

JUSTICE FOR THE ALIENS.

To the Editor of The Globe:—While it is no doubt the case that a war such as has now fortunately been brought to a close brings out into bold relief qualities of heroism and self-sacrifice, it is none the less true that it develops some of the meaner characteristics of humanity. The systematic persecution of so-called "alien enemies," most of whom are only technically in that category, by "patriotic" stay-at-homes and returned soldiers, unrebuked by press or pulpit, is a stigma on the fame of Canada. Men who were invited by our Government to come here, and have asked nothing of us but to be allowed to mind their own affairs in peace, have been hounded from pillar to post, hunted out of their jobs, and dragged before our courts to be heavily punished for venial offences, often the result of mere ignorance of our continually changing laws. During war-time some excuse for such actions might be urged. But the coming of peace with the return of the soldiers seems rather to have intensified than mitigated anti-alien prejudices. I have read with much disgust of the course of the returned soldiers and others in the West in clamoring for the deportation of the Mennonites and Hutterite settlers and the exclusion of others of the same denominations. These people are a most valuable acquisition to any country, as they are industrious and peaceable agriculturists and law-abiding citizens. For many years our journalists and public men have deplored the tendency of Canadians to desert the farm and crowd into our overgrown cities and industrial centres. Yet when an honest, religious and hard-working class of farmers desire to make their homes here, prepared to contribute to the national wealth in a far greater measure than the great majority of their narrow-minded persecutors, they are to be driven back because their mother-tongue is a dialect of German and they are not willing to violate their conscientious convictions by engaging in warfare.

There is a great lot of nonsense talked about the necessity of imbuing the Mennonites, Doukhobors, Galicians and other foreign settlers with "Canadian ideals." Are we so sure, in view of our political and social conditions, that Canadian ideals are so superior to theirs? One thing is certain, that as soon as you Canadianize these people their young men and women will follow the example of other Canadians—abandon the farm and look for easier jobs in the overcrowded cities, in accordance with "Canadian ideals."

Those who retain any measure of belief in the fidelity of the clergy to their lofty professions may well be surprised at the silence of the pulpit as regards the anti-alien crusade. So far as I have seen or heard, not one minister has had the courage or the principle to denounce a movement so contrary to the spirit and teachings of the Master they profess to follow.

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