

LIVED IN DUGOUTS FOR LONG ENOUGH

Associated Press by Leased Wire.

VANCOUVER, July 4.—Housing problems and the question of the treatment and disposition of the alien in Canada were discussed at the session of the Great War Veterans' convention last night. In connection with the former, a resolution was presented recommending that the terms of lending under the Soldiers' Settlement Act now applying to farms only, should be extended to dwellers in cities for the purpose of enabling them to improve existing homes or erect new ones. The first clause of the resolution requested the Federal Government to abandon its present housing scheme as "cumbersome, unpracticable and undesirable."

Denunciation of the housing scheme was voiced by Comrade Martinson, mover of the resolution, who declared that in Winnipeg it had been found as useless for housing the soldiers as the vacant lots around the city. It had been passed from the Governments to the municipalities who were practically unable to use it because it interfered with their borrowing power. Comrade Irwin, of Edmonton, declared that the scheme had simply resolved itself into a game of "passing the buck," while Comrade Law, of Winnipeg, stated that men who had lived in dugouts at the front did not want to come to live in dugouts here, which was about all the scheme provided for. On motion of Comrade Dace the clause asking for the abandonment of the housing scheme was struck out and the clause asking that the terms of the Soldiers' Settlement Act be extended to returned men in cities was inserted in its place.

The alien question proved highly contentious. When the resolution dealing with aliens resident in Canada was read Comrade Mansfield, of Winnipeg, secretary of the Aliens' Investigation Board, read a long statement setting forth the Manitoba veterans' view on the question. He declared there were over 340,000 male enemy aliens in the Dominion over 16 years old, and of these 33,000 were in the province of Mani-

toba, 24,000 of them being in Winnipeg. He estimated that there were in Canada no less than 94,500 alien enemies who were undesirables. Comrade Mansfield declared that he came with the mandate to get the convention to urge the Dominion Government to take some action in the matter, or otherwise they would do so themselves. He said this because he had received a letter from Hon. Arthur Meighen in which the Minister said he saw no reason for getting rid of the aliens.

A resolution "that steps be taken to prevent the use of alien languages in the schools, pulpits and press

throughout Canada," after considerable discussion was referred back. A resolution was passed after amendment to the effect that "no steps shall be taken by the Government to subsidize immigration at any time." A resolution suggesting that in future more care should be exercised over emigrants coming into Canada and that those from the agricultural districts in the British Isles be encouraged, was carried. Another clause of the resolution suggesting that a period of five years elapse between making an application for citizenship and granting of the same was referred back to the committee.