

GERMAN'S FIGHT.

LINE OF BATTLE.

particulars of a brilliant... armed trawlers, their cargoes off a

KING AND QUEEN

AT

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

CIVIL SERVICE HEROES.

The King and Queen attended yesterday... at Westminster Abbey in... Civil Service

V.C., D.S.O., M.C.

FEARLESS CHAPLAIN'S RECORD.

OVER 50 YEARS OF AGE.

The King has been pleased to approve of the award of the Victoria Cross to the under-mentioned:

Capt. (T.-Lt.-Col.) C. E. HUDSON, D.S.O., M.C., Notts., and Derby, R.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when his battalion was holding the right front sector during an attack on the British front. The shelling had been very heavy on the right, the trench destroyed, and considerable casualties had occurred, and all the officers... The enemy pushed... The situation demanded immediate... Lieut.-Colonel Hudson, recognising its... servants, runners, &c., and, together... personally led them up the hill... of about five up the trench... enemy, in order to attack... with two men got out... shouting to the... whom did. He was then... which exploded on his... directions for the... six machine guns... Hudson saved a... for his quick... attack a large... through, and... have been neces-

ENEMY ALIENS.

DRASTIC PROPOSALS

OF

THE GOVERNMENT.

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

An important debate on the question of enemy aliens was opened in the House of Commons yesterday by Sir G. Cave, the Home Secretary, who outlined the general principles upon which the Government proposed to take action. Having condemned the method of attacking public officials who were doing their best to carry out loyally the directions of their chiefs, the right hon. gentleman explained the nature of the proposals. Briefly summarised, they are:

No indiscriminate internment of enemy aliens.

Revision of exemptions by a central committee, who will be asked to state their reasons for any exemptions they may recommend. In that case every enemy alien would be interned except where there were strong reasons for exemption.

To bring under review certificates of naturalisation granted during the war.

No person other than a natural born British subject to be allowed to alter his or her name except under Home Office license. This prohibition to be retrospective.

No person during the war should be employed in a Government office unless he was the child of a natural-born subject, except where there were definite national reasons for making an exception.

To discharge summarily all public servants of alien origin who would cause in many cases very great injustice.

To free the country from undesirable aliens of all kinds.

Application to the courts at once for a winding-up order in regard to enemy banks.

Legislation to be introduced to make it impossible for a period of years after the war to open any enemy bank in this country.

The Prime Minister expressed gratification that practically all sections of the House had accepted the general principles laid down. The propositions should be carried out vigorously, rigorously, but without unfairness.

Members of the House of Commons, our Parliamentary Correspondent writes, gave general approval to the policy of the Government on enemy aliens, as outlined by the Home Secretary, and the details of the scheme will be incorporated in the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill at the Committee stage. This measure comes on for second reading to-day, and Major Newman has notified his intention to move its rejection.

THE DEBATE.

HOME SECRETARY'S SPEECH.

Sir G. CAVE (Home Secretary), who was received with cheers—having moved the adjournment of the House—said: This motion has been made, as hon. members know, in order that there may be a general debate upon the subject of aliens. A few weeks ago I went abroad, having already made certain plans connected with this subject. While I was at The Hague I was practically cut off from all home news. I returned rather reluctantly to this country. (Laughter.) I think I should have been more reluctant if I had known what was awaiting me. But on my return here I found that a somewhat acute controversy had arisen in connection with this matter. I feel bound to say that for some of the methods employed in that controversy I do not, as an Englishman, feel very proud. I refer not to the attacks on responsible Ministers. They do not really matter in the least. I am sure I myself have often got credit where no credit was due, and I am quite prepared to bear criticism, even when I know it is least deserved. What I refer to are the methods, somewhat new in this country, of attacking public officials who are doing their best to carry out loyally the directions of their chief, and to give effect to the decisions of Parliament and the Government. Those officials do their duty without fear or favour. They cannot answer attacks made upon them, and I think it is most unfair that their names should be dragged into a discussion of this kind, and that an attempt should be made to throw blame upon them, when, if any blame should be thrown at all, it should be thrown upon the Minister responsible, who can answer in this House.

Do not let us allow ourselves to be distracted by our dislike to some of the methods employed, from the duty which lies upon us all to give our very serious thoughts and our perfectly cool attention to a matter which I freely admit has excited widespread and genuine public concern. I believe that the anxiety that has been widely expressed is to a great extent due to insufficient knowledge of the steps actually taken to protect our country against anything like an alien danger, and I believe those steps are very insufficiently known. Still, it is true that even among thoughtful and reasonable men there is anxiety as to what may be the effect of the presence of a large number of aliens in our midst, and it is our duty to take care, if we can, not only that all reasonable steps should be taken for the protection of this country, but to make it clear to everyone that those steps are being taken, and that they are having their proper effect. May I add that it is only natural that this subject should from time to time be recon-

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MR. LEVERTON

THE QUESTION OF

In reply to a question asked in the House of Commons yesterday...

enemies who had adopted British names should be obliged in every communication...

Colonel YATE (U., Melton Mowbray) expressed the hope that the regulations closing enemy alien banks and businesses in this country would be made applicable to British possessions abroad.

Mr. KENNEDY JONES (U., Hornsey) urged that immediate steps should be taken to co-ordinate the efforts of the various departments which dealt with the alien question.

Major BOWDEN (U., Derbyshire) stated that it was horrifying to think that anyone should be able to do anything of the kind...

the war. I agree that what really matters now is that these propositions should be carried out rigorously, rigorously, but without unfairness. (Hear, hear.) In order to insure that there are two very important considerations, one affecting the Government and the other affecting the House of Commons, it is for the House to keep the Government up to the mark as far as the first part is concerned, and I want to keep the House and country up to the mark as far as the second is concerned. The first is the character of the Committees set up for the purpose of carrying out this policy. I was very pleased to hear from all parts of the House an expression of confidence in the Advisory Committees, and there is no doubt that they are a first-rate body of men and very able, and they have done their duty very patriotically, and a very difficult duty it has been to discharge. I think it is very important that there should be a military representation on that body. There are many considerations which they can assist.

One body will be an absolutely new one. It will be the body dealing with cases referred to Government departments, the most important of all. I will give an illustration of the gallant friend how difficult that is. The man at once carries conviction...

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Mr. LLOYD

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are not aliens and parents, have I think...

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Mr. LLOYD said that the steps which the Government were taking to deal with the alien question seemed to him to be not the most important matter under discussion. The important thing was that it had been pointed out that the danger was not so great as had been imagined. We in this country had really got into a condition such as overwhelmed England at the time of the Papist plot. We had not an easy time before us, and if people got nery owing to "Yellow" Press agitation evil must inevitably follow. The Prime Minister had encouraged this agitation, as was shown by his selection of the hon. members who formed the Committee to inquire into the alien question. It was the duty of the Prime Minister to stand up for English character and fair play, but if the Government tried to live up to public clamour the effect would be deplorable.

Mr. JOYNSON-HICKS (U., Brentford) said the only way that public opinion could find expression was through the medium of the Press and by...

His right hon. friend had in the main accepted practically the Committee's proposals. It was impossible at that moment to give a final judgment on the policy which had been sketched out. Everything depended upon the steam that was behind the proposals. The policy was right, and the only question was how was it to be applied. The Committee had recommended that every alien enemy in this country ought to be interned unless there was a national or medical reason against it. That meant that able-bodied aliens who were going about the City at present, and carrying on the businesses of men who had been called up, should no longer have that freedom. (Cheers.) It ought not to be possible for enemy aliens to be able to get access to all our information and carry on business without control. The Home Secretary had not always taken the advice of the Advisory Committee.

Sir G. CAVE: I have always taken their advice.

Sir H. DALZIEL said there were men who were not interned even after the Committee had recommended their internment because some one at the Home Office was powerful enough to stop the machinery of action. It was these things which made the people anxious. There were Germans to dry in the most secret departments of the Admiralty. (Cries of "Name.")

GERMANS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

He had no doubt that someone was convinced that they were helping this country, but the fact was that they had unnaturalised Germans employed by the Government who must be in a position to obtain information that would be helpful to the enemy. He asked the Home Secretary to make further inquiry into the matter. The right hon. gentleman had spoken of guarantees. In the case of Laszlo they could have obtained a quorum of members of that House—gentlemen who had been painted by him—to say what an innocent person he was. But it was easy to be deceived, because Mr. Laszlo was, he believed, found after a considerable time to have committed an act of treason against this country. Mr. Laszlo was, he understood, thanked for his report on the condition of affairs in this country. They had a duty to aliens, but they also had a duty to themselves, and why should they take risks in time of war. None of the Allies had shown the same tenderness that we had up to the present time.

Mr. KING (E., Somerset, N.): There are millions of Germans interned in the United States.

Sir H. DALZIEL said he had no doubt his hon. friend knew where the Germans were—(laughter)—but there was absolutely no comparison between the conditions here and those in America. He ventured to say that the American Government, though they had only been a short time in the war, had shown much more activity than we had in areas where enemy aliens were likely to give information and in places where it was supposed they might commit acts of destruction. With regard to the review of naturalisation certificates, he admitted that it looked like cancelling a bargain which we had made, but he would point out that only certificates granted since the war were concerned. They knew that Germans who became naturalised at the beginning of the war did so practically for business reasons. They knew at the same time that a law had been passed in Germany in 1913 providing for the very position in which these men were placed, namely, that any German who became naturalised in another country for business reasons could still retain his German nationality. It was not the poor German he was most afraid of. (Hear, hear.) The poor man in a back street, without any friends, could not do very much, though most enemy aliens in that position had been interned already. It was the man of wealth and social influence, who entertained distinguished politicians, that he objected to most. (Hear, hear.) They knew what some of the naturalised Germans had been doing since the war began—how since they became British subjects they had been helping the enemy. These persons must be approached, not with the idea that they were innocent, but that possibly they were guilty, and they should be treated as such. It was impossible to kill nationality by a stroke of the pen.

THE NEW TRIBUNAL.

A great deal would depend on the constitution of the new tribunal which was going to be appointed. He hoped this question was not going to be shelved. (Hear, hear.) There was a really solid public feeling in regard to it, and that feeling was not going to be allayed by postponement. He thought that laymen should be represented on the tribunal and a few members of the House of Commons. He welcomed very warmly the declaration that the winding-up of enemy alien businesses would be expedited. They had already been allowed to continue too long. He thought the Government made a mistake to appoint controllers at monthly salaries. When a man was paid 100gs or 200gs a month for doing certain work that fact possibly stood in the way of expeditious despatch. There was really no cause for delay. With regard to German banks, the Government were going to do something which might well have been done a very long time ago. He thanked the Government for the proposals they had brought forward. Much depended on the manner in which they were carried out. If properly carried out he believed they would help the settlement of this question.

Colonel WEDGWOOD (R., Newcastle-under-Lyme) said that the steps which the Government were taking to deal with the alien question seemed to him to be not the most important matter under discussion. The important thing was that it had been pointed out that the danger was not so great as had been imagined. We in this country had really got into a condition such as overwhelmed England at the time of the Papist plot. We had not an easy time before us, and if people got nery owing to "Yellow" Press agitation evil must inevitably follow. The Prime Minister had encouraged this agitation, as was shown by his selection of the hon. members who formed the Committee to inquire into the alien question. It was the duty of the Prime Minister to stand up for English character and fair play, but if the Government tried to live up to public clamour the effect would be deplorable.

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