Register 14th September 1914
Sir—Your able sub-leader on the subject of naturalization urges the careful consideration of all Australians, and the view of making it more difficult for Germans, in particular, to become naturalized British subjects, and also placing those who are naturalized on such a footing that they would not be meant to violate the oath of allegiance. At present it is altogether one-sided, and the person desiring to become naturalized merely considers the personal gain to himself from a financial point of view for the time being—remaining in his heart or hearts a loyal subject of the nation to which he owes his birth, and does not value or sufficiently regard the importance of the oath of allegiance.

While on this subject it would be as well for the Federal Parliament to consider the possibility of Australia's foreign Ambassadors and Consuls. We have been told that Consuls are merely commercial agents. If this be correct, why did one of these commercial agents advertise for all Belgians to return and take part in the present war and their passages, &c., be paid? Therefore, why should commercial agents have the earliest opportunity of declaring their loyalty to the British Crown, but did not follow the example of the Belgian Consul, whose duties and privileges, it is to be assumed, are identical? We need not go far for an answer. When we find the Germans giving all principle of humanity it behooves us at least to be cautious with Consuls or commercial agents representing that country. At a time like this we need stand on no ceremony. We must understand the Consul is merely a commercial agent: if so, whose commercial agent is he? This Consul has many privileges and many duties to perform is clearly shown in Spencer Walpole's well-known work on "Foreign Relations," but the time has now arrived when it is necessary to clearly define the distinction between Ambassador and Consul, and their respective duties, privileges, and obligations.

I am, Sir, &c.,

ROINESTOR.

Sir—Every Briton who reads it—no matter where he happened to be born—will be thankful for the leader "Under Which Flag?" in "The Register of September 12." The well-known citizen referred to claimed to speak for others besides himself. So far as Germany's descent has repudiated being included in the "others." Possibly it is not necessary, but many people think such a repudiation would be expedient. Let us not be forgotten that Germany is fighting Australia now, just as much as she is fighting England. The only reason way German consuls have not been included is that 33,000 German-Australians in South Australia have contributed a fair percentage and much of the present mistrust would disappear.

I am, Sir, &c.,

T. SCOTTY,
Murray Bridge.