

ENEMY PROPERTY IN CANADA

Government Activities in Enforcing Regulations Reviewed

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Ottawa, Dec. 13.—A statement has been issued by the Government reviewing its activities in enforcing the various regulations respecting enemy property and enemy business dealings in Canada. It is pointed out that since the consolidated orders respecting trading with the enemy were passed, the department of the Secretary of State has made numerous investigations, inquiring into every case of alien enemy property or dealings which has been brought to its attention. In many instances chartered accountants have been engaged to investigate and submit reports, and among the list of firms whose businesses were thus investigated are the different companies in which Alvo von Alvensleben of Vancouver was interested.

Debt Claims Dealt With.

In addition, the Finance Department has been engaged in carrying out the provisions of the orders, in collecting moneys, registering enemy properties in Canada and claims of debts due by persons in enemy countries to Canadians, and vice versa. These claims are now being dealt with by the Enemy Debts Committee, and particulars of the claims are being forwarded to Canada's representatives at the Peace Conference. The statement continues:

"Information as to enemy properties and dealings have been obtained from many sources, censored letters, police reports, complaints to the department of the Secretary of State by individuals and from inquiries. In many cases all difficulties are cleared up by correspondence, which proves the innocence of parties concerned, showing that it is unnecessary to make an investigation. Where, however, enemy property in Canada is indicated, or debts owing to alien enemies by Canadians, or dealings contrary to the terms of the consolidated orders, investigations have been fully and completely made. Where the correspondence did not disclose the facts completely, the cases have been placed in the hands of chartered accountants for investigation, and detailed reports have been submitted.

Property Matters Referred to Courts.

Where these reports indicate enemy property in Canada, or debts owing to alien enemies, applications have been made to the courts for the appointment of receivers and controllers, or for the winding up of the enemy concern. The Secretary of State has authority under his own warrant to wind up an enemy concern, but after due deliberation it was considered advisable that the authority of the court should be invoked in all cases. It is impossible to say what may result from the treaty of peace with respect to enemy property and debts, and it was considered proper, for the protection of all concerned, that the courts alone should deal with enemy property.