

TO TAKE UP APPEAL FOR ALIENS' RELEASE

Government Approached Re- garding Interned Ottawa Foreigners.

Believing that injustice has been done their fellow countrymen, the Ukrainians and Poles of Ottawa urged the Government yesterday to release the 17 aliens who were arrested in Ottawa and interned without trial in May, 1918, and who have since been prisoners in Kapuskasing Camp.

At a meeting of Canadian Ukrainians it was decided to petition the Government for the men's release, and yesterday a delegation waited upon Hon. C. J. Doherty, Minister of Justice and Acting Premier, for that purpose.

Mr. M. Chopwick was chairman of the delegation and P. Yakubowski, secretary and it was introduced by Mr. Auguste Lemieux, K.C., of Ottawa, who made a strong plea on behalf of the interned men.

Mr. Lemieux claimed that the whole matter of their arrests and internment was an injustice. At a meeting on Rochester street on the date named, they were accused of holding a secret meeting, although the meeting had been advertised by hand bills. They were also accused of being spies and "I. W. W.'s" although ten of the seventeen arrested were so ignorant they could not read or write.

Mr. Lemieux also urged that the native country of these men had by the terms of the peace treaty with Austria-Hungary been transferred to either Ukraina or Poland, and they are now by the sole operation of that treaty, subjects of the latter countries and cannot be regarded as alien enemies.

M. Chopowik and P. Yakobowski spoke on behalf of their compatriots. Mr. Lemieux also solicited the favorable consideration of the Government of the case of other Ukrainians and Polish prisoners of war presently detained at Kapuskasing camp.

Hon. C. J. Doherty said he was impressed with the representations made by the delegation and would take the matter into serious consideration. He added that he would take the matter up with the Immigration Department.