

Drafting the Aliens

It is announced that the necessary arrangements have been made between the various Governments, and plans are being pushed through at Ottawa for the calling out for service in the war of citizens of allied nations who are resident in Canada on the same terms on which our own citizens are called upon to serve.

All friendly aliens will forthwith be called upon to register and be immediately examined, and will be subject to draft under the law.

It is pretty late in the day to put into effect an arrangement so manifestly a just one. But those who complain that the Canadian Government should have called out these men long ago are unaware of the fact that the action now being

taken could not have been taken until international treaties authorizing it had been entered into. The only just complaint anybody can make about it is that the allied Governments should have got together much sooner on this question.

There remains the problem as to **enemy aliens**—Germans, Austrians, Bulgarians, and Turks, who are not interned, who are doing well here, who are not subject to draft, and who would not be accepted for war service even if they volunteered.

This, too, is a problem for the allied Governments to solve. At present the Canadian Government has but the choice of interning these men in detention camps or letting them remain at large, reporting at intervals to the authorities. Various suggestions have been made—some of them very sensible suggestions—as to the handling of **enemy aliens** in such a way that they would not as now enjoy safety and war prosperity among us without paying anything for it or contributing anything towards patriotic causes. But no plan as yet proposed, except the general internment of all these people at public expense, comes within the powers of our own Government. The most Canada can do is to make representations through the British Government to the allies in favor of the adoption of a general policy concerning **enemy aliens** that will be more practical and businesslike and more fair to the real people of the country.

The very fact that we are "calling up" friendly aliens increases the need for such action as will enable Canada to "call down" the unfriendly ones. They are the ones most people are keenest to round up.