

BUILDING CLOSED UP BY WELCOME LEAGUE

Activities Discontinued Till the
Autumn, Because of Slow
Immigration.

THE CITY MAY HELP

Dominion Government Offsets
Work of League in Car-
ing For Immigrants.

As a result of the decision of the directors of the British Welcome League that it would be wise to suspend the work of the institution for the summer months, as the number of British-born immigrants making use of the premises at the present time does not warrant the expense involved, a special general meeting of the league subscribers was held yesterday at the league headquarters, 4 Spadina avenue.

The resolution of Mr. C. E. Edmonds, that the meeting recommend the discontinuance of the work for the present, and that a special committee be appointed to carry on the work, aided by the city, was adopted. Among the other speakers were Messrs. W. Munns and Thos. Howell.

Mr. James Hales, president, presided.

Government Interested.

It was further stated that since the Dominion Government is taking steps to care for the foreigners and the British arrivals at the newly-opened Union House, the work of the league would not be missed.

Mr. Benjamin Westwood, first vice-president, said that if the Government had not taken over the work, the league would undoubtedly have borne with the quiet times until things became better; but under the circumstances the league would have to extend its endeavor into other fields, and it was hardly fair to use the subscribers' money for this.

City May Take Charge.

It was intimated that the league had been in treaty with the Board of Control, and there was a possibility that the building and its equipment might be temporarily taken over by the city and utilized for relief work in the coming winter.

In the month of June, 1913, 1,014 people of British birth used the league as compared with 30 this year. These figures were taken as sufficient evidence that there was no justification for a time at least in keeping up so large and expensive an institution.

League Did Good Work.

As evidence of the valuable work done by the league, figures show that since its inauguration there have been 24,755 immigrants dealt with. 1913 was the best year, 6,400 being handled, while 1914 has been the poorest on record, there being only 400 up to date passing through the hands of the league. This heavy drop is apparent in the immigration which came to the whole city, there being 10,819 arriving in the city from all sources in 1913, as compared with 1,000 in 1914. Statistics of the league show that up to 1912 there had been 9,000 placed in positions, 18,703 provided with free beds, and 31,500 meals provided.

Will Retain Charter.

The league has been kept up by the city, the Provincial Government, and private subscription. The city gave building and taxation exemption, and the Provincial Government a \$200 annuity.

The heart of this movement for the past seven years has been Mr. W. Chadwick, general secretary, who, with the closing of the league, will be out of a position. Mr. Chadwick states that the league will retain their charter and will open later if conditions warrant it.