

GREEKS CLAIM ILL-TREATMENT

Consul-General of Greece From Montreal Meets Fel- low-countrymen Here

The Greeks in Toronto are, they claim, misjudged and sometimes ill-treated, many Canadians apparently believing them to be pro-German. A desire for a better relationship between them and the Canadians whose native land they have adopted brought Mr. J. C. Walsh, the Consul-General of Greece, from Montreal yesterday in an endeavor to promote more amiable feelings towards the Greeks, who claim their sympathy has always been with the allies.

Upwards of 300 Greeks met with Mr. Walsh at the St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Jarvis street, last evening. Three reasons were advanced for his visit. He will take a registration of all the Greeks in the city, of whom there are between 1,500 and 2,000. It was also to convince the authorities that although many of them are Turkish Greeks they are not alien enemies, and further to make clear their loyalty and sympathy with the allies.

Greeks From Turkey.

E. Kiliananis, the Secretary of the "Karteria," which is composed of about 100 of the Greeks who were born in Turkey, told the Consul-General that, although they were born in Turkey, they were Greeks and intended to remain Greeks, no matter what the Turks did to them. It had been their misfortune to be borne under the Turkish yoke without having many hopes of liberation. After all their sacrifices in blood and money, he pointed out that 40,000 Greeks from Turkey are to-day fighting against the Bulgarians.

The question to be answered, he said, was as to whether they were enemies or friends of this country. The local authorities think they are enemies and treat them accordingly. They think it is a disgrace and injustice to be classed as Turks by their adopted country, Canada, whose laws they respect, obey and love, just as much as their own native land.

Many Greeks Enlisted.

Nick Spoul, Secretary of the Greek Community of this city, also spoke, and he claimed that the Greeks were misjudged, and sometimes ill-treated.

Since the beginning of this war the sympathy of the Greek colony of Toronto, he claimed, had been with the allies. More than thirty Greeks from Toronto had enlisted in the first two years of the war while their country was neutral. There are now 100 men who will be called on under the Military Service Act ready to go and fight.

It was emphasized that although some of the Greeks here were born in Turkey they were of Greek parentage, and that their education and religion was that of Greece, and that they recognized the Greek King as their Sovereign. In Toronto, however, they are classed as alien enemies because they were born in Turkey. The fact that they had given to the war loans, Red Cross and patriotic funds was also mentioned as an evidence of their loyalty.

Will Investigate.

In reply Mr. Walsh said that as long as they knew they were not Turks and their feelings were with the allies he could see no reason why they should be classed as enemies.

Mr. Walsh, in addition to being Consul-General for Canada, is Crown prosecutor in Montreal. He promised to look into the matter, and will endeavor to have it settled before he returns.