

ALIEN ENEMY QUESTION ARISES IN LOCAL COURT

German Brings Action Against E.D. & B.C. Railroad—Claims \$5,000 Damages

In the course of a case for damages heard before Mr. Justice Hyndman, in which the plaintiffs are Germans, S. B. Woods raised the point that if a German was liable to be called back to the colors to fight for his country, if he was on the reserve list, then he was an alien enemy and had consequently lost the protection of the court. If, however, he came under the proclamation of the lieutenant governor, then his status was perfectly sound. All Germans were not alien enemies, but a soldier who was liable to serve in the army was an alien enemy. His lordship reserved his decision on the point raised.

The action in question is one brought by Ludwig Herman Meredic, a young German, thirty-two years old, living at Fawcett, on the Edmonton, Dunvigan & British Columbia railway, in which damages valued at some \$5000 are sought for alleged unlawful trespass and for false imprisonment.

The plaintiff gave evidence and was then subjected to a severe cross-examination by Mr. Woods with a view of proving that witness was an alien enemy. He had been in the German army, he said, but had been discharged owing to physical disability. He could not produce his discharge papers as he had lost them. He declared with much fervor that he was an adherent of the British flag and a loyal subject of King George. He had renounced the German flag and the German kaiser.