

# CANNOT COMPEL ALIEN ENEMIES TO WORK.

OTTAWA, April 22—The problems of the aliens and its relation to labor situation and the war engaged the attention of Parliament throughout the afternoon and evening sittings. The discussion was based primarily upon a resolution, standing in the name of Mr. H. S. Clements (Comox-Alberni) declaring for the consolidation of all regulations and orders-in-council respecting alien labor into a uniform law. Incidentally, the resolutions which had been on the order paper by W. F. Maclean, (South York) and George B. Nicholson (East Algoma) were debated.

A wide divergence of opinion was expressed by members from different parts of Canada, but the majority appeared to agree that the present method of dealing with the alien enemy might be improved.

The suggestion to bring coolie labor into Canada was also disapproved by members from British Columbia, and R. B. Green (Kootenay) suggested that if they were brought they should be sent to Ontario and Quebec, so the people could become acquainted with them.

Colonel J. A. Currie criticized the Government's man-power registration proposals, declaring that the money it would cost might better be spent on women and orphans. He thought the question of registration should have been dealt with by Act of Parliament, and not by order-in-council.

Hon. C. J. Doherty, on behalf of the Government, reviewed the various steps that have been taken to control the alien situation. He said there were many difficulties in the way of the Government accepting the suggestions that had been made, and emphasized the fact that, according to international law, alien enemies may be interned, but that they cannot be compelled to work. These people had been brought to Canada under certain promises, he said, and so long as they behaved and obeyed the law it was better that they should not be unduly interfered with. They had been told that they would not be molested if they behaved, when the war commenced.

Mr. Clements' resolution was declared carried shortly after 1.15, and the House rose.