

ASKING RELEASE OF INTERNED MEN

Poles and Ukrainians No Longer Enemy Aliens Un- der Treaty Terms

Ottawa, September 24.—Believing that injustice has been done their fellow-countrymen, the Ukrainians and Poles of Ottawa urged the Government today to release the seventeen aliens, who were arrested in Ottawa and interned without trial in May, 1918, and who have since been prisoners in Kapuskasing Camp.

At a meeting of Canadian Ukrainians it was decided to petition the Government for the men's release and, this morning, a delegation waited upon Hon. C. J. Doherty, Minister of Justice and acting Premier, for that purpose. Mr. M. Chopowik, was chairman of the delegation, and P. Yakobowski, secretary, and it was introduced by Mr. August Lemieux, K.C., of Ottawa, who made a strong plea on behalf of the interned men. Mr. Lemieux claimed that the whole matter of their arrest and internment was an injustice. At a meeting on Rochester St., on the date named, they were accused of holding a secret meeting, although the meeting had been advertised by handbills. They were also accused, said Mr. Lemieux, of being spies and "I.W.W's," although ten of the seventeen arrested were so ignorant they could not read or write.

Mr. Lemieux also pointed out that the native country of these men had, by the terms of the peace treaty with Austria-Hungary, been transferred to either Ukraine or Poland, and they are now, by the operation of that treaty, subjects of the latter countries, and cannot be regarded as enemy aliens.

M. Chopowik and P. Yakobowski spoke on behalf of their compatriots. Mr. Lemieux also solicited the favorable consideration of the Government for the case of other Ukrainians and Polish prisoners of war, detained at Kapuskasing Camp.

Hon. C. J. Doherty, replying to the delegation, said he was impressed with the representations made and would take the matter up with the Immigration Department.