

# TAKE UP ALIEN QUESTION

## GREAT WAR VETERANS' ASSOCIATION HAD DISCUSSION.

Also Decided to Take Action with  
Regard to Food Conservation—  
Will Form a Ladies' Chapter.

The Great War Veterans' Association of Kingston is showing no hesitation in its discussion of the alien question and its relation to the labor problem that will confront Canada and Canada's returned soldiers after the war. Comrade Bowker read the following paper on the question and afterwards Comrade Starr gave an address on the subject. The paper, in part, was as follows:

At the present time the Government is giving the G.W.V.A. a courteous hearing and trying to co-operate with it in reference to the needs of the returned soldier. We are face to face with the most serious problem this country has ever had to deal with; this country is fighting for liberty ~~vs~~ slavery. We have just returned to power a Government pledged to do all in its power to win the war.

I should like to say that a movement is on foot to make the G.W.V.A. a political movement. I am against that at present. I say give the Union Government a chance. We are too young to enter the arena of practical politics and to unite with any other political or industrial organization would be prejudicial to our interests. There is a new party struggling for existence, called the Independent Political Society, which is neither Radical, Conservative, nor avowed Socialists. It is bidding for co-operation with us. Before any change is made in a constitution, with a view to this effect, I think a referendum vote of the whole of the members of the G.W.V.A. should be taken. I say this in view of the fact that at the annual convention, which is to be held at Toronto, ten branches having a delegation, by united action could so pack the meeting as to win out.

### The Alien Question.

There has been much said with reference to aliens in this country: Intern the foreigner seems to be a solution of the great war in the opinion of some men. Our comrades at Hamilton want every foreigner conscripted to work on farms at the same rate of pay as a Canadian soldier has. Well, have the Government sufficient farms to put them on? No, it has not. The farmers in this country would welcome any movement which would give them cheap labor. The present system of farming does not give the best results. The farmer produces sufficient for the needs of his family and a little over, which he might sell at a large profit. The farmer produces for profit.

With regard to the foreigners in this country, all the enemy aliens are supposed to be interned. Doubtless there are a number of enemies at large, but interfering with these, you will be censuring the Government Secret Service Department. Then again, we have a bunch of Germans interned away in the north. We have to provide these men with necessaries, and men to guard them. They've been and are a great cost to this country and they produce nothing. If a man is eating, he ought to produce, and any man enjoying citizenship in this country should be liable for conscription, whatever nationality he belong to.

### After War Conditions.

To meet the needs of the discharged soldier it would be better if the Government was advised by our Executive Council to open up agricultural areas, to be operated by expert Government agriculturalists and employ returned soldiers to work upon them, and not as soldiers, at a dollar-ten a day, but as free citizens at a living wage.

Every man discharged from the army is more or less a cripple, and is unable to compete in the competitive labor market, and as all Government work is let to contractors at the lowest tender, a discharged soldier does not stand much chance to earn a living in Canada.

### General Business.

Comrade Pollitt, seconded by Comrade Stinson presented a resolution that the Great War Veterans Association lend their hearty co-operation to the Salvation Army tag day for huts in France. This was passed unanimously.

Comrade Hanson proposed formation of a ladies chapter, the chapter to be affiliated with the Daughters of the Empire. This chapter would be called the G.W.V. Chapter. Com-

rade Anglin will approach the Municipal Chapter I.O.D.E., with a view to the formation. An effort will be made to have the wives, daughters and sisters of veterans enrolled.

In taking up the question of the conservation of food and of the Food Controller's work in making drastic regulations governing the food consumption, a committee was formed to draft a paper for the next meeting on both the alien labor and the food questions.

The letter from the Deputy Minister of Justice confirming the appointment of Capt. J. J. Graham was received.

The G.W.V.A. reception committee distributed cigarettes etc., to returning men.