

REGULATION OF ALIENS ADEQUATE

H. H. Stevens, M.P., States That
Every Precaution Has Been
Taken by Dominion
Government.

NOT ONE OVERT ACT COMMITTED IN CANADA

Sympathizes With Fernie Miners

—Sure Full Justice Will
be Done.

Mr. H. M. Stevens, M. P., who has been out of the city the last few days, was seen by *The World* this morning on his return in reference to the internment of alien enemies in the province which has been agitating the minds of the provincial officials since the receipt of the message from Ottawa that the Dominion government was likely to release a large number of the German and Austrian miners recently interned at Fernie.

Mr. Stevens acknowledged that representations had been made to him by the provincial authorities in the matter and that the question of the internment of alien enemies came directly under the jurisdiction of the Dominion authorities.

"I have been assured time and again," said Mr. Stevens, "by Sir Robert Borden that every effort possible was being made to deal sanely and adequately with the problem by the Dominion officials.

No Overt Act.

"Colonel Percy Sherwood, chief of the Dominion police, has direct and supreme control of the official side of the question, and up to the present his efforts have been very successful, which is proven by the fact that not one single overt act in Canada has been committed by alien enemies up to now. Considering the large number of Germans and Austrians we have in this country, and the fact that we have been at war with their native countries for nearly a year now, I do not think that the public generally appreciates just what this means. It certainly speaks volumes for the effective work of the authorities when we cannot point to one serious act during all this time on the part of these people. Nothing, to my mind, can prove more conclusively than this that the Dominion officials are fully alive to the requirements of the moment and are most adequately taking care of the situation.

Cannot Intern All.

"It must be realized that it is impossible to intern all persons who at some time or other have lived in, or been born in, Germany or Austria, irrespective of their mode of life since residing in Canada. I am, personally, absolutely in favor of the internment of all alien enemies who are capable of any injurious act towards our country. During the past three months in Vancouver I have been working in harmony with Dominion authorities here with that object in view, and have succeeded in securing the internment of a large number of aliens who were giving trouble."

The Fernie Situation.

Regarding the situation that has arisen at Fernie, Mr. Stevens stated that this matter had come up during his absence from the city, and he had not yet the opportunity of giving it the consideration which it undoubtedly merited.

"I certainly have very great sympathy with the attitude of the British miners, their actions being prompted by the most patriotic sentiments, and I am quite certain that the Dominion authorities will deal with the situation in absolute justice to all concerned. There are in existence regulations under which all such circumstances can be dealt with, and the public may rest assured that this matter will be handled in strict accordance with the law and the principles of justice and equity."

Mr. Stevens gave an unqualified denial to the statement which appeared editorially in the *Liberal* morning organ to the effect that he had interfered in regard to the internment of aliens at Fernie. He said it was not in his constituency and he had not advised the Dominion government in regard to the subject.