

WHY ALIENS WERE SENT TO MINES

Minister of Labor Appears Before Dominion Trades and Labor Congress and Explains.

TORONTO, Sept. 27.—An allegation that the men employed in asbestos mining at Thetford Mines, Quebec, were unjustly treated by the minister of labor and the mine operators, was the subject of debate in the convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada throughout its sitting this afternoon. The allegation was contained in a resolution presented by Delegate Roussa of Thetford Mines, which was concurred in by the resolutions committee. Hon. T. W. Crothers, minister of labor, who had come to Toronto to take part in the discussion of the proposed revised Industrial Dispute Act, was present. He frankly told the delegates the information which had been given him regarding the dispute between the miners and the mine-owners of Thetford Mines during the past summer and explained the grounds for the action taken by himself and his department in allowing 45 aliens enemy subjects to take employment at Thetford. He declared that he was convinced that the action was fully justified.

Men Were Destitute.

Mr. Crothers said that the government only released from internment camps aliens who were not considered dangerous, but who had been held because they were destitute. These men were only allowed to go to positions after their prospective employer had given a guarantee that they were not to be used to displace other workmen or to accept lower wages than other workers. The British government had been calling for asbestos and the 45 aliens in question had been allowed to take employment in the mines. The minister believed, however, that they went to the mines before any labor dispute arose there.