

NOBLE GIVES NEW RULING ON DRAFT

Aliens Who Claim Canadian Citizenship In Peace To Be Considered Such In War

Any man who at any time has claimed British citizenship will in future be recognized as a British subject under the Military Service act and will be eligible for military service, even though he produces evidence of foreign citizenship.

Magistrate Noble made this ruling today when Harry Basil appeared in provincial police court charged with being a military absentee.

Basil pleaded not guilty and claimed that he was an enemy alien. He was remanded till Friday for further evidence as to his age.

Evidence produced by the military representative showed that Basil had registered as a Canadian citizen.

H. Venneck, counsel for the military authorities, contended that Basil should be taken at his word and drafted even though he might be able to prove that he was an enemy alien.

"If the man had declared himself a British subject and has enjoyed British freedom he is automatically a British citizen," Mr. Venneck asserted.

Magistrate Noble supported his assertions. "In the future I will take a man at his word," he said, "and if at any future time any man appears before me and the military authorities can prove that he had made this declaration, I will find him guilty and treat him as a defaulter," he asserted.