

THE ENEMY ALIEN QUESTION.

Mr. H. H. Stevens, M.P., of Vancouver, has written to the Secretary of State that he will bring the question before Parliament at the next session unless the Government deals satisfactorily in the meantime with interned enemy aliens, and with the disposal of enemy property. He urges that until the disposition of enemy prisoners in Canada is decided no move be made to release them unless they are deported to Germany. Probably the Government concurs in the view that enemy aliens guilty of seditious acts or conspiracies should be punished by deportation or otherwise. The British Prime Minister proposes to expel all aliens of this class from Britain after the war. But there ought to be no attempt to penalize people of enemy birth or origin in Canada who have given no offence by speech or act. When the Peace Conference has delimited the boundaries of the nations in Eastern and Southeastern Europe it will be found that many so-called enemy aliens in this country belong to races, formerly incorporated in the Austrian and Russian Empires, who are now on the side of the Allies. For this reason the reshaping of the map of Europe will be in the interests of Canadian immigration.

Mr. Stevens asks the Secretary of State what steps have been taken to ascertain accurately the Canadian property owned, directly or indirectly, by the German Royal families. "We in Vancouver know that Alvo von Alvensleben spent huge sums of money in this Province, and, according to his statement, on behalf of the Kaiser." Most Canadians will share Mr. Stevens' curiosity. The Canadian Custodian of Enemy Alien Property has been heard from lately, and is asking for evidence of German holdings in this country. If he has just started this inquiry he has made a very late beginning. On this point, too, Canadians would like to have some information.
