

WOULD TAKE VOTE FROM ALIEN ENEMY ELECTORS

City Council by 17 to 5 Adopts Ald. McGregor's Resolution—Ald. Singer, Ald. Ramsden and Controller Shaw Make Vigorous Protest

That this Council petition the Dominion Parliament to provide that only such naturalized natives of alien enemy countries that have lived in Canada for twenty-five years shall be allowed to exercise the franchise at any election in war time, or until otherwise provided, except such naturalized natives of alien enemy countries that are on active service themselves or have sons or daughters on active service in the Canadian Expeditionary Force or other of His Majesty's Forces.

By a majority of 17 to 5, the City Council passed the above resolution yesterday. An animated debate preceded the adoption of the motion. Alderman MacGregor, who presented the resolution, did not attempt any argument in its favor, but in a very brief statement said he considered it "very broad."

Attacked by Ald. Singer.

Alderman Singer attacked the motion, tooth and nail, in two long and closely reasoned and passionate speeches. He set out by declaring that such a resolution was "an anachronism in this century." In a tense moment at the close of the debate, he rose and declared that he himself was of alien enemy origin. "I do not intend to let any newspaper get a scoop on me. It is public knowledge that I am myself of alien origin. I have lived in Canada over thirty years, so that this resolution does not affect me. But it has been said here to-day that time makes no difference with alien enemies. If I am an enemy, the people should know it. How am I to prove that I am not disloyal and a traitor, you cannot prove your loyalty by a tumult of talk.

"If a naturalized British citizen is disloyal, it means that he will endeavor to destroy British lives or property. Roger Casement suffered for his traitorship, and if we think these aliens are going to destroy life and property, they should be interned. Can you protect life and property by taking away their votes? I know of many British-born who have destroyed property; there is no bigger enemy of the British Empire in Canada than Bourassa. If you are afraid of disloyalty, start at Quebec, not at Toronto. Do you suppose you are going to make them loyal by taking away their votes? I know of no better way by which you could make them disloyal.

Aliens Who Are Loyal.

"I represent a ward where there are more aliens than in any other in the city. Yet these people are loyal in act and deed; they have helped the military and patriotic work, and they have enlisted; they never agitate, and in fact they do less against the British Crown than many of the British-born. Yet you would take away their votes. You are doing now what the whole world is fighting against in Europe. This resolution is opposed to all the principles of British justice.

"Great Britain went to war with South Africa to give the outlander what you are going to deny the naturalized British subject to-day. The franchise is the biggest thing that British citizenship can give them, and when you take that away you take away all. You have found them guilty without evidence. Is that a British square deal? This is a mischievous and irresponsible motion, and I say that if we did not have prohibition to-day it would cause riots. A great responsibility rests upon this Council and upon the newspapers of this city in forming public opinion. We should see that our acts are fairly considered, and not allow ourselves to be taken into the vortex of mob rule. There will be some flopping, but who are the members of this Council afraid of? They are afraid of the Mayor, who held a threat over them at the close of the last meeting, as much as to say: 'Now is your last chance, if you don't do it now we'll get after you.'

What Advocates Said.

Ald. Fenwick said he was glad he was not of German origin. He would disfranchise all the people of that race in Canada.

Ald. Graham—"There are two classes in Canada—the loyal and the disloyal. People who love the Kaiser have no right to vote. The Jameson raid in the Transvaal was in a time of peace, that is no parallel case. We are at war with Germany. We will give these people the franchise when peace comes."

Preserving Liberties.

Ald. Risk—I am sorry this question has come up at all. It may lose me many votes, but as a patriot, I cannot support this motion. I find nothing to commend it. I am opposed to the taking away of the liberties of any subject without taking away their responsibilities. Any man who thinks for a moment of British principles would consider this motion unfair."

Ald. Ball in supporting the motion

went into a lengthy review of history. He recalled the battle of Waterloo, and the giving of Heligoland to the Germans. He said the German character was an intense fanaticism.

Ald. MacMulkin, in briefly seconding the motion, protested against Ald. Singer accusing him of "flopping." He had never "flopped over."

"The German Vote."

Ald. Nesbitt—As one who voted for the last resolution I have no apology to make. I believe there is a large Austro-German vote which should be eliminated, so that the Government may devote its whole energies to the prosecution of the war and not be looking after the German vote. I know I am taking my political life in my hands in saying this.

A Calamity Averted.

Ald. Ramsden (ironically)—What a great calamity we have escaped in these last two years. Suppose an election had been brought on, the country would have by this time have gone to the bow wows. It is strange that the Mayor never thought to warn the people of the Austro-German vote before now. The Mayor brought in his resolution ten days after the closing of Parliament. They say there is no flop, but I do see a changing of votes when influence has been brought to bear upon members. The reason for the change is in the fact that a 15-inch howitzer located at the corner of Bay and Melinda streets has been trained good and strong on members of this Council, and certain of them have suffered shell-shock and a weakening of the heart.

"I do not care what is said about me in editorial squibs, but when I am reported to have asked what Britain was fighting for, I say that is false. I asked no such question, and left it bare. I still maintain that this resolution is ill-advised, undemocratic and un-British. It can have no effect on the war. No Government, Liberal or Conservative, can stand three months in the country that does not deal fairly, aye, and generously, with the returned soldier. There is no reason for such a resolution as this except to play the game of municipal politics."

Thinks It Good Policy.

Ald. Maguire explained his attitude in voting for the referring back of the last resolution. He spoke of the segregation of the German vote in Saskatchewan. "A German is a German all the time," he said. "We owe it to those who are fighting for us. We cannot possibly allow those who are sympathizers with the Fatherland to have a vote. I think it is good policy, so that there will be no reflection upon them after the war."

Ald. Gibbons said: "The resolution means nothing. If we are surrounded by alien enemies then we should take more effective means than refusing them the vote." He moved that all disloyal Germans should be deported after the war.

Controller Cameron said that despite the fact that a certain gallery of loyalists who voted for the last resolution had been published, he still regarded himself as a loyal British subject. "I want to curb the German menace, but I want to do it in an intelligent way. I want to know what we are curbing. I will vote for the resolution so that the Government might be moved to do something."

Aliens Invited Here.

Controller Shaw—As one born of men who have sacrificed their lives for British liberty, I cannot bring myself to harmonize with this resolution. We have invited these people to this country, and we have signed an agreement with them, and now you ask us to go say to them that all these documents of naturalization are nothing but scraps of paper. Is that in conformity with British justice? It is an infamous thing, and contrary to British institutions.

The voting was as follows:

Ayes—McGregor, Nesbit, McMulkin, McBrien, Gibbons, Maguire, Whetter, Ball, Robbins, Ryding, Beamish, Fenwick, Graham, O'Neill, Foster, Dunn, Hiltz—17.

Nays—Ramsden, Archibald, Shaw, Risk, Singer—5.

Controller Cameron was not in the chamber when the vote was taken.

Ald. Gibbons' resolution calling for the deportation of all disloyal aliens after the war was carried by 18 to 5.

Earlier Tax Collection.

Mayor Church informed the City Council yesterday that the city had lost \$700,000 in uncollected income tax during the last three years on account of payment being made in three installments. This, he said, was the reason why the new system of collecting the income tax in one installment had been instituted. The Council adopted the by-law fixing June 29 as the date for the collection of all income taxes.

Higher Water Rates.

The Council passed a by-law increasing the water rates to eleven cents per one thousand gallons per annum, except that no meter rate for any quarter year shall be less than \$1.25 net, the year to run from the time the by-law comes into force.