

INOFFENSIVE ALIENS TO VOTE IN ALBERTA

By Canadian Press.

CALGARY, Alb., May 17.—Premier Sifton declared at the opening meeting of the provincial election campaign here last night that all subjects of alien birth, who were naturalized before August 4, 1914, and who had in no way committed any offence against the laws of Canada since, would have the right to vote in the Alberta election. There was an attendance of five or six thousand electors, many of them being soldiers, who had returned from the front.

Sergeant Major Gullifoy, one of the returned soldiers, was given ten minutes to address the meeting and he asked the Premier why he had not taken action towards disfranchising all Germans and Austrians in the province. His questions were the signal for shouting and applause among soldiers in the audience. The returned veteran claimed Canada was still in very real danger from these men, who were far more numerous than was generally believed, and who were now to have the right to vote. The alien interest, he said, was not to have good government, and it was an offence to the soldiers of Canada who were laying down their lives on the battlefields of Flanders and France that these men, actual brothers of the enemy should have the free right of franchise in this country.

The Premier dealt with construction of public buildings in the province, the development of agriculture and the railways during the past seven years, referring in detail to report of the commission which reported on the Dominion railway situation, which he said was full justification of the policy of the Alberta Government's attitude towards the railways. He referred to what the Government had done for farmers in the province. Regarding the changes in the laws regarding the franchise to subjects of alien birth, the Premier said the proposal that this should be done was not made till it was too late for the Legislature to take it up and it was a matter on which only the legislature could deal.