

# **Council to Wait a Week Before Taking Action on Aliens in Employ of City**

**Commissioners' Report Causes Lively Discussion Among the  
Aldermen—Question of Power Offers Will Come Up  
At Special Session On Friday**

scenes reminiscent of the palmy days of 1914 were witnessed in the city council chamber on Tuesday afternoon, when the spectators' seats were thronged. Council was dealing with the question of the employment of alien enemies. Applause and frequent ejaculations of approval greeted the remarks of two or three aldermen who strenuously opposed employing aliens whether naturalized or not.

The commissioners presented a report—some being published in Tuesday's Journal—and the discussion commenced. This report told of the number of aliens in the city's employ, what had been done with them, and asking council to determine the policy of whether or not naturalized Germans, Austrians or Bulgarians or even Turks should remain in the city's employ.

#### In Police Department.

Alderman Calder wanted to know why the police department was not included in the report. "There are Germans in that department," said the alderman, "and they should be dealt with, too."

Mayor Henry replied that a man named Job had been dismissed, that Effenburger says he was born in London, England, and Mats is a resident of Canada. "You will have a full report from the police department through the police commission soon."

"If their report is not more accurate than the report we have before us, it will not be much good," said Alderman Calder. "The naturalization papers of Effenburger with his own signature is signed Berlin, Germany."

"The question of the naturalization papers is whether you wish to dismiss Canadian citizens or not," said the mayor.

"What are other cities doing," asked Alderman Picard.

The mayor replied that Calgary had dismissed all aliens except those who are naturalized.

Alderman McArthur did not think that council could do anything with the men who are naturalized for they were Canadian subjects, and unless they voiced pro-German sentiments they should be dealt with as Canadian subjects.

#### Sentiments of Mayor.

"Those are my sentiments," said Mayor Henry. "I would appreciate and do not object at all if citizens call me up on the telephone, but I do object to having citizens call me up and give me five or ten minutes hot talk and then refuse to give their names. It is unfair, and as far as I am concerned, I would dismiss a German, Austrian, Englishman or Irishman if he utters any pro-German sentiments."

Alderman Calder created an impression among the spectators when he stated that no person of German descent should hold a position of trust in these strenuous times. "I believe in being fair, but there is such a thing as carrying fairness to too great an extent when our best blood is at the front fighting these men. If we keep Germans or men of German descent in the city's employ, it is doing an injustice to the city, the people and to the country." Applause greeted these remarks and the mayor had to call the audience to order.

Discussing the last clause of the commissioner's report regarding the employment of naturalized aliens, Alderman Douglas stated that in his opinion no German born should be employed by the city even though naturalized. "If he has German blood or Austrian blood he should not be employed. And any Turk as far as that goes," he added.

#### Wants Council to Act.

"I don't propose to take the responsibility myself. I want you to take that. I will carry out your instructions," stated Mayor Henry.

Alderman Ramsey said the question was: "What are you going to do with naturalized born aliens? Naturalization means very little to a German born. When he swears allegiance to this country it is to get the vote, but he forswore allegiance to Germany. I would not go quite so far with Austrian born for I believe they left their country to escape oppression and love this country more than their own."

Alderman Wilson moved that the matter be referred to the safety and health committee to take up with the commissioners and report.

#### Would Bar Them All.

Alderman Calder: "This is a matter for council to deal with. It is a matter of policy to be laid down by council and not by committee. I am quite prepared and willing to take the responsibility and I will move that no German or Austrian or any enemy naturalized or unnaturalized be employed by this city." Applause.

Alderman Williamson: "I quite agree with Alderman Calder. I will second the amendment."

Alderman Macdonald said he was quite in sympathy with the amendment. "Perhaps some innocent party will suffer but that is always the inevitable in adopting policies. Naturalized Germans are still recognized by their own country and still subject to German laws. The way our own people are being treated in Germany it is only natural precautionary measures on our part to do the same here."

Alderman Picard said the wiser the Germans are the more dangerous they are because they have the confidence of the people. "We have heard so much of the spies in Europe, Canada and the United States that we don't know who our best friends are. I am sorry this country has to take such steps as we are called upon to do, but it is for our safety."

Alderman Ramsey said that he too, was in sympathy with the amendment but he thought council was acting too hastily.

#### Bush Asks For Delay.

Alderman Bush then moved that the matter lay on the table for one week and this was seconded by Ald. Macdonald.

On the vote being taken Alderman Calder's amendment was lost by a vote of seven to three and the amendment to lay the matter on the table carried by the same majority.

During the discussion of the matter, Alderman Bush raised a point regarding the interview four aldermen had with Mayor Henry on Monday and asked whether the meeting was a "stormy" one or not. The mayor and the four aldermen said the meeting was perfectly peaceable, but the rest of the article as published in The Journal was correct in substance.

#### Will Purchase City Property.

Regarding the application of the Great Western Garment Company to purchase certain property from the city to allow of extensions of factory premises, the commissioners reported to council that the purchase price with interest amounts to about \$4,764, but the company offers \$3,000, making certain concessions.

C. W. Graham of the Great Western Garment Company said that they had considered leasing the property, but found that it would cost too much. The company is now willing to purchase the land, paying six per cent interest and remove a house which is on the land to other city property.

Council decided to adopt the commissioners report, authorizing the sale of the property for \$3,000 or the cost of the property, plus six per cent and less the cost of the house which the company agrees to move at a cost of not more than \$100. The commissioners now have the authority to conclude negotiations. Privilege to cross the lane was also given.

#### Overcrowding Picture Shows.

G. H. May, ex-alderman, spoke to council regarding the overcrowding of moving picture houses, especially on Saturdays, when children and women go to the shows. He asked for protection of the public in this matter and urged a survey of all picture houses. He suggested that policemen or firemen visit the houses and the matter be taken up with the attorney general's department. Council referred the matter to the safety and health committee for a report.

#### Grant For Boy Scouts.

G. V. Felton, secretary of the Boy Scouts' association of Alberta, with Assistant Commissioner Bennett, asked council for a small grant, say from \$50 to \$100, to help the movement along. Headquarter funds keep the association going but there are always small expenditures locally which have to be

met. The aims of the association are well known and these were enlarged upon by Mr. Pelton. The matter was referred to the finance committee for report.

#### Bank Coupon is Lost.

City Treasurer Barnhouse reported to council that some time ago the Imperial Bank lost a coupon of a certain debenture valued at \$12.50. In lieu thereof a guarantee signed by one of the officers of the bank has been received stating that the bank will reimburse the city any time the coupon may be presented. They ask permission to charge the amount to the city's account. As this guarantee is not under seal from the bank, the treasurer asked for instructions before accepting the offer. Council referred the matter to the city solicitor and on his advice the treasurer will act.

The demand of the Public School board on the city for \$455,000, the sum required to meet the expenditures for the year, was referred to the finance commissioner.

#### Telephone Agreement Approved.

Council approved of the agreement negotiated by Superintendent Lowry of the telephone department with the provincial government telephones regarding the city participating in tolls of pay stations. The commissioners were authorized to execute.

As long as the commissioners assure the council that the city will not require the telephone cable for the next two years, the offer of the B. C. Telephone company to purchase \$10,000 of cable was accepted, as long as the price is F.O.B. Edmonton. The purchase price is 37 per cent above the price paid by the city for the cable.

#### To Sell Farm Machinery.

The commissioners' report regarding the leasing of a portion of the 101st street market building to W. W. Thompson for the purpose of establishing a wholesale and retail business, was approved. Mr. Thompson also wants the north half of the tin clad shed and is willing to pay \$15 per month. He will sell on commission farm machinery.

Council appointed five of its members to serve on the Edmonton Hospital board instead of having laymen as representatives. Aldermen Douglas, Picard, Macdonald, Wilson and Bush are to act, while Dr. Tory, O. M. Bigger and E. C. Pardee will represent the University.