

P. A. LASZLO DE LOMBOS.

B R I E F.

TO COUNSEL is sent, herewith:-

- (1) Printed statement of Mr. de Laszlo's case.
- (2) Copy correspondence.
- (3) *Madam van Rijnwyck's statement*

Mr. de Laszlo is the well-known portrait painter.

He applied for naturalisation before the war and entirely independently of the war but his Letters of Naturalisation were only granted after the commencement of the war, namely, on the 24th. August, 1914.

On the 21st. September, 1917, he was arrested, and has been interned ever since as "a potential danger to the public safety and defence of the Realm".

Mr. de Laszlo's life history, and the facts which led up to his arrest, are set out in the accompanying statement of case.

Mr. de Laszlo's case has now been referred to the Certificates of Naturalisation (Revocation) Committee, composed of Mr. Justice Atkin, Lord Hambledon and Judge Radcliffe. It is hoped that, at last Mr. de Laszlo may thus find the means of vindicating his character, which has been so foully assailed. *This is the first real opportunity of a trial he has had although he has been imprisoned for a year or half.*

The Treasury Solicitor, as will be seen from the correspondence, has been applied to for particulars of the charges against Mr. de Laszlo but these have not yet been delivered.

It has been thought well, by the Solicitors advising Mr. de Laszlo, that this Brief

should be delivered to Counsel at this stage, with a view to his advising Mr. de Laszlo whether any preliminary application would be necessary.

The position of affairs is, that owing to Mr. de Laszlo's eminence, the fact that he has been interned has, naturally, given rise to countless rumours of a highly detrimental character, many people thinking that he has been guilty of treason of the worst description. He has been called "the Traitor Laszlo" in "John Bull" and has been vilely assailed by Sir Henry Dalzell in the House of Commons. It is, therefore, imperative, if Mr. de Laszlo himself, his five English Sons and his English Wife are ever to live in England, or ever hold up their heads in any civilized country in the world, that his name should be cleared.

But, how can an enquiry behind closed doors clear Mr. de Laszlo? One of the questions which Counsel is asked to consider is whether an application should be made that this case should be tried in open Court so that the cloud of black suspicions hanging around his name may be dispelled.

Mr. de Laszlo has acted foolishly, no doubt, but there are no grounds whatever for the suggestion that he has acted treasonably, and if his story is true (as we have not the least doubt that it is) Mr. de Laszlo has been cruelly and harshly treated, and, in a manner reflecting no credit on this country. He has been prevented from earning a penny since September, 1917; his business as an Artist has been destroyed and ruined by the foul suspicions cast on his name by <sup>Viscount</sup> ~~Mr.~~ Cave, who comes out of the story a poor creature in perpetual fear of public opinion and without any backbone in his anatomy.

Another question which presses for previous consideration is, how far the statements made by Madame van Riemydyk and forwarded through the Treasury to Messrs. Charles Russell & Co. can be given in evidence on Mr. de Laszlo's behalf.

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*2 Cos. Brief*

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Sir John Simon,  
K.C.V.O..

*with you  
Mrs. C. J. Free, K.C.*

7.3.19  
J.  
For. 12.

Charles Russell & Co.,  
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