

Enemy Aliens in the Mines

THE risks attendant on the employment of enemy aliens in the coal mines of this province are too great to be ignored. The removal therefore of Austrians and others who after release from internment camps were reinstated in their former positions in many of the Island collieries, will command general approval.

General Otter as the result of the information furnished him by the provincial Department of Mines has given the assurance that these aliens will not be employed in future. This assurance will be welcome for there are few miners in British Columbia today who wish to associate in their daily work with men whose relatives or friends are engaged in the slaughter of Canadians on the battlefields or who represent nations whose atrocities have aroused the indignation of the world.

Steps should be taken, however, to see that enemy aliens in all cases where they are not sent back to internment camps are furnished with the necessaries of life. Instances have occurred, it is understood, where neglect has worked some hardship on aliens who find employment everywhere closed to them. These hardships should not arise; for though we are at war the obligations of humanity with us are still paramount.