

THE ALIEN QUESTION.

To The Editor of The Tribune:

Sir—Being a constant reader of your paper, and having noted a letter published in your paper from E. J. McMurray re deportation of enemy aliens, I wish you would also allow me to say a few words. The returned soldier will never agree on Mr. McMurray's outlines for several reasons. He asks—is it fair to deport them? I should like to know what would have been fair had our allies lost this war? What would have been the attitude of our enemy aliens toward us? I for one would have hated to be unfortunate enough to reside among them. Was it also just and fair that over a half million of our loyal citizens had to sacrifice so fearfully. And now if we deport them they sacrifice one-tenth what our soldiers did? I say no.

In the past four years they have reaped the cream out of Canada, and a good many are preparing and have been doing so for some time to depart for the fatherland. They have made good at Canada's expense, and can return to a warmer climate to retire to an easy life. This has been their policy and contemplated by the majority even before reaching Canada. One fact proves

their intention, many of them do not even bring their families, figuring on returning.

The writer states that many of these aliens would have taken up arms to assist the allies had they been allowed to do so. I may say this, that with the exception of a few, they would make poor soldiers. Would they slay their own brothers? Again, had they been allowed their franchise, would our boys have been backed up when conscription came up?

He also asks what offence has the alien committed who was not interned? You might ask what offence had those committed that were sly enough to escape military service? Or, what offence has the German spy system committed for the past 40 years? There are many of our aliens who are more to be feared than those who were interned.

Now, is it to Canada's interests to have a certain class who regard their naturalization certificate as a mere scrap of paper?

It has been the aim of the majority to grasp and get all they can and entertain sweet thoughts of the fatherland.

The writer goes on to say who would do the dirty work? I can construe that there is no work in Canada that is too dirty for any of us to do; all healthy occupations. And when we are remunerated for such work what more would we want? Surely there is no work in Canada that is one-hundredth part as hard as what our boys have had to stand for the past four years.

Does the writer mean to say that Canada cannot carry on if these aliens are deported? Surely when over a half million of true, loyal citizens were missing during four years, and war production going on to offset peace production, are we to believe that Canada cannot carry on with a less number of disloyal citizens? I should dislike to impress upon this class that we cannot do without them.

As regards friendship, intermarriage and so on, we are all aware it is a hard problem. But even though they are not all deported I say it is a poor policy to encourage and uphold this class at a time like this.

We all admit we have some good citizens in this foreign class, but even though they were deported they, with their good sentiments, could help to make a better Germany and a better Austria.

I say, weed out all aliens from government positions, from the highest to the lowest, and you will find when they have no chance to spread Germanism, the guilty will deport themselves, causing no inconvenience to Canada. The remaining class will then knuckle down and become Canadians. We can no doubt use them. I say: "Canada for Canadians."

I have noticed that several delegations of aliens have waited upon the government, to be deported? What does this show? Why have they not sent delegations asking repentance for what their mother country has committed, or have they already repented? I leave this question to those who are so eager to uphold them.

This letter from one who is actually living among them in a rural district.