

BOARDS WON'T DISREGARD LAW

Aliens Must Prove They Are Not Liable To Draft, Says Chapman

So many inquiries regarding the clause in the Military Service act which defines men in Class 1 as "subjects who have attained the age of 20 years and were born not earlier than 1883," have been received by E. R. Chapman, provincial registrar, that an official ruling became necessary.

"The act does not apply to any one unless he is a British subject, and is, or has been since Aug. 4, 1914, a resident in Canada," Mr. Chapman declared today. "By British subject, I mean a man who was born in Canada or within the British dominions, or having been born in an alien country has taken out naturalization papers. If he came to this country under 21, his father's becoming a citizen, would also make him a British subject."

Military authorities, contrary to popular belief, would not disregard the civil definition of a British subject, Mr. Chapman declared.

"I receive questions regarding this point every day," he asserted. "Postmasters ask, 'If a man of alien birth who is not a citizen by his own or his father's naturalization, but who has lived in Canada for 12 years, is required to register. I feel that they would not ask such questions unless they thought we were going to interpret the act in a drastic manner.

"This will not be the case. Friendly aliens are not required to register. But they must be ready to furnish proof that they do not come within the act. After Nov. 10, any civil or military officer can accost a person

in the street and ask him to produce a counterfoil of registration or give the reason why."

Mr. Chapman advised Russians, Belgians, French, Italians, or other friendly aliens to obtain consular certificates or prepare other proof showing they were not Canadian citizens. The onus of proof in such cases is on the man himself and unless he could prove to the court's satisfaction that his case did not fall within the act, he would be liable to imprisonment or the draft, he stated.