

# LABOR DELEGATES FROM SOO WANTED WAR TAX ON ALIENS

Ottawa, Sept. 18.—At the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress today an interesting resolution was brought before the congress. Resolution 20 asks that all aliens in Canada, not naturalized should be made to pay a war tax on their earnings on a monthly basis counting 26 days to the month. This resolution caused a great deal of argument, especially when the delegates from Sault Ste. Marie, where the resolution emanated from, stated that in the steel works there, there were employed 1,050 Austrians and Germans who did not pay taxes.

Various views were put forth by the delegates; some arguing that irrespective of nationality labor men should be treated as laborers. Delegate Daley stated that such a move would be to discriminate against the members of the organization, as there were many Austrians and Germans who were labor workers. Another delegate stated that the boys at the front get \$1.10 per day, whereas the aliens were being paid thirty five cents an hour. He could not see why the resolution was not fair.

Vice-President Rigg, in his statement, cited an example that had come to notice in Winnipeg where, following a strike of building laborers and the tying up of the Winnipeg building trade, the strikers went to Transcona in an effort to secure the support and aid of labor employed there on the Government elevator. The police and military were called and as a result 27 were arrested. Five were sent to internment camps, thirteen were put in goal, and the balance were awaiting trial. These strikers, stated Mr. Rigg, were not aliens, but they were put into internment camps because the builders' exchange in Winnipeg wanted to benefit. The resolution was adopted.

After considerable discussion, during which some delegates declared it was no part of the Labor Congress's business to take up cudgels for soldiers, it was decided to refer the resolution re separation allowances, pensions, etcetera, to the Congress Pensions Committee. The rural credits resolution developed opposition.

Ottawa, Sept. 18.—Conscription already looms on the horizon as a topic for warm debate at the meeting of the Dominion Trades Congress, which opened here yesterday. Among the 75 or more resolutions presented for disposal is one from the Transcona, Manitoba, Trades and Labor Council. This resolution recalls labor's opposition to conscription, cites the fact that labor has not been consulted by the Government during the war, declares the workers of that district have been denied free speech and labor men holding meetings have been assaulted by the police and soldiers, mentions the constructive services of labor during the war and declares that in the event of the enforcement of conscription a general strike should be called to continue until the Dominion Government conscripts wealth and nationalizes the industries. The debate on this long resolution is to commence today.

Already the executive of the congress has sought to offset it by a comment issued today in which, while admitting previous declarations against conscription, the executive adds:

"Still under our representative form of Government, it is not deemed either right, patriotic or in the interests of the Dominion or of the labor classes to say or to do aught that might prevent the powers that be from obtaining all the results that they anticipate from the enforcement of such a law."

The congress adopted a resolution favoring organization in conjunction with the Great War Veteran's Association of a Workmen's and Soldiers' Council to protect the interests of the soldiers and workmen in all contemplated adjustments of prevailing systems as a result of conditions brought about by the war.