

# JUDGES GIVEN POWER TO IMPRISON ALIENS

## Order-in-Council Provides Machinery for Summary and Speedy Action.

Ottawa, Feb. 14.—The Government has taken decisive action in the matter of dealing with alien enemies.

Special regulations were enacted by the Governor-in-Council yesterday whereby, with respect to localities to be designated by the Minister of Justice, power is conferred upon the County and District Judges of the Superior Court to direct the internment as prisoners of war of persons of alien enemy nationality residing or being within the designated localities.

### Procedure Is Simple.

The procedure is of a summary character and very simple. The judge of the locality, or, upon his request, any judge having like powers for another county or district, may, upon summary complaint by any municipal or local authorities, or by any person who, in the opinion of the judge, is sufficiently representative to lay a complaint, inquire and determine summarily whether it be expedient for maintaining or securing the public peace or safety, or for the prevention of any disturbance, that such person should, in view of his hostile nationality, be interned as a prisoner of war. If the judge be of opinion that such person ought to be interned, he is to grant an order to that effect, whereupon the person may be apprehended and interned by any peace officer or by any military officer, non-commissioned officer or man thereunto deputed.

For the purposes of this inquiry the judge may in his discretion either cause the man to be brought before him, or he may proceed in his absence, and with or without notice, and the person charged is not to be represented by counsel unless by the special authorization of the judge. The persons whom the judge orders to be interned are to be subject to the like custody, detention and treatment as prisoners of war interned in ordinary and due course of law.

### Committees Will Help.

It is anticipated that in cities or other localities where the alien enemy question is provoking agitation and exceptional difficulty, committees of representative citizens will be locally constituted, whose duty it will be carefully to review the cases of aliens of enemy nationality, and to inform and assist the judge by bringing to his attention and submitting all cases on which he should, in the opinion of these committees, adjudicate. In this

manner it is apprehended that they can be disposed of expeditiously.

The Minister has already designated the city of Hamilton as a locality within which the powers above described may be executed.