

VETERANS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC OVER GOVT. LAND SCHEME

Northern Ontario Is Place for Man With Strong Back and Weak Head, Says Delegate — Central Branch G.W.V.A. Adopts Hamilton Resolution Dealing With Aliens.

The land settlement question was the leading topic of discussion at the meeting of the central branch of the G. W. V. A. last night. The situation was explained by Comrade Haight, who reported that the Government was trying to dig up some lands in Canada for settlement by returned men. With the exception of a little in the Province of Alberta, none suitable had been found so far. The intention of the Government was rather to lend than to give lands to soldiers, and to lend a sum of money up to \$2,500 to any man who is bona fide and anxious to engage in agriculture.

"There is a string to this, however," he said, "you must go out and give your services on a farm for a year. It is a fair enough proposition, but, if any man thinks he is going to get anything for nothing, he is very much mistaken."

F. Pratt, assistant Provincial Secretary, explained the Provincial Northern Ontario land scheme, saying that it was necessary for a man to have the use of all his limbs to take up land in that country. He commended the caution of the Government, saying that it wasn't fair for the Province to prepare farms for men without some guarantee that they would be able to work them when they get on the land.

Applications were invited from the members to accept an invitation from the Russell Motor Works to learn market gardening on land which the company owns at Weston. The men would be under an easy military discipline and would draw pay and allowances on the military scale while they were learning the work. Sixty men could be taught this summer.

Deal With Alien Enemies.

The meeting approved of the resolution of the Hamilton veterans on the alien labor question, but approved of a stronger stand being taken in connection with the neutral alien in Canada. A delegate said that the objection on the part of the Government to deal with the alien neutral on the ground that it was contrary to international law was unfounded.

The resolution passed at Hamilton, which was read over, is as follows:

"Now, therefore, be it resolved that it is the opinion of this mass meeting of the citizens of Hamilton called for the purpose of considering this question, that the aliens of enemy origin in our midst should be employed in works of national importance or in industries essential to the winning of the war, under proper sur-

veillance, and their employer for the time being, made responsible for them, and that their earnings over and above an amount equal to the pay and allowance of a Canadian soldier be taken by the Government for war purposes, or, failing their being so employed, that such enemy aliens be immediately interned.

"And, further, that measures be at once taken to make the Military Service Act applicable to all allied aliens in the same manner and to the same extent as to the citizens of Canada, either by negotiating the necessary treaties or conventions with the remaining allied countries upon lines the same as or similar to those provided for in the conventions recently adopted between the United States of America and Great Britain, or, failing the attaining of such treaties or conventions, that such allied aliens be forthwith given the option of enlisting voluntarily in the Canadian forces or being deported to their country of origin, as is being done by the Government of the United States, under the Alien Slacked bill, just passed by an overwhelming majority in the House of Representatives at Washington.

"And further, that no steps should be taken to call out the second or other class under the Military Service Act, or to return to France any married man of the first contingent, until the question of the disposition of the aliens has been settled in a manner satisfactory to the citizens of Canada, and that the Government be urged to take up and deal with these questions without further delay.

To Hold Demonstration.

Comrade Haight explained that the demonstration on the alien labor question will be held on Saturday, March 23. "We have the alien, the alien enemy and the fourflusher to deal with," he said, "and each delegate will speak for a few minutes."

A member asked that the police commission take action in regard to meetings of foreigners which are held on Sundays in various halls in the city and which he was sure were not of a religious nature.

President J. Twedde, of the branch, intimated his resignation to take effect next meeting, from the position of president of the branch. He said that this was necessary on medical grounds. R. Perkins, of the executive of the central branch also intimated his resignation as he is leaving the city.

A discussion of some duration on the propriety of admitting the press to the meetings was the first business last night. A resolution was passed that the notes of the reporters be censored by the executive at each meeting, pending the decision of the coming Provincial convention when the question of publicity will be fully considered and then it may be decided to hold meetings in closed lodge to which admittance can only be obtained by a password.