today. One took effect at the beginning of the year. It requires five years residence in the empire and the expenditure of from twenty to thirty dollars for a certificate which makes the holder a British subject throughout the empire. The old one has three years yet to run. It gives British citizenship in Canada only, but the term of residence is only three years and the fee only twenty-five cents. This is the certificate chiefly sought at present.

It is held that where there is no objection to a person applying for naturalization a judge has no right to withhold a certificate.

The authorities, however, have discovered that a German or an Austrian can be more firmly dealt with when naturalized than before. A German or Austrian who has not been naturalized and who commits a hostile act can only be interned. A German or Austrian who has sworn out naturalization for an offense against the security of the state, may be prosecuted for treason and punished with long punishment or death. The order which the government has just enacted will make naturalization of aliens an easier process than it has been for some months.