

# LEAVE ALIENS TO COMMISSION

## Labor Question Under Consideration by the Great War Veterans

### MASSEY HALL MEETING

#### Colonization Scheme Meeting With Success—Convalescents on Farms.

A strong and independent Commission to take hold of the alien labor question and solve it to the satisfaction of the returned soldier, the honorably discharged soldier, Labor and others who are interested in the problem will be asked for by the Great War Veterans' Association, Provincial Secretary W. E. Turley said yesterday to The Globe. The suggestion of the G.W. V.A. will likely be advanced when the alien labor question is discussed at a meeting in Massey Hall in the near future.

With the assurance that the Commission would be absolutely independent, Secretary Turley thought that the objection of the Labor party and trades unionists and the employer to the conscription of labor, alien and friendly, would be wiped away. The Great War Veterans ask that the alien be conscripted and put to work at the prevailing rate of wages, but to receive the C.E.F. rate of pay of a private. The difference earned to be turned over to the Government for its use for war purposes.

#### Alien Enemy Labor.

"I have found that the objection of the employer is that the alien would refuse to work for \$1.10 a day, and that the result would be a loss of capable employees. Labor fears that these men would be used as strike-breakers or to reduce wages and living conditions. But these differences of opinion I am sure would be disposed of with the assurance of an independent Commission," said Mr. Turley.

The employment of Chinese labor was viewed by the various associations throughout the Province seriously, he said. It was pointed out in a score of meetings that such a course to make good the labor shortage would tremendously retard the process of demobilization.

#### Kapuskasing Busy Place.

Recent reports from Kapuskasing to the Provincial headquarters of the Great War Veterans showed that the forty or more returned men who had taken up the Government colonization scheme were making excellent progress. Incidentally, a number of the forty have struck good fortune. Their farms are a portion of the townsite, and others touch the site. With a two-million-dollar pulp mill to be erected, the possibilities of a thriving town in Northern Ontario were certain. Secretary Turley told of an incident in connection with the early days of the town. He received numerous messages demanding his presence without information concerning the difficulty, and upon arrival found that the soldier settlers were raising strenuous objections to the consignment of caps sent north by the co-operative stores. It was found that they were of German manufacture. The success which has attended the colonization scheme has caused many other soldiers to apply for grants of land in the vicinity.

#### Convalescents on Farms.

Of interest to convalescent soldiers will be the arrangements made to allow a number of them to go to the farms this spring and fall.

"It is practically assured that convalescents may go to the farms at the request of the farmer and at the same time draw their C.E.F. pay. While they may not be able to perform the duties of farm hands, they will be as valuable to the farmer as many girls and boys," the Provincial Secretary said.

Success is attending the organization of the association. At Kitchener on Sunday eighteen hundred people, forty or fifty of whom were returned soldiers, attended a meeting to form a local branch of the association. The enthusiasm exhibited by the citizens and manufacturers makes certain the success of the movement in Waterloo county.