

TRADING WITH HUNS ALLEGED

Anti-German League Make Charges Against Toronto Merchants

ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE INQUIRY

Say That Investigation by In- spector Was Too "One- sided"

Charges that German goods were still being brought into Canada in considerable quantities and were being sold here by Toronto merchants, were made by Mr. J. P. Murray at the meeting of the Anti-German League in St. George's Hall last night. A resolution calling upon the Government to prohibit this traffic altogether was adopted by the meeting.

Mr. Murray, acting as spokesman for the executive of the League, gave a review of the information which the League had furnished the Customs Department of the Government with regard to certain stock bought and sold by a company in Toronto, the name of the company, date and number of invoice, stock number and description of goods, and samples of these being furnished. The report continued:

"Without in any way impugning the good faith of the heads of the concern there is abundant proof of very questionable actions on the part of employees in responsible positions, and the contention that German goods are being bought and sold is so strong that immediate steps should be taken by the authorities to correct the present state of affairs.

"Solely influenced by patriotic motives, a number of the assistants of the concern have volunteered to submit sworn information in corroboration of the above statements."

Following this, said Mr. Murray, an officer of the department had come to make investigations in Toronto, and after examining a few witnesses and interviewing the heads of the firm in question, had made a report that everything had been quite legal. This had not satisfied the League, and the following letter had been sent to the Commissioner of Customs:

"You state: 'The papers on file contain no proof of unlawful trading with the enemy on the part of the ——— Company,' and we take issue with this statement. After full consideration and examination of witnesses we procured proofs which we handed to your department. The inspection made so far is one-sided and insufficient, and the inspector sent has, according to witnesses, improperly endeavored to influence them. This of itself looks like an attempt to shield the firm involved."

The resolution moved by Mr. J. Enoch Thompson was then unanimously adopted, reading as follows:

"That this meeting learns, on indisputable evidence, that goods imported from Germany since the war began have been used and are being sold in Toronto, and demands that the Government at Ottawa shall at once absolutely prohibit the importation of German and Austrian goods, no matter when exported or by what route they come, and issue an official declaration that the surtax after the war on such goods will not be less than 75 per cent., as Australia has done."

The following resolution, moved by Professor Duckworth, was also unanimously carried:

"That this meeting of the citizens of Toronto, being convinced of the necessity of restricting German trade and German immigration in this country after the conclusion of the war, is of opinion that legislation for the purpose of establishing such restriction ought to be placed on the statute book of the Dominion of Canada without delay; and that copies of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, and the representatives of the City of Toronto in the Dominion of Parliament."