

UKRAINIANS ASK FULL PROBE OF ROSS' CHARGES

League Urges Ministers to Order Inquiry With Widest Pos- sible Range

Officers of the Ukrainian National Citizens League, which has its headquarters at 590 Burrows ave., announced today that the league has sent a formal request to the Dominion minister of justice and the attorney-general of Manitoba for a thorough investigation into charges of disloyalty on the part of Ukrainians made by Donald Ross, M.L.A.

The league suggests that the inquiry be conducted either by the Alien Investigation board, whose powers would have to be extended for the purpose, or by a royal commission, with the widest powers for probing the statements made by Mr. Ross. It also suggests an amendment to the criminal code to protect classes of citizens against libellous statements.

The letter, as forwarded to the ministers, follows:

"Owing to the serious statements made publicly in the press and otherwise by Mr. D. A. Ross, M.L.A., for St. Clements, Manitoba, to the effect that the Ukrainian settlers in his constituency are preparing a revolution, the Ukrainian Canadian Citizens League deemed it advisable to delegate Mr. T. D. Ferly, M.L.A., for Gimli, Manitoba, and Corporal Mandryk, returned soldier, to investigate the matters in the district in question. The report of these gentlemen, as well as the report of Dr. T. S. Hamilton, M.L.A., for Elmwood, tend to show that the statements made by Mr. Ross are false. Mr. Ross' statements, as well as other statements of similar nature, appearing from time to time in the press, questioning the loyalty and peaceful behaviour of the Ukrainians and other Slavs in Canada, are causing great mischief, injustice and discord, undermining the confidence and unity of the Canadian population. Such statements afford cheap notoriety for small politicians, doing at the same time a great deal of harm and injury to the public in general. For these reasons such statements should not be left unchallenged and unsifted.

"The League, therefore, on behalf of the Ukrainians, requests:

"That either the powers of the present Alien Investigation board be extended or a special royal commission be appointed with widest powers for the purpose of probing the statements made by Mr. Ross and the statements or charges that have so far appeared in the press concerning the loyalty of the Ukrainians as citizens of this country.

"That such commission be given power to invite the laying of specific charges against the Ukrainians as a class and individually, for the purpose of probing the same.

"That such commission be given power to summon witnesses in connection with any of said charges.

"That both the Ukrainians and the commission be represented by counsel.

"That after probing or investigating the said charges, a report be made on the matter, placing the responsibility where it belongs.

"We request the appointment of such commission in fairness to the Ukrainians as a class and the public in general.

"We also request that an amendment be made to the criminal code, protecting the people as a class, as the individuals are now protected against broad-cast libellous statements.

"A speedy action on the part of the government in this matter is humbly requested by the Ukrainian Canadian Citizens League."