

ONTARIO WILL TAKE WEAPONS OF FOREIGNERS

All Dangerous Weapons to be Seized by Provincial Authorities

ACT ON DOMINION LAW

Acting under legislation which became effective with the proroguing of the Federal Parliament on Monday, steps are to be taken shortly by Superintendent Joseph E. Rogers of the Provincial Police to seize all pistols and other dangerous weapons that are in the possession of foreigners. In this campaign Mr. Rogers is inviting the fullest co-operation of police in all parts of the Province.

The need for such action has been emphasized locally by the number of shootings and other crimes which have been committed in recent weeks, many of which aliens have figured in. Loopholes in the law have made it impossible in the past for the police to launch such a campaign, but now that they have the authority, Mr. Rogers promises that it will be acted upon.

At the last regular session of the Dominion Parliament the criminal code was amended to give the necessary support to the police, but it was afterward found that the amendment was not satisfactory, as it left some doubt as to how far the police could go. When Superintendent Rogers discovered that this was the case, he postponed his seizure of weapons, and went to Ottawa instead, where he pointed out the difficulty to Hon. Arthur Meighen. As a result the criminal code was amended at the special session of the House which has just closed.

Restricts Issuance of Permits.

It is not necessary to explain that Provincial Police will not issue permits to foreigners, and they are very careful about issuing them to Canadians, too. Permits may be issued not only by the Provincial Police, but by any officer of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, or commissioner of the Dominion Police, district of police magistrates, and sheriff or chief constable of any city or incorporated town. Consequently while the superintendent of the Provincial Police will not issue permits to foreigners, he expressed the hope in conversation with The Globe that the same care would be shown by the other officials who are allowed to issue permits.

Formerly, too, a permit which was issued in Quebec or Manitoba was good if presented in this Province. As the amended act now reads a permit is only good in the district over which the issuing officer has authority. Thus a permit issued by the Toronto police is only valid in Toronto, while a permit issued by Mr. Rogers is good throughout the Province. This amendment was found very necessary as it was ascertained a few months ago that an official outside of Ontario was issuing permits promiscuously.

Will Protect Game.

The amendment to the criminal code above is expected also to be a great advantage to the protecting of game and bird life of the Province. Police officers, game wardens, and people interested in bird life declare that foreigners, especially those of Southern Europe and Asia, are the greatest foes to bird life and game. In the past they have taken any weapon they could get hold of and gone out and killed for the sake of killing.

As the law now reads it would put a stop to Americans coming to Ontario for the deer hunting season, which is at present in full swing. That was not the intention of the amendment, however, and Mr. Rogers arranged with the Game Department to provide permits for residents of the United States who desired to hunt deer in Ontario. These permits are being issued at the same time the licenses are granted by the Game Department, and without any trouble to the visitors.