

SIR T. WHITE REPLIES TO G.W.V.A. ON ALIENS

Government Policy in Regard to Deportation Re-iterated.

The Great War Veterans' through their Dominion Secretary-treasurer, C. G. MacNeil, have brought to the attention of the Government a number of resolutions forwarded by branches of that organization, principally in the West, urging the deportation of undesirable aliens, the examination into the loyalty of those suspected of enemy sympathies and the curtailment of certain civil rights of such as may be permitted to remain in the country. To these, Sir Thomas White, Acting Prime Minister, has replied, in part, as follows:

"The resolutions which you have been good enough to send me have been presented to council, and will receive our most attentive consideration.

"Some of them, while embodying ideas which have our general support and sympathy, would present great practical difficulties in carrying out, and particularly so at the present time.

Provincial Jurisdiction.

"Some of the matters dealt with also are, under our constitution, within provincial rather than Dominion jurisdiction. The Government has already indicated, through an official statement in the press, its attitude towards and the general situation regarding enemy aliens as it exists today. Briefly this is as follows:

"With respect to interned enemy aliens, deportation of those dangerous and undesirable is being carried out as speedily as international conditions will permit.

"Pending the conclusion of the Peace Conference this work will necessarily be slow as there is, in addition to shortage of shipping, the fact that enemy countries are still closed, except to such admittance of their nationals as it is possible to arrange.

"The order-in-council authorizing the internment of enemy aliens who are dangerous or a menace to the peace of the community is still in full force and operation,

Sir Robert Notified.

"The Government has brought to the attention of the Prime Minister and his colleagues at the Peace Conference the question of provision of

shipping and of passports for those alien residents of Canada, numbering, we are advised, many thousands who desire to return to their various countries at their own expense but who are unable to do so owing to their inability to obtain transportation.

"We have also requested the Prime Minister to have the Conference specially consider the stipulations which may be necessary in the Peace Treaty to enable deportation from Canada for a period after the official conclusion of peace of dangerous or undesirable persons of enemy nationality and for their admittance to the countries of their origin."

Asks G.W.V.A. Support.

"In view of the difficulties and complications surrounding the whole question in a country of mixed nationalities, such as Canada, we feel we can rely upon the full support and co-operation of the Great War Veterans' Association in aiding, by their great influence, its successful solution.

"The matter of Parliamentary legislation needed to effectually deal with some of the problems involved is now under consideration by the Government."