

WILL DEPORT ALL DANGEROUS ALIENS

Some Difficulties in the Way at Present.

Mr. H. S. Clements, of Comox-Alberni, moved in the Commons yesterday afternoon that it was expedient that the policy of the Government in relation to the internment of alien enemies, deportation of undesirable persons and the treatment of soldiers be clearly defined. He said the House should make itself heard with no uncertain sound in regard to the alien enemy question. He said every interned alien was just as much an enemy today as he was during the war, and he should be deported at the earliest opportunity. The authorities should not wait for palatial ships to take them away from Canada, cattle ships were good enough.

Bars Against Labor.

Mr. Clements said he desired to censure the Immigration Department. The bars had been put up against labor coming into British Columbia; 99 per cent. of the men available for service went to the front; labor became scarce and an urgent call went out for men. The bars were let down, and there came into British Columbia a big influx of undesirables.

Mr. Clements suggested that the Government would be wise to have the photographs of aliens placed upon their naturalization papers. He declared that some people of this class remained in Canada as naturalized citizens until they had made enough money to live on in their own country. Then they returned to the place they had come from and handed over their naturalization papers to some other alien who wished to come to Canada. The second man took the name on the naturalization papers when he came to Canada.

Deport Hostile Aliens.

Hon. Arthur Meighen in reply said the policy of the Government was to deport all alien enemies who had shown themselves dangerous, undesirable or hostile, with as little delay as possible. He observed, however, that they were under certain difficulties. The British Government could not admit at present, in any considerable numbers, enemies for repatriation in Austria and Germany. The question of payment of costs of transportation was also a consideration and was now before the peace conference.

A record had been obtained of practically all the aliens in the country, and a close watch was kept. Of the 2,222 interned, 1,700 were Germans, 489 Austrians, 11 Turks, 15 Bulgarians, and the rest miscellaneous. Eight hundred of the Germans had been transported from the West Indies by the British authorities, and of the 900 remaining 80 per cent. could be classed as hostile. Very few Austrians were dangerous. Fifty-four of the Germans were insane.

When the Canadian Government applied to the British Government for instructions as to what was to be done with the enemy aliens, a reply was received that repatriation by way of Great Britain was now possible to a number not exceeding 100. Accordingly 100 of the worst specimens have already been sent over for repatriation.

Amend Immigration Act.

Hon. J. A. Calder, Minister of Immigration felt that criticism which had been levelled against Canada's Immigration policy of the last fifteen years had been well founded. Canada now had to pay the penalty which she deserved. A bill amending the Immigration Act, would however, be brought down shortly and full opportunity would then be given for discussing the whole question.

Mr. Calder emphasized difficulties

in deporting undesirable aliens. It was thought that some Russians might be sent through Odessa but this was found to be impractical. All would recognize, he said, that conditions in Europe were such as to make solution of the problem exceedingly difficult. There was no doubt that so far as alien enemies were generally concerned, any man who was dangerous or who had shown himself hostile, and who had indicated that he was not desirous of becoming a proper Canadian citizen had no right to remain in Canada. Steps should be taken to cause him to leave the country as soon as possible.

Mr. Clements then withdrew his resolution.