

LOCAL BULGARIAN COLONY DESERTED

Most of Them Have Gone to the
States to Find Work,
Not to Fight.

Bulgarians are now alien enemies and Toronto's deserted Bulgarian colony, down in the shabby but picturesque neighborhood of King street east and Trinity street, is full of both indignation and good-humored acceptance.

Indigation, that they, the peace-loving Bulgars of the ancient and noble Slav blood should be classed, helter-skelter as one with the "pig-faced Austrian" and the wicker German.

Good humored acceptance, because the Bulgarians, once a fine colony of 3,000 a year ago, are now a handful, numbring at the most 500 in and around Toronto—and even among these are only perhaps a hundred of actual Bulgarians.

"Alien enemies!" chuckled one of the leading men in the colony, who speaks the English he has polished in the Public Library. "We Bulgarians are enemies of no one! We have had enough of war. Seven centuries of it ought to sicken anybody."

"What will you tell the Registrar of Aliens?" asked The Star.

"That although we are Bulgarians by speech and race," replied the Bulgar, "we are by country Turks, Serbians, Greeks, Macedonians, and not very enthusiastically of any. Three-quarters of the Bulgarians in America are subjects of other powers. And the quarter who are subjects of Bulgaria say, 'Let kings and Ministers fight.' You see, democracy has come even to the Balkans.

"At the time of the Balkan war, few, less than a hundred, returned from all Canada to fight for Bulgaria. Thousands came out after the war, with the hundred who had gone back. They came to escape war. And I know there are tens of thousands trying to come to America who cannot for the lack of a few dollars."

Ten out of the fifteen restaurants of the colony are closed. More than half of the lodging houses are vacant. The colony of 3,000, but a year ago so full of noise and laughter, is now only a deserted village. They have gone to the States to find work, according to every merchant left, not to fight against the allies.