

Would Conscript Alien Labor.

Thos. Carey, in an address on the problem of conscripting alien labor, outlined the present situation of 18,000 aliens registered in Winnipeg, men whom, he thought, would for the most part accept the terms of some fair labor conscription. Adam Huy, in speaking on the land settlement scheme for soldiers, advised that the closest scrutiny be made of any such bill to assure that the returned wounded men be given a square deal, as he thought a great danger lay in the possibility of the men being sent to places far from railway stations. He declared that millions of acres of land are now available adjacent to railways although at present held by corporations, and he urged that the government devise some scheme to obtain this land.

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To the Editor of the Free Press.

Sir—What is the matter with the Union government? Why don't they pass conscription on all aliens in the country? Why should the people suffer for the want of fuel and help? Why not give them a set wage and no more? If we were in countries hostile to us what treatment would we get? Could we pick our jobs? Why then should we allow them to dictate to us? It is a slur on the brave men gone from this country and giving their lives for freedom's cause, while the foreigner holds up the business at home, and demands pay that the soldier never dreamed of getting. During last year I know of cases where the foreign workmen held up farmers for \$5 per day for help in the harvest, while the same men had sons fighting in France, getting \$1.10 per day. Does that look fair? If the aliens were put into coal mines, lumber camps, and on farms, it would solve the fuel and labor problem. Then, the government asks for greater production. Why don't they go into the back districts, take the men with good output, put them on good farms, close to means of transportation, supply them with seed and feed, if necessary, and put others that have no equipment for farming with farmers that need help; or make them double up their outfits? I know of numerous cases where there are men 30 to 40 miles from a railroad, trying to farm, with good outfits; yet, in the last 4 or 5 years they have not produced one carload of produce for exportation. British subjects too; why not give them a chance? Loan companies, banks, machine companies, speculators, all have thousands of farms going begging for tenants. Why preach economy with so many wasters at large. They are not producing. Why not compel the speculator to make his land produce. Production is our salvation. Why not have it?

C. R. PARRIS,

Winnipeg, Jan. 14, 1917.