

## THE INFLUENCE OF ALIENS.

There is a growing local fear of the Germans, and it is not remarkable that objection is being taken to their presence in public places, or in places where they can, if they will, exert a baneful influence.

The fresh outbreak of national feeling has been occasioned by the fire at Ottawa, which, despite all explanations to the contrary, is interpreted to mean that there was a carefully laid and complete plot to do Canada an injury. An enquiry, public and exacting in its character, or a fire inquiry, will probably lead to some reasonable conclusion and one that will go far to allay public animosity.

The employers of labor are meanwhile confronted with a serious appeal from the labor men. The supporters of the British Empire—the men who are called upon to make sacrifices for the cause, who see in the titanic struggle in Europe the necessity for imperial unity in every

detail of the war—are not willing to patiently endure alien companionship in social and industrial circles.

One can recall the manner in which England suffered during the early stages of the war from the espionage of the Germans. The British were so gulleless and trustful that they harbored, innocently, the people who were plotting for their ruin, and an end of this had to be reached.

Public opinion in Kingston may strain the relations between the British and their alien friends. There may be a severance of the ties that bind them in business and industrial ways. It is hoped, however, that prudence and justice will mark every act of those who are in the majority and who represent imperial interests.