

# ALIEN LABOR IS VITAL QUESTION

## Municipal Candidates at Earls- court Meeting

**Controller Church is Fulsome in His  
Declarations—Controller McCarthy  
Hopes to Weather Financial Stress  
of Coming Year.**

The employment of alien labor is a burning topic at the municipal meetings. At the meeting in Little's Hall, Earls court, last night, under the auspices of the British Imperial Association, it was brought uppermost to the attention of every speaker. Controllers Church and McCarthy, candidates for the Mayoralty, spoke out in favor of the employment of British labor, as also did Mr. Joseph Gibbons, who is going forward as an Aldermanic candidate in Ward Six. Alderman David Spence, while expressing a preference in a similar direction, said he wanted to give every man a square deal, no matter what his color or creed was.

### British Labor Not Demanded.

In connection with a complaint regarding the employment of foreigners on the laying of water mains in the Earls court district, a letter was read on the subject from Mr. R. E. Harris, Commissioner of Works, which said: "I beg to advise that these mains were laid by the J. H. McKnight Construction Company, whose contract does not bind them as to nationality of the laborers to be employed."

Controller Church came to grips right away with the question of foreign labor. He raised applause when he asserted: "I am for the British-born every time. I would not have an American. Some of our Board of Control want to run to Boston and New York for everything. I am against employing this alien labor, no matter where they come from, even the United States. We have got engineers who can more than match the German 'cultured' engineer, and we don't need to go to the United States for technical ability. We have enough capable people in the British Islands, English, Scotch and Irish."

### Reorganize Toronto Hydro.

Controller Church next swung on to the Hydro Commission. "That Commission should be reorganized. You should elect them. You are the people who should elect these people in Yonge street. They are getting \$4,000 or \$5,000 a year, except the Mayor. After the way you slander your Controllers and Aldermen, who only get \$300, you should get the Hydro-electric Commission up here and ask them what they have done. They have accountants there getting \$4,000 or \$5,000, and you can get an accountant for \$100 a month. There are many accountants out of work, and yet you are paying these men \$4,000 and \$5,000. They paid \$5,000 for the annual report. I wish you saw it Gold type letters, braid and ribbons on it, and all that."

### Keep Things Going.

Controller McCarthy began by announcing that he knew of no law, Canadian, Provincial, or any other, that would prevent this city specifying that none but British labor be accepted. He wanted to say further that "where there's a will there's a way" in most cases he had seen so far. That day they had let two contracts where the contractors stated in writing they would employ none except that kind of labor. The Controller proceeded to say the serious problem of this city would be to get through the next year without shutting things off. If they could get through the next twelve months, pay their way and meet their obligations they would have done much to maintain the good credit of the city of Toronto. He believed it could be done and that the necessary expenditure could be provided for without increasing the rates.

Mr. G. R. McKenzie, Mackay avenue, announced he was going to stand for the position of Alderman.