

THE LOYAL UKRAINIANS OF CANADA.

The Ukrainian Social Democratic Party of Canada, at a meeting in Winnipeg last evening, adopted resolutions affirming the adherence of its members to the cause for which the Allies are fighting, and also making certain proposals to the Dominion Government for the unhampered utilization of the large body of Ukrainian labor in production and other war work.

At this meeting an exchange of telegrams between the executive committee and Premier Borden was read and endorsed. "It is essential," wired the Prime Minister, "that all those who cannot be called upon to engage in military service should, for that reason, be impressed with the greater responsibility to aid the country by increased effort in other national activities. Among these activities production of food is of vital importance, and I rejoice to know that this need has impressed itself upon the members of your association."

It is thus established that this large section of the quarter of a million Ukrainians in Canada are not in sympathy with the separate peace entered into by the so-called representatives of the Ukrainian people with the Central Powers. But more immediate benefit may result from the offer by the Ukrainians of Western Canada to mobilize their labor provided that they are no longer stigmatized as alien enemies, and that those who work on the land are assured of good treatment by Canadian farmers.

What are the qualifications of the Ukrainian Social Democrats to speak for their people as a whole in Canada, and how far may their influence be expected to go with them? These are natural questions, and if they can be answered satisfactorily, there should be good reason to expect that the farm labor problem in the West is a long way towards solution.

There are three main Ukrainian parties in Canada. There is the National or Clerical party, under the sway of the Greek Catholic church, headed by Bishop Budka and certain political agitators, who sought to take advantage of embarrassments arising from the war to foment an agitation in the Prairie Provinces in favor of Ruthenian separate schools. This party is composed almost entirely of Ruthenians born under Austrian dominion, whose ambition has been to establish under that hegemony an Ukrainian autonomous state which shall join to the Ruthenians of East Galicia and Bukowina the bulk of the Russian Ukrainians, with access to the Black Sea.

A second party, composed very largely of Protestants and recruited in part from Russia and in part from Austria, has already elected for true Canadian citizenship, and throughout the war has lined up steadfastly on the side of the Allies.

This party has contributed large numbers to Canadian overseas battalions.

The third party, and possibly the most truly representative of the labor classes, as it is without doubt numerically the strongest, is the Ukrainian Social Democratic party that was responsible for last night's meeting. In their proposals to the Government they have the full support of the Canadianized Ukrainians—to use an awkward but expressive term—and with them control the bulk of their people. The complete success of the plan will be answered if there rallies to them the National or Clerical party, whose best known local spokesman is Mr. Ferley, M.P.P.

In any event, the meeting last night will be recognized by Canadians generally as a free and welcome expression of the loyal spirit of the bulk of the Ukrainian people. Mistakes have been made in the past. Owing to the confusion of birthplace, it was too readily assumed in the early months of the war that the mass of these people were alien enemies. It will be no more than a belated measure of justice if many of these loyal Canadian citizens, now interned, are set free to help in the farm work of this season.