

ROUND-UP ALL ENEMY ALIENS AND SUSPECTS.

The Commercial Club Urges the Establishment of a Local Board of Public Safety -Captain Demers Made Strong Appeal For Support for the Navy League,

At the weekly luncheon of the Halifax Commercial Club, held at the Green Lantern yesterday, Captain Demers, of Montreal, spoke in the interest of the Navy League, and Major McCleave on the Alien Question. The following resolution was presented by Rev. Harold T. Roe, and unanimously adopted by the Club:

"Whereas, it being the expressed conviction of the Commercial Club, of the City of Halifax, that there are enemy aliens and suspects in this city and environs, whose presence and unrestricted freedom we believe to be a grave menace, not only to this strategically important port, but also generally prejudicial to the Allied cause, we would therefore respectfully urge the Department of Justice and the Department of Militia, to view with favor the establishment of a Local Board of Public Safety consisting of the Chief Intelligence Officer, the Chief of Police and the representatives of the Dominion Police, all residing in Halifax, upon the recommendation of which Board, or any member of the Board, any alien or suspects shall either be interned or ordered to leave the City of Halifax, and shall not be permitted to return or reside within twenty-five miles of the city, until the above-mentioned Board is thoroughly satisfied as to their integrity."

Mr. R. H. Murray, who was in the chair, extended, on behalf of the Club, sincere sympathy to Mr. William Tapp, in the death of his wife.

A Masonic emblem, donated by a newcomer to the City, Mr. H. G. Phillipson, sold at the Red Cross workers' luncheon on Wednesday for \$47.00, was returned by the holder, Mr. Wm. Wolcott, to be re-auctioned at the luncheon. Mr. A. Milne Fraser, as auctioneer, succeeded in doing a rushing business. Purchased by W. R. Scriven, it was re-offered and purchased by William Crowe, re-offered and purchased by W. R. Scriven—the total proceeds amounting to \$56.

Appeal for Navy League.

Capt. Demers, of Montreal, made a most convincing appeal for the Navy League. He opened his interesting address with a brief description of what our men were doing at the front and on the seas, and also spoke of the excellent work being done at home in connection with societies formed to look after the comforts of the soldiers.

"I am afraid we are apt to forget, though, what the British Navy has done for us," said the Captain. "Our seas have been freed of the enemy and a clear path of commerce has been kept open. Our shores have been guarded, all through the navy. Peace will not be declared until such time as the Prussian militarism is eliminated and that will not come to pass until the two navies clash—a terrible crash that will be, too, with both so well trained and skilled. Picture the desolation and slaughter when they do meet, and think of the hundred of widows and thousands of orphans, probably penniless, for the sailor is like a rolling stone, gathering no moss. How is the situation to be met? A body of men got together and started a project to bring comfort to those who will be injured as the result of a naval battle, forming the Navy League. It has been a wonderful success, as everyone knows. Its membership is in the thousand, not only men, but women. It is to be a permanent institution, and not only for war duration." The Captain then spoke of the need of sacri-

fice on the part of everyone to help support these necessary institutions, and appealed to all present to help the League.

The Aliens in Canada.

Major McCleave, formerly of the Military Secret Service Department, gave a brief reminiscence of the past situation regarding his work—as a citizen and not as a man holding rank. He told briefly the other side of the safeguard question—a story from "behind the lines," as far as was possible for him to go. He began his talk by explaining that aliens in Canada were under civil law, not military.

"We often hear the remark made, 'Why aren't all aliens locked up; they would be in Germany?' Those people must stop and think. Our rules are not German rules, thank God, and there is a vast difference between British laws and German laws. We are ruled by civil laws, not military.

"In the dark ages the British Empire extended certain privileges to all who came into our country, provided they obeyed the civil laws. When war opened, the Canadian Government looked to its laws and found they were civil. They found no reason to change to the Prussian idea of management, and the administration of laws was still kept with the civil authority, not military. Colonel Sherwood was appointed executive officer to administration in connection with aliens until martial law was ordered," explained Mr. McCleave. He also told of the various ways in which the military could interfere in connection with rules, such as light signals and other safeguards for the port, but they have not the control of aliens within the city.

The Various Classes.

Mr. McCleave pointed out that the country was divided into four classes: First, the alien enemy, never naturalized; second, the naturalized alien enemy; third, the foreigner, under protection of treaties; and fourth, the native born whose liberties were not curtailed.

The laws of Halifax are the same as any other port. The American Government, on entering the war, used our laws for the basis of their own, in regard to enemies. He described the various characters of the alien enemy, but pointed out that our worst enemy was not the Turk, Bulgarian, Austrian, etc., but the Swiss, Dane, Canadian and American who might be bought. The men the German Government are using today are not nearly all alien enemies. Reference was made to Trotsky and Dr. McMartin, one a Russian and the other Irish, both of whom had proved dangerous.

Mr. McCleave closed by stating he felt it a mistake to intern all aliens, for labor would be hindered and the real spy would not be caught, for, as stated, he was more apt to be a bought man. He said stronger action should be taken to stop gossips, who did the real harm. Less should be said of the movement of transports. He said he approved of the resolution of the Club to further safeguard our port, because it did not deal solely with alien enemy.

The guests at yesterday's luncheon were Mr. W. G. Miller, manager of Brandram-Henderson; Lt.-Colonel Purney; Lieut. G. H. Curry, St. John's; Sergt. J. J. Bryden; D. M. Baird, St. John's, Nfld.; Major A. H. Taylor; Mr. Bouthillier, of the Warren King, Ltd., Montreal, and Alexander Cruickshank, of Sunny Brae, who was presented with the Royal Humane Society Medal at Government House yesterday.

E. A. Seath, of the Canadian Wire and Cable Co., and Mr. Moloney, of the Construction Co., were proposed for membership.