

UKRAINIANS OF CANADA AGAINST SEPARATE PEACE

Mass Meeting of Social Democrats in Winnipeg Denounce Treaty With Central Powers

Wire Premier Borden Offering to Mobilize Ukrainian Labor for Greater Production

Government Will Consider Removal of Stigma of Classification Among Alien Enemies

Speaking through a mass meeting held in the Grand theatre last night under the auspices of the Ukrainian Social Democratic party of Canada, the quarter million Ukrainian citizens of Canada denounced the separate peace treaty entered into by the Ukraine with the central powers, declaring that the delegates thus engaged did not represent the true feeling of the Ukraine nation, which was that the war should be carried on until a peace on the lines of world democracy is established.

A number of resolutions were passed at this meeting, at which about two thousand persons were present, and possibly even more important from the Canadian standpoint was one addressed to the Dominion government, offering to mobilize the Ukrainian labor forces in Canada for production and other war purposes, provided the stigma of being alien enemies was removed and fair treatment was secured from Canadian farmers. The substance of this resolution had been telegraphed to Sir Robert Borden and his reply was received with much enthusiasm.

Address to Premier Borden.

This resolution recites that, whereas it has been reported that the government has under consideration the conscription of alien labor—which is both impracticable and undemocratic, and whereas the grave food situation is common knowledge, the Ukrainian Social Democratic party submits a number of proposals, which may be summarized as follows:

1. That Ukrainians and other Slavs shall not be regarded as alien enemies unless they prove themselves, such and that the present registration be removed, thus facilitating the free movement of labor to the farms;
2. That such loyal Ukrainians and

other Slavs now interned through misrepresentation and who are valuable farm laborers, be released;

3. That the government's decision on conscription of industrial labor be delayed at once;

4. That government employment bureaus be established, eliminating private agencies;

5. That the self-styled leaders and past political manipulators of such nationalities be ignored by the government in dealing with or appealing to Ukrainian working people, as their actions are responsible for the misunderstanding existing between Ukrainians and English-speaking fellow citizens.

The resolution wired to Mr Robert Borden concludes as follows: "We sincerely hope that Canada is entering upon a new era and in case the government will see its way clear to adopt our suggestions we feel confident that the Ukrainian laborers of Canada, who represent a very large number of the necessary farm laborers, will co-operate whole-heartedly in the maximum production of foodstuffs."

Prime Minister's Reply.

In reply, Premier Borden wired as follows: "I have read your telegram with much interest and appreciation. The federal government desire to treat with the utmost fairness and consideration all citizens of this country, including the Ukrainians, whose spirit of loyal co-operation as set forth in your message deserves every commendation. The representations which you have placed before me will receive the most careful and earnest attention from my colleagues and myself. It is especially important that all citizens of this country should join heartedly and unreservedly in the endeavor to fulfill the national purpose for which indeed it is responsible. It is essential that all those who cannot be called upon to engage in military service should for that reason be impressed with the greater responsibility to aid the country by increased effort in other national activities. Among those activities production of food is of vital importance and I rejoice to know that this need has impressed itself upon the members of your association."

Disavow Political Exploitation.

While not speaking for the entire Ukrainian race in Canada, the Social Democratic party represents an overwhelming percentage of the laboring classes.

Other resolutions adopted protested against the past exploitation of Ukrainians in Canada on behalf of both political parties and disavowed an Ukrainian "self-appointed" delegation which has gone to Ottawa in regard to alien labor, "as having neither the confidence nor support of the Ukrainians whose assistance in the production of foodstuffs can be counted upon, nor the endorsement of their mission by those on whose behalf they went to Ottawa."

Other resolutions ask for the recognition by the government of the executive of the Ukrainian Social Democratic party of Canada as official representatives of the Ukrainian people in Canada, in relations between the government and the Ukrainians at large; and for the appointment of a publicity-committee to bring English-speaking Canadians and Ukrainians into closer sympathy and educate the latter on the war and the need for their active co-operation in food production.

L. Nykoriak presided and all resolutions passed unanimously.