

NO PRIVILEGES FOR ALIENS IN CANADA--CURRIE

Man Who Led Battalion at St. Julien Protests Against Enemy Alien Vote.

AN INSULT TO THE
SOLDIERS, HE SAYS

PRESS GALLERY, HOUSE OF COMMONS.

There was an explosion in the House last night by a returned soldier against the policy of allowing men of alien enemy origin to become Canadian citizens during the progress of the war, and allowing them to take out patents for homesteads. Col. John A. Currie, of North Simcoe, who led the Toronto Highlanders at the Battle of St. Julien, broke loose, and demanded that men of alien enemy origin, many of whom in the west he declared to be German reservists, be not allowed votes with which to stab in the back of Canadian soldiers in the trenches.

He denounced those who were pandering to the foreign vote, and expressed fear that forty or fifty members would be sent to Ottawa from the west as the result of the present preponderance of alien voters while the soldiers were away, and, as he expressed it, God help the men at the front then.

Col. Currie also condemned the movement towards a union Government, and suggested that the newspapers which were supporting it were subsidized. The discussion took place in committee on Dr. Roche's Dominion Lands bill.

"Crooked Political Game."

Col. Currie said that speaking for the men of the trenches they did not like this crooked political game that was going on in this country. The men at the front were playing the game square, and he protested against making citizens of men who were still German reservists. These enemy aliens should be restrained from putting up their hands against the men at the front; They would vote against any man who was willing to fight against Canada. "I would just as soon fight Germans in Canada as Germans in France and Flanders. That is straight talk and it will come out here as anywhere else," he said. He called upon members to see that none of these "votes" were granted the vote until after the war.

After the Aliens.

Col. Currie added that it would be a matter of great surprise to the people of this country to know that alien enemies were being granted lands and were being allowed to become citizens. They were the same alien enemies who were gathered

nightly in the little huts and school houses in the West devising ways and means of doing up this country and this Government. These men should not be treated as British subjects during war times. After the war was over he would be true to British traditions, and would be prepared to deal fairly and squarely with them. Every man who had returned from the front would be of the same opinion. He also represented, he believed, the views of the men in the trenches. Men who had taken up land in the Canadian West were now fighting our men in the trenches; a great many of them had been taken prisoners, and many of the men still in the West would be doing the same thing if they could get ships or the right to go over.

"Are we going," he asked, "to have in this House 35 or 40 members who owe their election to the voice of the Hungarians and Germans, who will forswear their British citizenship, and who will out-vote our soldiers at the front? The House should put a stop to that. If not, God help the men at the front then."

Not a "Scrap of Paper."

Mr. J. G. Turriff said there was a great deal in what Col. Currie had said that he could not agree with. We had invited people to come to this country from different countries of the world. On our agreement that if they did certain things we would do certain things. They were promised that if they came in they would be allowed to get a quarter-section of land as a homestead, upon the usual regulations, provided they became British subjects, Canadian citizens, and took out patents for their land. This scrap of paper should not be torn up. The bulk of these people would not go back to the lands from which they came. You could not force them to go back. He agreed that that remark did not apply to Germans altogether, yet there were a number of Germans fighting in the British ranks, and were strong pillars of Empire. He did not think the Government would be justified in breaking an agreement made with those people who happened to come from countries with which Canada was now at war.

Pandering to Hun Vote.

Col. Currie retorted that Mr. Tur-

riff in common with a great many others who were pandering to the German vote of the West were going about talking of agreements with this poor people, and that it must not do to break an agreement. His view was that there was not a civil contract in this country that held with an alien enemy, that was the law.

He said that a great many newspapers subsidized from one end of the country to the other, were assisting in the movement for a Union Government, and he dreaded this wooden horse that had been saddled and prepared, inside of which we would find 40,000 or 50,000 votes in the West which were going to send down members to support us in this House in carrying on the war. As a soldier he denounced any attempt to pander to these Germans in the West, and any man who advocated that these men should have votes was deserving of condemnation.

Col. Currie said he doubted very much where money was coming from to carry on a propoganda in this country—for which millions of dollars were being paid—to get German votes to send members to this House.

Asks For Withdrawal.

Hon. Mr. Lemieux said he hoped Col. Currie would withdraw the insinuation he had made against Mr. Turriff that he was defending pro-Germanism in the West, when everybody knew that his son died for the cause a few months ago.

Col. Currie: "I saw a wounded German-Canadian come back to this country, and I have seen his father, a German, deny him admilssion to his house."

Mr. Lemieux again asked Col. Currie to withdraw.

Col. Currie: "It is my word against the word of the honorable gentleman from Assinibola. I say he is supporting the German party, the Hungarians and the Germans of the West, in this House, and that he stands for them, and that he thinks they should have the same citizenship and rights as the Canadian who is fighting in the trenches, and I say he is wrong, and the people will not support him."

Mr. Lemieux said that Col. Currie had accused Mr. Turriff of defending pro-Germanism, which was quite a different thing.