

## ON GUARD AGAINST ALIEN OUTRAGES.

The discovery of a small arsenal in the room of a German subject is a matter which should not end with the jailing of the offender. It is difficult to see what an alien wanted with an automatic pistol, a knuckle-duster, and a couple of dirks, unless, perchance, they were merely treasured by him as souvenirs of that German culture which he had left behind. There is good reason to believe that this was an isolated case; indeed the revelations of the conduct of sundry subjects of the Kaiser prove that the Canadian authorities cannot be too zealous in hunting out similar alien offenders. It is wise to err on the side of safety.

The heaviest penalty which can be imposed upon an alien for having weapons in his possession is a five-hundred-dollar fine or three months in jail. As a corrective that punishment may be ample, but as a preventive it is insufficient. If an alien is evilly-disposed, he can scarcely be expected to alter his attitude towards a country which has mulcted him of five hundred dollars. Nor would he emerge from jail more eager to remain neutral towards a Government which had inflicted upon him a three-months' term of imprisonment.

In Great Britain it has been found necessary for national security to lock up all Germans and Austrians who are deemed capable of doing harm. Certainly the unlawful possession of firearms furnishes reasonable grounds for a suspicion that their owner cannot be safely left at large. If such suspicious characters are locked up at all, it should be for the whole term of the war. That is the only safe precaution. The imposition of any less punishment means that even yet this country is not fully alive to the dangers with which its citizens and their property are threatened by the unscrupulous and treacherous minions of the German Kaiser.