

DRAFT ALIENS FOR WAR WORK

Put Them on National Service at \$1.10 Per Day, Say War Veterans

AGAINST ORIENTAL LABOR

Mass Meeting in Toronto Discusses Ways and Means of Curing Alien Enemy Disease in Canada.

Aliens in Canada should be registered and conscripted by the Government for important national service at \$1.10 per day, in the opinion of a mass meeting held in Massey Hall last evening under the auspices of the Great War Veterans' Association. Mr. H. S. Meredith, Vice-President of the York County Executive of the G.W.V.A., presided in the absence, on account of illness, of Lt.-Col. E. B. Hardy, D.S.O., and the speakers were Sir William Hearst, Premier of Ontario; Mr. William Proudfoot, K.C., M.P.P., Leader of the Opposition in the Legislature; Mayor T. L. Church of Toronto; J. H. Ballantyne, representing the Toronto Labor Party; Lt.-Col. Cecil Williams, Secretary of the Navy League of Canada; Rev. C. E. Manning of the Ministerial Association; Mr. W. E. Turley, Sergt.-Major Rowe Whitton of Toronto, and Comrade Willecox of Oshawa, of the Great War Veterans' Association.

Great Need For Food.

Sir William Hearst was the first speaker. He said the Military Service Act was providing the men, the munitions supply he believed was still well in hand, but there was a serious shortage of food. These were the three things needed by the Allies—men, munitions and food. The farmers of Canada could produce little more than they were producing at the present time, no matter what inducement was held out to them, unless they got help. The only solution of the present farm labor problem was the organization of the patriotic people of this Province with a view to getting men from the towns and cities to go out and help on the farms. Sir William said he was totally opposed to the introduction of Chinese labor under any form or condition or any safeguards that could be put around it. "We do not want to open the doors of Ontario to Oriental labor," said he, amid applause, "and I don't believe the farmers would have these men in their homes." Referring to the question of drafting alien labor, the Premier said Canada was drafting her sons to the army and the aliens ought to be made to contribute to the prosecution of the war in some particular way.

"They have no right to fatten upon the horrors now being practised," he added, and the applause broke out once more. He did not believe, however, that it was practicable to draft them. The farmers would not want them in their homes, and even if they did it would be difficult to get satisfactory work out of them. They would have to be organized in gangs and put under military discipline, if any good was to be done with them. But the Ontario Government had nothing to do with this matter; it was a question entirely for the Dominion Government, and he did not wish to embarrass the Dominion Government in the work they had in hand. The Dominion Government had the matter under advisement, he said, in conclusion.

Canada for Canadians.

Mr. Proudfoot, the Liberal leader, followed, and said that the party to which he belonged stood for generous treatment of the returned soldiers. He was heartily in accord with the Premier's attitude with reference to the introduction of Oriental labor into Ontario. "I am utterly opposed to Chinese labor here," he said, amid vigorous applause, "and so far as the Opposition in the Legislature is concerned there will be none of it," he added. Mr. Proudfoot went on to say that he had no sympathy with the neutral nations. If they had taken the stand they should have taken, in view of the dreadful work of the Huns, the war would have been over long ago. Where was Canada going to look for immigrants after the war? She did not want any more alien enemies or neutrals, so far as he was concerned, and he believed the only countries from which Canada should secure new citizens after the war should be the countries which are our allies at the present time. These were the countries which had shown their interest in humanity and the democracy of the world. In conclusion, Mr. Proudfoot said they should stand by the old motto: "Canada for the Canadians," adding, "And we are going to live and die for the British Empire."

Aliens Laughing at Us.

Sergt. W. E. Turley pointed out the difficulty of drafting legislation providing for the registration and drafting of aliens in this country. The Government should put them at work on munitions, colonization, railways and farms, and should say to them: "You are at it at the same rate of pay our Canadians go out and die for." Mr. Turley said aliens were being employed in Canada in preference to returned soldiers, even though the latter were fit and qualified to do the work. "The aliens have been laughing at us," he said, "and taking the jobs of Canadians who go to the front to fight."

Mayor After Profiteers.

Speaking as head of the Canadian Union of Municipalities, his Worship Mayor Church said he could assure the Government that whatever legislation was brought down dealing with the alien problem with a view to curing the alien enemy disease would have the loyal and abiding support of the municipalities of Canada from coast to coast. His Worship denounced the profiteers, saying they had flourished like green bay trees, starting with a hundred dollars and finishing with millions—profits from the production of war materials. The alien laborer had been ignored by these profiteers, he charged, and he demanded the appointment of a committee of Parliament to see what these knights' profits were. He promised he would instruct the Assessment Commissioner of Toronto to assess them for two or five million dollars, "and let them appeal to Judge Winchester if they like—we'll make them produce their books and show what their profits are." (Applause.)

Canada a White Country.

Col. Cecil Williams said these aliens were either for us or against us, and they should be made to show where they stood. Canada

should be a white country from shore to shore, and should not be allowed to drift into the hands of aliens.

At this point Sergt.-Major Rowe Whitton, founder of the G.W.V.A., which now has over 4,000 members in Toronto, was presented by his comrades with an illuminated address in recognition of his services to the organization.

Blames the Employers.

Mr. J. H. Ballantyne was the next speaker. The Labor party opposed the introduction of Chinese labor, he said. The aliens constitute 10 per cent. of Canada's population, he stated, quoting figures from the latest census returns. Every fourth man in Vancouver was an alien, and in Toronto 8 per cent. of the population were aliens. Forty-seven per cent. of the people in possession of the land in the Middle West were aliens. On account of the large number of aliens engaged in the production of foodstuffs in the West, he believed that any attempt at the present time towards the conscription of alien labor in Canada would most seriously imperil the victory that all so ardently desired for the allies. "The finest policy, I believe, is to appeal to the voluntary impulses of every man, and make everybody who

has come to this country regard it as an obligation to help secure the victory which we feel can be secured if every man is prepared to do his best to assist the allies." Mr. Ballantyne said the employers of Canada were to blame for employing aliens. "You cannot blame the aliens," he declared. "If the employers were more patriotic, and gave the returned soldiers the first opportunity, we would not be troubled with the alien situation."

Rev. C. E. Manning vigorously opposed indiscriminate immigration, and advocated better selection of immigrants after the war.