

DEFENCE OF THE REALM ACT.

Englishmen Are Restricted - Somewhat During War Time.

The proud boast "an Englishman's home is his castle" does not operate during the present war. Here are some of the things the naval and military authorities may do under the Defence of the Realm Act, passed by Parliament:

Take possession of any land, buildings, gas, electricity, water works, or sources of supply, horses, automobiles, or any other means of transport.

Cause any buildings, statues, or any property to be moved or destroyed, and order the inhabitants to leave any given area if necessary for naval and military purposes.

Close saloons entirely or during specified hours.

Enter by force; if need be, any house or ship which is suspected of being used to the prejudice of the State.

Arrest, or order the arrest, without warning, of any suspected person.

Here are some of the things a free-born Briton may not do:—

Loiter near a railway bridge.

Give or sell liquor to a soldier or sailor on duty.

Spread reports by word of mouth or writing, near a defended area, likely to create alarm among the troops or civilian population.

Light fires or display lights of any description on hill tops or other high ground or buildings without permission.

Tamper with or loiter near telegraph or telephone lines.

Civilians ignoring a military demand to "halt" may be shot down without a second challenge.

Court martial shall deal with offences against the military laws, and the tribunal shall have power to inflict sentences of imprisonment for life, in case of infringements.