

ANY FOREIGNERS IN MUNITIONS SHOPS?

Munitions Board Not Responsible, Doesn't Inquire, Doesn't Meddle.

UP TO GOVERNMENT Declares Management of One Plant — Another Has No Enemies in Its Works.

Unpleasant charges against the munitions employers are with us again. It is alleged by one of the munition workmen, who claims to know, that there are some **enemy aliens** working in nearly every munition plant in the city. He further charges that a number of Austrians are employed at the British Forgings plant at Ashbridge's Bay, and at the Leaside Munitions and Aviation plants. He states also that all the shell contracts for 18-pound high explosive and 18-pound shrapnel, have been discontinued in Canada because the product has been bad due to the unskilled and cheap labor employed.

Calls It a Blanked Lie.

"It's all a — lie," exclaimed H. Horsfall, works manager of the Leaside Munitions plant, when asked as to the truth of these statements as far as he was concerned.

"Some people are trying to make trouble. I deny absolutely every word about us employing Austrians or anybody else like that."

Mr. Horsfall states that he has a record of every one of the 600 men employed in the plant. "We made our records over a year ago, and have the age, nationality, birthplace, former occupation, and employer—the family relations, and practically a life history of them all. Nobody has escaped us."

Board Not Responsible.

At the office of the Imperial Munitions Board, it was learned that Sir Joseph Flavelle was in Ottawa. Mark Irish, M.P.P., a member of the board, however, was interviewed on the subject.

"If you have any charges to make, I would advise you to go to the heads of the individual munitions plants," said Mr. Irish. "We simply act as purchasing agents. We have no control over the working conditions or the internal economy of any of the plants."

"But they are dependent upon the Munitions Board for future contracts, are they not?" The Star asked.

"I have given you the basic facts," replied Mr. Irish. "We are merely in the position of agents and nothing else."

"But you could have a potential influence over such munitions manufacturers if you made it known that the board was averse to the employment of alien enemy labor, could you not?"

"We have no connection with the men."

"Could you not establish by your possible influence a sort of secondary control?"

"There is nothing 'dary about it. We have no control over the men."

Up to the Government.

An official of the Canadian General Electric Co. blames the Government for lack of supervision over the movements of alien enemies in the country. "I do not know if there are any alien enemies working in munitions plants or not," he said, "but they are working somewhere or starving because they are not in jail. The Government has either to let them work or lock them up. There is no regulation against alien enemies as far as I know beyond the fact that they have to register and promise to behave. Besides that, they can go where they please, make as much money as they can, and put it in the bank in their own name. If they are not satisfied with their wages, they can strike and get more. There has been no real curbing of their liberty."

"Is it true that the 18-pound shells are no longer being contracted for here?" he was asked.

"I have not heard of it, and I very much doubt it," he replied.

None at British Forgings.

"We are not dependent upon foreigners so badly as to employ alien enemies," said an official of the British Forgings, Limited. "There is no truth in the statements as far as I know."

"It is said that four Austrians were taken on this week at the forging building to work on the new electric furnace there." The Star said.

"That is not true as far as I know," he replied. "We try to be very careful. At present the plant is protected on all sides by returned soldiers."