

ALIEN ENEMIES ARE GIVEN PREFERENCE?

Porcupine Prospector Writes of Conditions at the Mines

PRO-GERMANS ARE ARMED

Writer Declares Situation is Putting Damper on Recruiting

To the Editor of The Daily News.

In view of the recent action taken by the Old Country and by all the other parts of the Empire, except Canada, it may be well if the conditions in the Porcupine gold camp be made publicly known. There are many staunch Britishers here and there are many who are not staunch because they are afraid of losing the means of making a living. These two classes of Britishers exist both amongst the employed and unemployed and also amongst the professional and business men.

The question is why is it that any loyal British subject is afraid of it being known, here in Canada, that he is very much British and very anti Austro-German. On the face of it, is it not a peculiar and shameful question to have to even consider at this time especially?

No Aliens Interned.

That such a condition does exist must be a fact, else why is it that so many alien enemies are employed and British workmen cannot get work? Why is it that so many alien enemies do not find it at all necessary to keep their opinions to themselves, but openly and loudly proclaim their pro-German sympathies?

The arrogance of these alien enemies has received no check from the authorities. The writer does not know of a single instance where any action has been taken, although instances of pro-German and treasonable utterances have been reported to them, or does the writer know of a single case of internment being made in the camp, although we have here a number of Germans, of military age, who have served in the German army as commissioned officers and rankers.

An Explanation Wanted.

In any part of Canada, or in fact the whole Empire, where a British public is free to express its opinions and feelings, such a condition of affairs could not exist. Again I ask, why does it exist here?

Can it be because the management of the mines, from which the community derives its living, is pro-German, and being such prefers to employ alien enemy to British labor and discriminates in its business dealings to the disadvantage of the business man, who dares to let it be known that he objects to the employment of alien enemies while British laborers are out of work?

A great many citizens think so, and there is reason for this belief, for there are a number of cases where British workmen (Canadians) have been refused work, even when willing to take anything, and have stood aside and watched aliens, and worse still, alien enemies, get work given them in their (the Canadians') hearing.

In Public Service.

In the employment of alien enemies the Ontario Provincial Government is a gross offender, for it has insulted the Canadian citizens here by appointing two Germans to its fire ranging staff for this district, one being very pronounced in his sympathies with Germany and her infamy, while the writer knows of his own knowledge that several Canadians and Englishmen applied for appointment.

Why is it that we Canadians and Britons are receiving such treatment?

Northern Ontario in general and the Porcupine Camp in particular has sent more than its share of its young men to fight Britain's just fight, and we have many more who are willing to go, but they do not go as gladly as they might for this reason, I have it from the recruiting agent here in Porcupine, and I quote his words:

"Men tell me they feel that they have to go to the front, but they hate to think that the jobs they have will be given to alien enemies and that work that turns up will be handed to the same people to do instead of to our own people, and the worst part of the whole thing is that the money these people get they send to the United States to be forwarded to Europe to buy powder to blow us up."

Not a very pleasant thought for our men to take away with them, is it? And it is a shame to the whole country that such a thought should ever be forced upon them.

Claims They Are Armed.

Another peculiar phase of the inactivity of the authorities is the fact that the alien enemies of this camp have not been disarmed. That they are armed is positively known to the writer. Again, why? How can British subjects feel justified in enlisting and leaving their friends with women and children to take care of when there is an armed enemy behind them?

The alien enemies here being armed and feeling running high, a rupture may take place at any time, and if it does come who is to blame for the damage that will be done? Surely not the loyal citizens who have armed themselves for their own protection and to uphold the honor and integrity of the British Empire.

Thomas E. Croughan.
A Prospector of Porcupine, Ontario.
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