

CONSCRIPT ALIENS AT \$1.10 PER URGED AT A G.W.V. MEETING

"My Slogan Is: 'Work, Fight, or Get Out,'" Explains Chairman
Harold R. Meredith—When Aliens Grow Fat!—
"Blame Employers for Not Hiring Soldiers."

Representing nearly every element in the city the Great War Veterans meeting in Massey Hall last night gave their opinion of the alien labor problem in no uncertain terms.

Notwithstanding the extreme zero weather which prevailed last night the ground floor and first gallery of the hall were comfortably filled and, unlike most public meetings, the audience stayed until the end and saw the whole thing through.

Interspersing the speeches musical selections were rendered by Misses Irene Symons, Marion Lawson and Messrs. Morley Sherris, Donald C. MacGregor, Q. M. S. Wright, and Sergeants Sinclair and Kean, under the direction of C. E. Bodley.

Where Meredith Stands.

Harold R. Meredith, vice-president of the York County Executive of the G. W. V. A., stated that he was acting as chairman in the place of Col. E. B. Hardy, the president, who was unable to attend the meeting owing to reasons beyond his control.

"I don't intend to burden you with any long chairman's address," said Mr. Meredith. "The alien labor question, so far as I am concerned, has resolved itself into a slogan of 'work, fight, or get out.' However, there are men here to-night who will treat the question from every angle."

Sir William Hearst, on being introduced, stated that he esteemed it a very high privilege to attend any meeting of war veterans.

"I am proud," said Sir William, "to discuss any matter of public policy with men who have fought for their King, their country, and their freedom as you have done. In France you attained every objective and you have never been defeated. If any men have a right to have a say in the law of the country, surely it is the men who have fought for that country."

The Premier then dilated on the necessity for more labor to harvest the coming food crop of this summer. "The farmer himself," said Sir William, "can produce little more than he at present is doing; he is working to his limit at the present time, and his pressing need is more labor. How are you going to get that labor? The only solution I can see is an organization of the patriotic people of this Province to give their fullest co-operation in farm work during the coming summer months.

"But," said Sir William, with dramatic intensity, "I want to say now, and I want to say unequivocally, that I am totally opposed to Chinese labor or alien labor of any kind. I do not think the farmers should have Chinese labor in their homes, and I don't think they would have them in their homes."

Shouldn't Fatten On Horrors.

"Surely the aliens have no right to fatten on the horrors which are now being wrought in Europe," said Sir William. "The question of importation of alien labor," continued the Premier, "is one which does not come under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government, and I am exceedingly anxious that anything I say here to-night does not embarrass the Dominion Government which has its hands so full of important problems at the present time. I believe the Government at Ottawa will bring their best energies to bear in dealing with this important question, and will discover a satisfactory solution."

Wm. Proudfoot, K.C., leader of the Opposition in the Provincial Legislature, stated that he was very much pleased to be present on a common platform with the Great War Veterans' Association. He agreed with what the Prime Minister had said concerning Asiatic labor. So far as Ontario was concerned he was satisfied that Asiatic labor would never be permitted in this Province.

"It would be the very worst kind of legislation to allow hordes of aliens to come into Canada—into our own Province—and demoralize our standards of living. So far as neutrals are concerned I have absolutely no sympathy with them. In my opinion they are not desirable citizens, and we do not want them here."

"On the most severe night of the winter it is very gratifying to see such an audience in Massey Hall," said W. E. Turley, secretary of the Provincial G.W.V.A.

"All profiteers are not in pork-packing establishments; all the brains and all the courage have not gone to Flanders; yet to-day we are confronted with an economic problem which calls for immediate consideration and definite action.

Mayor Church stated that he had

been very much up against the alien labor problem during the past year or so.

His Worship went on to say that he knew of factories in Toronto that had broken the alien labor law repeatedly in the making of munitions. "And yet," said the Mayor, "they make knights out of these gentlemen for doing this very thing."

"I strongly believe," said Mayor Church in conclusion, "that there should have been some form of conscription of alien enemies long before this."

"There is no neutral ground on this question of alien labor," said Col. C. G. Williams, Secretary of the Navy League, who spoke on behalf of the Toronto and York County G. W. V. A. "Those who are not with us are against us; we want our country white from shore to shore; we cannot allow Canada to drift into the hands of aliens; if a Canadian dies for \$1.10 a day then that should be the maximum day's wage for aliens. In that way, and that way only, shall the alien make his contribution in war time to the land that has sheltered him."

Good Work Recognized.

At this juncture a framed expression of appreciation was presented to Sergt.-Major Rowe-Whitton, first president of the Toronto G. W. V. A., by Chairman Meredith.

Sergt.-Major Rowe-Whitton in replying stated that serving his comrades in whatever capacity had been only a pleasure to him.

"125,000 casualties have already occurred in the C. E. F.," said Sergt.-Major Rowe-Whitton. "These are 125,000 good reasons why the G. W. V. A. should be formed and kept in active strength."

Must Fight for Protection.

"I can assure everyone here to-night that no previous speaker is more ardently in favor of settling our present labor problem than I am," said James H. Ballantyne, representing the Greater Toronto Labor party, "yet I feel it is my bounden duty to see to it that nothing happens in this country which could bring Canada into a state of disruption during the present war crisis. The previous speakers have told you why they are against Chinese labor, but, on behalf of the organized labor movement, let me tell you that we simply do not intend to permit it. As regards the general alien labor aspect, let me say that those who enjoy our common protection should be prepared to fight for that protection. If to-day the alien is an injustice to the returned soldier, then before the war he was an even greater injury to a large total of the population."

Employers Blamed.

"So far as aliens fattening to-day on the sacrifices of the soldier. I hold that this is a condition for which the alien himself is not responsible. If employers in general were more patriotic they would give the returned soldier a preference. In that way I believe we would not be troubled with the question as we are troubled at the present time."

Rev. C. E. Manning, representing the Ministerial Association, claimed that a closer regulation of the immigration laws would probably cure the condition which at present existed. "The United States, in their wisdom," said Rev. Manning, "have passed a literacy law which is going to restrict and improve the quality of their incoming immigration. Yet that same literacy law is a menace to Canada because when immigrants cannot get into the United States they are going to come to Canada until such time as we too pass a literacy law. The greatest danger to democracy is ignorance. That is one reason why I am opposed to indiscriminate immigration. My advice is leave the Orient for the Oriental and the Occident for the Occidental. In that way we will each reach our highest development."

Chas. Wilson, of the Oshawa G. W. V. A., pointed out that the full help of the female citizen had not as yet been requisitioned.

Death of Mrs. Mary L. Codville.

Mrs. Mary Lowther Codville, widow of the late Henry Codville, died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. H. Martin, 285 Bain avenue, yesterday. She was born in Canada 73 years ago, but shortly after her marriage here she and her husband went to Philadelphia, where they remained for 40 years. After her husband's death three months ago Mrs. Codville returned to Toronto and had since resided with her married daughter, Mrs. H. Martin. Three children, William in Philadelphia, Harry and Mrs. H. Martin of Toronto, survive. The funeral will be on Wednesday at 2:30 to Forest Lawn Mausoleum.