

"Did our boys go off to fight so that these fellows could get their jobs?" was a query of one reader of The Sun after perusing the announcement that the interned aliens or some of them, are to be allowed to take jobs on farms for the summer. This may not be the correct viewpoint, but it is a very natural one. Our brave fellows are facing death and worse than death in the trenches battling against the brothers and friends of these men who, profiting by their absence, are to have peaceful employment at good wages.

The keeping of these aliens in idleness is by no means an ideal condition, but it should not be forgotten that these men were not interned just because they had no work. They were interned after trial and because they had committed disloyal acts or given utterance to disloyal sentiments. Certainly they should be made to work, but the idea is abhorrent that we should release them to take the places that our brave fellows vacated to go to the front to withstand the savagery of the dastardly warfare waged by their kith and kin.

These interned aliens should be put to work in gangs on public work that is both arduous and distasteful to English speaking people. Work that will benefit the nation as a whole and that will not be for the profit of any individual. The fact should never be lost sight of that these men sprung from a race that as a people celebrated as a gala event, the deaths of hundreds of babes on the Lusitania and it is not fitting that they should be practically liberated at this time.

The admonition of Major Coleman in command of the aliens, that there need be no nervousness on the part of the public or farming communities over the liberation of these men, is all very well. The Major apparently has power to decide which men shall be liberated. Though his friends may with good reason, have the best possible opinion of the fitness of the Major to make such pronouncement, it is too much to expect the general public or women left alone in country homes late at night, will feel at ease if aliens are employed on their farms or on the lands of nearby neighbors.

Major Coleman will occupy an unenviable position. He will be asked to revise the judgement of the Magistrates who convicted these men of offences and committed them to the camp as unfit to be at large. Presumably he will have to do this without having all the evidence before him that led to committment. His decision to release the men will be based on some knowledge of the events that led up to internment, but more largely on the conduct of the men while in the camp. The conduct of men awed by guards armed with ball cartridge and bayonets, may be vastly different to what it would be if at liberty, when news of possible Teutonic victories is received, or when subject to the pro-German influences that will reach them once they regain partial freedom. Abject cowards are often the most insolent when they believe they control the situation.

Instead of having the enemies within our gates under proper control as they are now, or might be in camps on public works, the present plan will scatter them. It will put these men in positions where they may become the tools of enemy agents for destruction of resources. They will be in a position to fire the crops this year, a possibility that last fall gave rise

to some concern. This too in spite of the fact that the admittedly dangerous element were then housed in the internment camps.

Better support our enemies in idleness, if this is the only alternative.