

# LOYALTY OF GERMAN BORN CITIZENS WAS DISCUSSED IN HOUSE

## Premier and Gov't Members Warmly Defended Those in Gov't Employ

Ottawa, Feb. 11.—A discussion as to the loyalty of Canadian citizens of alien origin, and persons of German parentage employed in responsible positions in the civil service or with the Canadian military forces, furnished the feature of the sitting of the House yesterday. The discussion arose just prior to the consideration of the estimates, when Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of Marine, rose to a question of privilege to reply to certain observations in Toronto and Ottawa newspapers as to the propriety of the employment of Gustave Heidmann as private secretary to the Minister, Mr. Heidmann being of German birth.

Mr. Hazen warmly defended the loyalty and good faith of his private secretary.

Sir Sam Hughes followed with a general championship of the bonafides of German Canadians, with particular reference to Captain Hahn, of Stratford, Chief Intelligence Officer with the Canadian forces at the front.

Sir Robert Borden, apropos to the mounted police estimates, also took occasion to commend the unexceptionable behavior of Canadian residents of enemy origin in the west since the war began.

E. MacDonald, of Pictou, however, took a different view. "It must be admitted," he said, "that there is in the minds of eastern Canadians a grave suspicion as to many of the Germans resident among them." He considered that it had been proven by disclosure made in the publication of letters of German and Austrian attaches in the United States that there were German spies aplenty in Canada, with whom their compatriots were in touch, and he advocated much stricter regulations to govern them.