

**ALIEN ENEMIES.**

To the Editor of The Globe : In striking contrast with the contention that Canadians are fighting for freedom, democracy and the observance of national obligations, is the mean and unworthy spirit of persecution displayed towards the so-called "alien enemies" who are quietly attending to their own business here. These people are here on our invitation. For many years successive Governments, both Liberal and Conservative, despite the protests of the labor unions, have spent millions of dollars in scattering over Europe invitations to men of all nationalities to settle in Canada, where they would be free from military despotism and be accorded equal opportunities with our own people. They took us at our word, came by the hundred thousand, and were made welcome and regarded as desirable accessions to our population. Suddenly on the outbreak of the war they found themselves ostracized. They were deprived of their employment, not allowed to leave the country, and many of them interned on any display of natural resentment, or on the merest suspicion. Those who were guilty of the "crime" of sending money to their starving wives and families at home were sentenced to terms of imprisonment. Our courts have almost invariably dealt harshly with any man of alien birth accused of minor offences, inflicting heavy penalties frequently accompanied with coarse and brutal insults from the dispenser of alleged justice.

Bear in mind that the great majority of these people are only enemies in a technical sense, being about as loyal to Hohenzollern or Hapsburg as a Sinn Felner is to the British Empire. The growing scarcity of labor has somewhat ameliorated their condition, but latterly a systematic crusade has been set on foot to drive them from the factories where they are employed in productive labor and compel them to work for mere subsistence wages. They are making too much money, it is said. I think you will admit that the manufacturers may be trusted to see to it that they earn not only their wages, but enough in addition to enable their employers to realize a substantial profit. It is quite beside the question to urge that Canadians found in Germany have been, or would be, worse treated. The cases are not parallel. Germany never invited Canadians to go there and cast in their lot with the German people.

Phillips Thompson.

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