

LOYALTY TO EMPIRE WAS DOMINANT NOTE

3,000 Foreign-Born Winnipeg Citizens Join in Expression of Patriotic Sentiments.

Mayor Deacon in Chair—Twenty Speakers Set Forth Views That Appealed to Hearers.

"Resolved by this mass meeting of British citizens by adoption, representing practically all of the civilized nations of the earth, that this meeting of citizens, who have been born in other lands, but who have exercised the right of free choice, which should belong to every man, of deciding for himself in what country he shall live and to whom he shall give his allegiance, and holding that the ballots of a people alone should decide how they shall be governed, have become citizens of this country, and without disparagement of the lands of our respective births, believing that in the present cruel and unjust war which has been thrust upon us, that Great Britain and her allies represent the cause of democracy and rule by the people as against military despotism;

"That we hereby pledge our moral and material support to Great Britain and to the cause of human freedom, and we hereby declare that we are ready to contribute of our financial means and our personal services to the destruction of autocracy and the triumph of liberty as represented by the British empire and her allies in this crisis; and

"That a copy of this resolution be forwarded at once to his Royal Highness the Governor-General of Canada."

The foreign-born residents of Winnipeg eagerly availed themselves of the opportunity given them last night to express their loyalty to Great Britain. They assembled, to the number of about 3,000 in the convention hall of the Industrial Bureau, and after spirited addresses by representative speakers, passed unanimously, and with the utmost enthusiasm, the above resolution, which was moved by Col. Porter and seconded by Fy L. W. Trautman.

The meeting was one of the most cosmopolitan ever held in the city. Every foreign nation which has sent its sons and daughters to Canada was represented in the audience. Notwithstanding, the dominant note was that of loyalty to the King, land of adoption and empire. It was struck by the twenty speakers, themselves foreign-born citizens of Winnipeg, and it was reflected by the demeanor of the listeners, who vociferously cheered each sentiment that was expressive of sympathy with Great Britain in the mighty struggle into which she has entered in order to uphold the principles of liberty and justice.

The speakers represented such countries as the United States, Belgium, Russia, Switzerland, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Armenia, Holland and Italy. Invitations had also been sent representatives of Germany, France and Greece. These had been accepted, on behalf of Germany by Baron von Amerongen, it was intimated, but the gentleman concerned did not put in an appearance. Their absence was a regrettable feature, but each of the three countries was well represented in the audience. The speeches were all given in excellent spirit. Attack after attack was made on the war lords of Germany, especially Kaiser Wilhelm, who, valiant as he declares himself to be, would have turned pale as a result of many of the statements hurled at him, but nothing derogatory was said of the Germans as a people. At nothing that was uttered could the real type of German in the hall have taken offence, and so deeply impressed was Mayor Deacon, who conducted the meeting, with the fact, that he took the opportunity before the close of the proceedings to express his satisfaction. The Veterans' band was in attendance, and added to the general harmony by playing, at the close of each speech, some bars of the national anthem of the country represented by the speaker.

Mayor Deacon Opens Meeting.

Mayor Deacon, who was cordially received, explained that the meeting had been called to give the foreign-born residents of Winnipeg an opportunity of expressing sentiments and views with regard to the British empire in the great war in which she was engaged. They felt, as free men, that they had views to express that were in full accord with those of British subjects and Canadians. Having made an eloquent allusion to empires which had arisen and fallen, the mayor stated that they had been founded on physical force, whereas the British empire was rooted and built on the solid rock of individual rights and liberties. Unfortunately, the British empire had engaged in warfare against a nation which British people admired in many respects. The Germans were to be admired for what they had accomplished in science and literature and other realms, but many of them were unfortunately obsessed with a military spirit that seemed destined, if permitted, to trample ruthlessly over the rights and liberties of other people.

At the head of the German empire there was a man, it was generally believed, whose ambitions had led him to the point of insanity. "But," declared the mayor, in a fervent outburst, "he will be made aware that there are ten million swords ready to leap from their scabbards into the hands of men eager to avenge the outrages perpetrated on that gallant little nation, Belgium."

Naturalized Citizens Patriotic.

Colonel Porter, representing the United States, spoke with pleasure and pride of the statement by the minister of militia that he had received so many offers for military service from citizens of the United States that he believed he could have organized an army of 100,000 from across the border. A statement of that kind, he said, was the best answer to the question which had been asked by a statesman from the west: "Is it advisable to give so many privileges to former residents of the United States?" There must be something unusual, he continued, about a country that attracted so many people from the different parts of the civilized world as Canada, and it was because there was something unusual about it that there were so many naturalized Britishers in Winnipeg today. These people, he believed, was just as patriotic and just as willing to bear their share of the burdens caused by the war as any people who were born under the British flag.

Fred Trautman, also representing the United States, said Great Britain was engaged in a terrific struggle for liberty against the power of the sword,

the United States, he was prepared to do whatever duty called him to do just as if he were living under the Stars and Stripes. "I should be very sorry to hear of a single citizen born under the Stars and Stripes who got his living in Canada, whether naturalized or not," he declared, "who was not prepared to do the same thing. We are living under the Union Jack, and enjoy all the protection and privileges which that flag affords, and it is incumbent on every one of us to do readily all that is necessary in the crisis through which the British empire is passing."

Belgians Loyal.

There was tremendous cheering when Louis Verboven, Belgium, arose to speak. The tribute to the gallantry of his countrymen was not lost on Mr. Verboven, who at once acknowledged it, and went on to say that the Belgians living in Canada were among the most patriotic and loyal in the country. "Any Belgian ought to be proud to live under the British flag," he asserted amid a renewed outburst of cheering, "for no Belgian can ever forget how splendidly Great Britain is co-operating with Belgium in the present terrible war."

Speaking as a Russian or Polish Hebrew, R. S. Robinson, said he esteemed highly the privilege of British citizenship, and if there was anything he could do to assist the cause of Great Britain in the present war he would right gladly do it.

D. Balcovske, said he was proud to get the opportunity of expressing his loyalty as a Russian Jew. "Why should we not be loyal?" he asked. "When we arrived here we get the protection of the Union Jack, we are received with open arms, we get the same privileges as others, and if we become naturalized we get the vote. We get everything that the British-born subject gets. Further, we get British fair play. As long as we behave ourselves we get fair treatment, and I have had thirty years' experience of it. That being so, it would ill become us, if at the time of Great Britain's need, we were not anxious to do all that may be asked of us."

Switzerland was represented by the next speaker, R. Baroni, who said Swiss and patriot were synonymous. A good patriot would always be a good citizen wherever he lived, and that was sufficient guarantee of the Swiss in Canada always behaving as good citizens of Canada ought to behave.

Loved British Flag.

Speaking of Sweden, M. P. Petersen said he had been a resident in Winnipeg for 40 years and a naturalized citizen for 36. He loved the country, he loved the people, and he loved the British flag, for he knew that wherever it flew there were freedom and justice. He had always spoken up for Great Britain when he had heard it decried, and it would be his pleasure to continue to do so, though he hoped the occasion for doing it would be seldom, as he would like all, no matter from what country they came, to give the credit to Great Britain that was its due.

Dr. Brandson, representing Scandinavians and Icelanders, declared that while his people gloried in the proud traditions of their race, their first duty in Canada was to see that they were worthy Canadian citizens. The present war, he declared, was a struggle between democracy and autocracy, and there could be only one ending to it. The German war lord was no more able to keep back the onward march of democracy than King Canute was to sweep back the waves in the days of old. "Scandinavians," said Dr. Brandson, "feel strongly the justice of the British empire's cause. We are proud to belong to a nation that is so mindful of its honor and will fight to the uttermost for the defence of it."

Ingvor Oleson, Norway, expressed the loyalty of Norwegians, and, referring to the kaiser, said that when he described himself as master of Germany nobody outside that country cared, but when the kaiser said he was master of the world, then it was time for British subjects, born or naturalized, to demonstrate that he was not going to be master of the British empire.

Representing Denmark, J. Jacobson and Paul Scholter spoke of the allegiance of Danes in Canada to the British flag, and asserted that the Danes for the privileges they enjoyed in this country were always willing to bear their share of the burden of empire.

Kaiser Made Mistake.

On behalf of Italian citizens, C. B. Guarnera, said they were among the most loyal of the people in Canada, and, alluding to the stand Italy had made against the overtures of Germany in the present crisis, amused the audience greatly by stating, "If the German bully thought he could pull Italy by the nose, then he has found that he has made a big mistake."

Armenian citizens had a vigorous exponent of their loyalty in T. M. Thomas, who described the conflict as unholy warfare forced upon Great Britain by the kaiser in his unholy desire for fire and blood.

F. Dojasek and P. Kohout, for Bohemians; H. F. Kaise, for the Dutch; Louis Kon and F. Szablewski, for the Poles; and Ivan Peetrushivich and J. W. Arsenych, for the Ruthenians, were the other speakers, and if any doubt were entertained as to the loyalty of those citizens—they certainly demonstrated that it was not at all warranted.

With the mayor on the platform was Alderman Skalleter, one of the promoters of what was altogether a memorable gathering.