

RETURNED MEN DEMAND ALIENS BE SENT HOME

**Deputation of Eight Hundred Soldiers
Wait on Government and Ask
For Definite Action**

**Express Determination Not to Rest
Content Until the Grievance
Has Been Removed**

**Speakers Declare 24,000 Enemy
Aliens Are in Province--Premier
Sympathizes With Attitude**

Over 800 returned soldiers paraded from the Great War Veterans' hall to the provincial legislature Monday evening and demanded that Premier Norris and his government state their position clearly on the question of the deportation of aliens.

Contrary to general expectations, no returned man asked for a "job." The one engrossing theme was the enemy alien and the demand that he be denied employment here and be deported back home to his own country.

Although it was clearly recognized that the men had a serious grievance in the conditions by which they find themselves confronted on their return from battling for their country, the outstanding feature of the demonstration was the fairness and moderation with which the men stated their case. "We have no wish to force the hands of the government," was asserted again and again by the various speakers, but we do desire the government to arouse themselves to the situation and strive to find a satisfactory solution."

Although stated with extreme moderation, there could be no doubt left in the minds of the government or the public that the returned men are determined upon one thing, and will not rest content until the grievance has been removed. Having seen the Hun in his naked ugliness, and having suffered so much at his hands, the boys are determined that the alien enemy in Canada must move on; and if the government does not see to the order of his going, the returned men will not answer for the consequences, declares one of the deputation.

Premier Endorses Attitude.

At the conclusion of the addresses outlining the soldiers' demands Premier Norris told them that he agreed heartily with them and fully sympathized with them in their attitude. He had been in France and he knew something of what they had undertaken. It was probable that the question of the deportation of aliens would have to be settled by the peace conference. He did not know, the premier stated, any enemy aliens being in the employment of the provincial government or at the parliament building but if it was shown there were they would be quickly rooted out.

Hon. Dr. Thornton, minister of education, stated that the alleged use of German text books at Altona school was being investigated—he had just learned the name of the school that day—and the Dominion government was being asked to place an embargo on the importation of such books.

F. W. Law, secretary of the Great War Veterans' association, introduced the speakers, who were: Sgt. A. E. Moore, an ex-president of the Winnipeg Trades and Labor council; J. O. Newton, vice-president of the Great War Veterans' association; Captain G. F. Wheeler for forty years a soldier and president of the Imperial Veterans of Canada; H. J. Mansfield, president of the Vocational Students' association; and A. Looseley, chairman of the Returned Soldiers' committee.

In No Unreasonable Mood.

F. W. Law, secretary of the Great War Veterans, who introduced the deputation, stated that large and important as the deputation might be they were in no mood to be unreasonable or to endeavor to force the hands of the government. They were determined, however, to bring their grievances to the attention of the powers that be in the full belief that when the government had been made acquainted with the situation steps would be taken to relieve the grievances as far as possible. The deputation was not there to go into the general question of unemployment, but purely to bring to the attention of the government the alien enemy question. The boys who had been to France and through disability received in the service of their country had been returned to Canada were determined that they would not rest content so long as they were compelled to work under an alien enemy employer or alongside an alien enemy fellow workman.

Complains of Inaction.

Sergt. A. E. Moore complained that the Provincial government had not appeared to realize that so many of the boys were back. Although the Legislature had been in session for more than a week, he had failed to notice by a single word that the members realized the seriousness of the situation. Many of the returning men had been wounded, he himself had been wounded on two occasions. They had become acquainted whilst overseas with the work and nature of the beastly Hun. He appealed to

the premier, who had been overseas and had witnessed to some extent the devastation wrought, to back up the boys. The enemy was at work insidiously in Manitoba to regain the upper hand. There were over fifty thousand alien enemies in the province, the speaker asserted, who should be deported at the earliest opportunity. The boys were determined, whatever the government might do, to obliterate this blot from the fair name of Manitoba. The present deputation only represented the advance guard of the returning men; when the main body were back, unless something was done, it would be a very difficult matter to keep them in check.

Aliens Must Be Deported.

J. O. Newton, vice-president of the Great War Veterans, stated that they wanted to be absolutely fair and reasonable, but were determined on this matter of the deportation of alien enemies. They realized that whilst some might be technically aliens, they were not attached to the German system. However, they had to remember that, according to the law of Germany a former subject remained a subject until disclaimed by the German authorities. They were coming to a period of great unrest, declared the speaker, and they wanted to be sure that the authorities realized the gravity of the situation. If the men thought the government were doing something tangible their suspicions would be disarmed; but steps ought to be taken immediately to round up the alien enemies and arrangements made for their deportation just as soon as transportation could be provided. They were constantly hearing ugly rumors, however, declared the speaker; rumors that alien enemies were employed around the government building; rumors that German was being taught in the public schools. If this was the case the ministers who were responsible for the employment of such alien enemies were guilty of high treason, for they had been giving comfort and succor to the King's enemies. The speaker produced a lengthy list of names and read out some of them which were of a distinctly Teutonic character, and stated that he had heard that at Plum Coulee the C.P.R. agent had been compelled to teach his children at home owing to German being the only language taught at the school. He asked for information or denial of these rumors and for immediate action to be taken. The speaker referred to the conditions of employment around the city, especially referring to the Swift-Canadian factory as a place unfit for white men to work. Why was not the factory law of the province being enforced, if this was so, enquired the speaker, amidst applause from the gallery.

Forty Years a Soldier.

Captain G. F. Wheeler, president of the Imperial Veterans' association, stated that he had been forty years a soldier, having fought for the King, the King's father and grandmother in all parts of the world, declared that he had met many Germans in his wanderings but he had never known a good one unless the Hun had been under a tombstone. German money was being expended today to corrupt the commercial life of this province, declared the speaker, and to prevent their boys from getting a square deal. He asked for fair, honest, decent treatment for the boys, and this could not be secured so long as they were compelled to take second place to the Hun. They all knew that these alien enemies celebrated every reverse sustained by our boys, and the boys at the front knew of it. He appealed to the premier to take action. They were only "the wounded duds" who had come back so far, what would they do when between 80,000 and 100,000 returned men were walking their streets looking for work.

Men Unable to Secure Work.

H. J. Mansfield, president of the Vocational Students' association, urged that something definite should be done. When the boys were being exhorted to shoulder arms they were assured that Manitoba would be behind them and care for them when they returned. Many of them were walking the streets, however, today as were objects of charity, declared the speaker, men who had been fighting in the trenches for three or four years. He complained of the apparent indifference of the provincial government regarding the trouble at the vocational schools, and insisted that though this might primarily be a federal matter, the provincial authorities ought not to have closed their eyes and done nothing. Returned men were unable to get work unless by scabbing on a Bohunk, asserted the speaker, and concluded by insisting that it was the duty of the government to see that the boys secured right and justice and a living wage.

24,000 Alien Enemies in Winnipeg.

A. Loosley, chairman of the Returned Soldiers' commission, who was the concluding speaker, declared that statistics recorded the presence of over 24,000 alien enemies in Winnipeg alone, and they wanted to know what the government intended to do about it. The boys were urged in August, 1914, that it was a time for action. The present is a time for action on the part of the authorities, insisted the speaker; and unless disaster was to overtake the country it behoved the government to take immediate steps to see that justice was done.

No Work for Alien Enemies.

Premier Norris said after what he had seen on his visit to the front he was not surprised to hear the soldiers say that the condition of affairs they found at home exasperating. The government had no apology to offer for the action of some of the people of the province, but after looking into the civil service he could say that he did not know of any alien enemies being in the employ of the provincial government. "If there are," said the premier, "I don't know it, but if you will be good enough to give me a list of the men I promise you that every investigation will be made into the matter and if there are any—I do not know that there are—they will be no longer employed; they will be outside. That is really all I can say on that point." There are men, in the employment of the government, added the premier, who have been born in Canada who had sons at the front and who were descendants of German people. Should they, he asked the deputation, be called alien enemies because of that German name. He was quite sure they would not. As to those who were real alien enemies he assured them of the co-operation of the government in their efforts. He believed the sol-

dirs did not want to do injustice to any one, and sneaking of the record of the Canadians in the war he asserted that it was the efforts of the boys in the last few months that had led to its early culmination.

No Knowledge of Hun Propaganda.

As to the statement that there were five Germans employed at the parliament buildings, the premier said he would have an investigation started at once. If, he continued, there was German propaganda in the province, it was a crime against the citizenship of Manitoba and the government, and if those who had knowledge of it would give the government the information, every agency at their disposal would be set in action for the purpose of locating it and prosecuting the people engaged in it. Such things, he said, were enough to exasperate men like the soldiers who had returned from the front. "We are sympathetic," the premier assured the deputation, "but sometimes we don't know of these things and it will require the assistance of the men who do know." He mentioned that anyone applying for a position in the civil service had to take the oath of allegiance. Nothing but British subjects were employed, that he knew of, in the civil service and special attention was given to this. "We are just as much opposed to that kind of thing as you are, and as soon as we know of anything of the nature you complain of being done it will be attended to at once.

The premier said he did not know that there were as many as 21,000 registered aliens in Winnipeg. The question was how to deal with them. The provincial government had no desire to pass "the buck," as it was commonly described. But there were conditions over which they had no control. It was the government at Ottawa had first to deal with these matters and the peace conference was also dealing with the alien enemy question. It was an international question. He understood Lloyd George had stated the alien enemy was to be driven out of Great Britain, and this statement the gathering wildly cheered, repeating the approval, when Premier Norris added: "I think nothing better can be done than follow the lead of Lloyd George."

Deportation Big Undertaking.

The whole question of the alien enemy, he continued, would be inquired into in Great Britain. It would have to be done in Canada, but the deputation understood it could not be settled in a week or two weeks, and he did not know what the provincial government could do to give the soldiers adequate assurance of having done something. He had personally interviewed members of the Dominion government on the subject but he did not advertise it. He was told that in the very near future the alien enemy question would be looked into in Canada. He had talked the matter over with the Dominion government before the armistice was signed and he could say that the provincial government would do everything they could to encourage the Dominion government to deal with the question as quickly as it was possible to do it. The deportation of so many alien enemy people was a mighty big undertaking. The provincial government would not do anything that would assist in any way, indirectly or directly, the alien enemy in Manitoba, and at the recent conference they had the assurance of employers they would let out any in their employment. If they

did that, that was a step in the right direction. So far as they as a government were concerned, he could only repeat that they would not give employment to alien enemies in any branch of the service.

With this statement the premier resumed his seat with applause.

Investigating School Cases.

Hon. Dr. Thornton, minister of education, alluding to a name that had been handed in, said that the man was in the employment of the province when the government took office three years ago. He was dismissed in two months. In regard to the text books in Altona school the minister said he had only received the name of the school that day, and Mr. Greenway, the special agent of the department, had gone to learn the facts. The matter would be dealt with as soon as they had them before them. He had already written the Dominion government, added the minister, to place an embargo on the importation of German text books into Canada so they would have their co-operation in dealing with the situation. With respect to Plum Coulee, they would understand a religious question entered into the matter in that district of the province. There was there a settlement of the Mennonites. As soon as the question came to his attention he had directed Major Newcombe, who had served at the front, and who was now the superintendent of education, to inquire into it and he was sure the soldiers would understand it would be satisfactorily dealt with.

Mr. Law, in thanking the premier and the members of the legislature, trusted everything that had been

said would be decided out to the best
of the government's ability and that
the soldiers would have no reason to
again visit the legislative chamber
on the same subject.

Premier Norris in reply said if
they would furnish the name of any
enemy ailer in the government em-
ployment he would soon be rooted
out.