

NO ALIEN ENEMIES EMPLOYED BY HYDRO

Commissioners and Manager Resent Charges of Dis- loyalty

PRODUCE CERTIFICATES

Will Not be Party to Persecu- tion of Loyal Employes of System

A flat contradiction supported by documentary evidence was given yesterday by Mr. H. H. Couzens, General Manager of the local Hydro-Electric Commission, to the charges that were made in letters to the Mayor by members of the County Orange Association, that some of the employees of the Hydro were Germans. Mr. Couzens presented a long report to the Commissioners at their regular meeting yesterday in which he gave the birthplace of all his employees. The list shows that 276 were born in Canada; 269 in the British Empire, outside Canada; 16 in the United States, and one in Holland.

Replying to the charge that Mr. C. Schwenger is a German the manager says: "Herewith please find birth certificate issued by the Government of Ontario, showing him to have been born in Hamilton, Ontario." The man named Joedick was born in Toronto, but was dismissed when it was reported that "he had expressed sympathetic feelings toward the cause against which the Allies are now fighting."

As to the charge of want of loyalty toward the Commissioners and himself, Mr. Couzens says: "I have never had cause to defend myself against a charge of disloyalty, and do not consider the present an occasion which needs any reply.

"I cannot help stating, however, that after over fifteen years in the civic service within the British Empire, it is a novel experience to find what should be a sacred thing dragged into the mire of a controversy arising originally out of an attempt to force this system to find work for men who were no longer in the employ of the system, and after they had been shown infinitely more consideration than would have been the case in a private business.

"Arising out of this I may say that, in my opinion, the duty of a general manager is to see that his subordinates receive fair treatment provided they carry out their duties faithfully and efficiently, and to resist any effort to dislodge them by means of accusations which are not backed by proof."

"In conclusion," the statement reads, "I may add that I have been and still am not only ready, but willing, to investigate any legitimate complaints against the system or anyone connected therewith, and deal with the same on its merits, but I am not prepared to be a party to persecuting those who are doing their duty conscientiously without fear or favor, and striving to give the citizens of Toronto efficient service through the Hydro system."