

"LITTLE UKRAINIA" MAKES A PROTEST

Wants Restoration of Franchise to Ukrainians in Canada

Toronto's "Little Ukraina" turned out in force at the Star Theatre last evening to protest against the registration of its people as Austrian aliens, to ask the removal of this stigma, and the restoration of the franchise to Ukrainians. It was explained at the meeting that the Ukrainian race, conquered first by Poland and then by Austria, had suffered at the hands of both, and entertained no sentiment of loyalty toward either.

There were Russian Bolsheviks there, too, to constitute a turbulent minority, and they were vociferous in their protests when a message was placed before the meeting asking President Sidorenko of the Ukrainian peace delegation to convey its sympathy to Generals Petlura, Teleny and Grigorieff, who with their peasant armies are resisting the invasion of Ukraina by the Poles and Russian Bolsheviks.

"Down with Petlura" was their greeting to this proposal, and even "Down with the Peace Conference," until the serge-covered arm of the law intervened and removed them to the cooler atmosphere of Temperance street.

The chief business of the meeting was to present to the Acting Minister of Justice a plea on behalf of the Ukrainians in Canada for re-admission to full rights of citizenship, and for the right to communicate with their relatives in the old land, from whom they have not heard during nearly five years of war. Notwithstanding their registration under the general title of Austrians, stated one of the speakers, they had rendered valuable service in the munition factories of Canada during the war, and had sent 40,000 men to the front in khaki. These latter had in many cases disguised their nationality in order to gain admission to the army.

Speakers of the evening included M. Guzda, Wasyl Bortnyk, P. E. Crath, John Baby, and Rev. Dr. Shearer, who assured the meeting of his sympathy and support.