

Disposition of Aliens

Canada and the United States have on their hands the problem of finally dealing with the alien enemies. The New York Times takes the view that there are alien enemies and alien enemies; "not all the bad ones, or dangerous ones, have been interned, and not all of those who have been interned are bad and dangerous. Exact figures of the number interned have not been given, but it is apparently somewhere around three or four thousand. Almost a third of these are the remaining officers and men of the German merchant ships interned in American ports, who had not found other employment before this country entered the war. It is to be presumed that these men have done no harm to the United States; some few of their number who engaged in various German plots, have been sentenced to prison, and those in the internment camps, with very few exceptions, are for the most part there more or less by accident. The only thing they ever did against American interest was to damage the machinery of their ships."

The Times says, however, that there are, besides, some German civilians, and the families of German officials or soldiers, from the Far East and other quarters of the world, who have been interned. It adds: "There is nothing against these people. But after these deductions there is left a body of men—and some few women—who must number in the neighborhood of two thousand; and each and every one of these has been interned as a dangerous alien enemy. That they were merely interned was due in some cases to the fact that their activities, though directly in the interest of the enemy and contrary to the interest of the United States, could not be reached by statute; in other cases legal proof was not available, though moral certainty of guilt was strong enough to make their internment necessary."

The American people though thoroughly aroused by Hun outrages in that country have treated the enemy with leniency. It has been shown that, "Before the war began some of them had long been working to bring part of the American people into a state of mind where they would support the interests and the wishes of Germany rather than the interests of the United States or the wishes of its Government. After the war began all of them worked to make a part of the American people a virtual ally of the German Government; to suggest the false and suppress the true, and to weaken the national morale so that America should be afraid to enter the war. They did their best to disunite the people, to keep America from being a nation, to

leave her only a group of dissentient racial units. They tried to use the resources, so far as was in their power, to serve the purposes of the enemy of freedom and justice. And unless the leopard can change his spots they will do it again."

The American nation seems determined, justly so, of ridding the country of those caught and even yet to be caught intriguing. And the enemies thus to be deported and those who escaped are never likely to be permitted to again set foot on American soil.

The whole question of deportation of enemies in Canada will be discussed at the approaching session of parliament. How many of such enemies are incarcerated we do not know, but those who are, upon release, should be given their permanent walking ticket.