

FEEL SENSE OF WRONG, SOLDIERS ASK REDRESS

Employers Seem Anxious to Set Things Right

A CONFERENCE FOR TO-DAY

Military Authorities Are Behind Movement to Get Soldiers' Grievances Cleared Up, but in an Orderly Manner—Russell Co.'s Statement.

"The military authorities are behind any movement to get all soldiers' grievances cleared up, and to get them cleared up in an orderly manner. That is what the soldiers want themselves," said Col. H. C. Osborne, A.A.G., of the Toronto Military Division to The Globe yesterday. In the matter of the employment of returned men the soldiers have a grievance, said Col. Osborne, but they, as well as the military authorities, are very anxious that a remedy be found without any more of such trouble as occurred the last few nights.

Saturday night a meeting of the returned men was held in the office of Provost-Marshal Capt. A. Sinclair, and the whole affair was discussed from all angles. The soldiers themselves are very much alive to the fact that further riotous proceedings are liable to set public opinion against them. On the other hand, they wish the authorities to recognize that their grievances must be redressed.

"Discharge the Foreigner."

What the soldiers want is that the foreigners in the factories be let out of their jobs and Britishers and Canadians put in their place. One case in particular was discussed on Saturday night. A returned soldier, a presser in a cleaning and pressing establishment, applied for a position. He was about to get it, when a foreigner offered his services for less money per week. The soldier was told that there was no work for him. The men feel they have just grounds for complaint. Foreigners are employed as cooks in restaurants, and in munition factories and other places. They should be taken out of these positions, say the soldiers, and put on the land, and let the returned men have their places. Something had to be done. The Government seemed deaf to all complaints, so the returned men took the matter into their own hands and started orderly rioting.

Austrian's Last Report Two Years Old

In one restaurant on Saturday night the men found an Austrian employed who had not reported to the police since February, 1915. That is the sort of thing that makes the returned soldiers very angry. This orderly rounding-up of **aliens** is entirely for the returned soldiers, say the men. They do not want civilians in it, nor do they want any C.B.F. men who have not gone overseas. "The public is all right," say the men. "The public treats us in a square manner, but the employers of labor do not. A returned man goes to work in a factory at a certain position where he is allowed to sit down at his work. A few days after he starts he is told that he must stand up at his work or get out. That is not according to the agreement, but as he cannot stand out he goes."

Conference To-day.

As a result of the meeting Saturday night Capt. Sinclair will try to arrange a meeting with some civic officials and a committee of the returned men. This committee will consist of himself, five members of the Great War Veterans' Association, four returned men not members of the Great War Veterans' Association, and one man of the A. R. Club. The meeting will likely take place to-day. In the meantime no further "rounding-up" of **aliens** will take place.

Register of Returned Men.

"What we would like to have," said Col. Osborne to The Globe, "is a complete registration system of all returned men, so that we will know who we have, what they can do, and how they are employed. Then we can get the co-operation of the employers of labor, and when there are positions to be filled returned men will fill them, if possible. To the returned soldier is due absolute justice, and more than that, but we do not want them to act in a way to set the public against them."

Russell Company Statement.

In accordance with his promise Friday evening, Mr. H. D. Scully, Secretary of the Russell Motor Car Company, furnished a statement Saturday regarding employment conditions in the company's plant, and offered an opportunity of investigation. It appears upon examination of the facts that the six workmen with foreign names who were suspected and taken out of the works by returned soldiers Friday evening, have all produced their passports, which certify that they are citizens of the allies, Russia and Serbia. The company further states that so far as they are aware no **alien enemies** are in their employ.

With regard to the employment of returned soldiers, the company's records show that since February 8, 1917, ninety-eight A.R. men—that is, men who have applied for enlistment and been refused, owing to physical defects—have been taken into the employ of the company. Since the same date, 167 returned or discharged men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force have been taken on the company's payroll. As indicating the difficulty of reaching a just conclusion in particular cases, it is pointed out that among the 167 returned or discharged men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, the following names appear: A. Kruppa, — Humm, H. Bimistov, T. Haluzka, G. Sahle, — Eheskie, — Keneller, W. Klick, C. Elinitsky, D. Kiziel.

All of the above are either returned or discharged soldiers. The company reaffirms its policy of employing returned soldiers wherever possible, and has to-day communicated with the Great War Veterans' Association, requesting that officials of that association may meet officials of the Russell Motor Car Company in order that a frank and friendly discussion of this subject may take place with a view to promoting interests of returned soldiers of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Saturday Night Calls.

Soldiers on Saturday night went to various downtown restaurants, where they informed the proprietors that they intended to visit the premises search for **aliens** and demand from them the official authority for their being at large.

They brought two Greeks and an Austrian to the Detective Department. The Greeks satisfied Detective Inspector Kennedy that they could

not be expected to comply with the order in Council respecting **alien enemies** and were released. The Austrian, who was taken from the Sheffield Lunch, had not reported to the Registrar for some months. He will appear before Colonel Grasset to-day.

The novelty of the action of the soldiers seems to have worn off. Small knots of people gathered about the different restaurants while the soldiers went through them and then dispersed. There was no rough play shown and no need for any action on the part of police, military or civil, to protect property.

Soldiers in Liquor.

Police Inspector Pogue of Pape avenue station and two constables arrested two members of the Divisional Cyclists at the corner of Broadview Avenue and Queen street toward midnight. The soldiers were under the influence of liquor and when they had become sober they were turned over to the military picket. The men were in the company of friends, who could not persuade them to proceed to their quarters at the camp. A large crowd gathered, but dispersed in an orderly manner on the orders of the police inspector.