

DELEGATION GOES TO MACDONALD ON ALIEN DISPUTE

Probability is Matter Will be
Remedied in Near
Future

A delegation of five waited on D. B. Mulligan and Manager Low of the Macdonald hotel, to talk over the matter of the employment of alien help in the G.T.P. hostelry. The delegation consisted of Mayor Henry, Ald. Kinney, George Hibbard, international organizer of the Cooks' and Waiters' union, from Hamilton, Ontario, and a local representative of the union.

It transpired that some of the help had been obtained from New York, through Winnipeg, in fact Winnipeg was the collecting point for the help now working in the city. A discussion ensued over the Alien Labor act, and different interpretations were placed on one of the clauses by those representing the waiters, etc., and the management of the hotel.

Clause In Dispute

The point in question, Section B, Clause 2 of the act states "to prevent any person, partnership company or corporation from engaging under contract or agreement skilled workmen in foreign countries to perform labor in Canada, in or upon any new industry not at present established in Canada, provided that skilled labor for that purpose cannot be otherwise obtained."

There is another clause providing for a penalty of not exceeding \$1,000 and not less than \$50 for any breach of the act, and this point was strongly drawn to the attention of the management of the hotel.

It was argued that New York help was "foreign" help, that skilled labor could have been obtained in Canada, not necessarily Edmonton, and that a breach of the act had been committed. On the other hand the arguments against this centred round "new industry," and while both sides were confident of their own interpretation of the act, nothing was definitely done.

Locals to Get Chance

One thing was settled, though. It was stated that in a short time the management would commence to "cut down" the staff, and then those who had been brought in from the outside would be sent back to Winnipeg. Local help would then be obtained, providing it was competent to perform the service required by the Macdonald hotel.