

## DISFRANCHISE ALIENS

One of the proposals advanced at the meeting of the Great War Veterans in Winnipeg that should meet with the approval of all Canadians is for the disfranchisement of aliens while the war is on.

We are beginning to recognize in Canada that we have been too free with our citizenship; that we have allowed peoples to secure that privilege that are not worthy. Many of them did not realize the obligation which they were assuming. They simply saw an advantage in becoming Canadians and this was sufficient to influence them to take the oath of allegiance while the sentiments they were subscribing to had no echo in their hearts. We have bestowed citizenship too readily and have allowed a voice in our affairs to men who attached no value to the sacred privileges we granted them, other than the money or influence it brought them as leaders of their fellows.

This developed the political boss, the crafty fellow who learned a smattering of English and thus became adviser to his more backward comrades and used his knowledge to exploit them.

To aid his manipulations, and for the votes he claims to be able to deliver, wily politicians have striven with a resultant loss of ideals and espousal of the degenerating methods of expediency.

We have been fighting the battle of humanity for two and one half years and the hyphenated Canadians have done little towards identifying themselves with our cause. To be sure a few have, but the great majority have stood aside and many have openly swaggered and blustered in an offensive manner, some of them to such an extent that they were interned.

Today we find their more cautious fellows lounging on the sunny side of our business streets, congregated in groups, according to nationality and families, sturdy men who would be of immense service on the farms. They know that men are scarce and they are determined to gouge the last cent from our farmers before accepting employment.

They feel no call to join our armies. They feel no call to increase production. The only call they know or feel is their personal advantage and under the advice of their leaders they are waiting for the time when the farmers, driven desperate by the pressing need for help in sowing the crop, will pay them their price. The National Service Board has intimated that it will not permit such tactics. Now is the time to wield the big stick and force these loafers and idlers into productive labor.

It is now that we are realizing our folly in granting the rights of citizenship to unworthy peoples. The privilege we have so thoughtlessly bestowed on them, they are wielding as a club and they are relying on their power with the ballot to protect them while they hold us up and threaten to render nought our campaign for increased production by refusing to lend a hand.

The Great War Veterans will have a large measure of support in their demand for the disfranchisement of aliens for the duration of the war.