

SENATE AND ALIENS COME UNDER BAN OF ALDERMEN

City Council Will Memorialize Government to Abolish Senate and Asks for Military Pay for Alien Enemies

Motions which contained disapproval of the privileges granted to alien enemies, and to the members of the Canadian Senate, fared well at the hands of members of the City Council at its meeting yesterday. Only one dissenting voice was heard when Ald. Ball's motion asking the Government to abolish the Senate was put to a vote. There were no advocates of the utility of the upper Chamber of the Canadian Parliament and numerous instances were cited where the will of the people had been denied through the Senate's veto privilege. Only hard knocks were meted out for the Senate, who were variously characterized as "a bunch of soreheads" and "a menace to government."

Aliens, on the contrary, hardly came in for such sweeping condemnation, as Ald. Joseph Gibbons, as the representative of Labor, claimed that there was actual economic peril in enforcing military pay for persons of enemy birth. When this motion came to a vote, however, there was likewise only one member of Council who had the temerity to record an opposing vote.

Objects on Economic Grounds.

Ald. Plewman's motion was to the effect that the Governor in Council be memorialized requesting that steps be taken to place enemy aliens under Government control, in employment of national importance, and that such men should be paid the equivalent of a soldier's pay, and that the difference between it and

the prevailing rate should be paid to the Government for war purposes by any private firm.

Ald. Gibbons opposed this motion, as he held it would reduce the rates of wages in private companies in which these men might be employed, and would reduce the standard of living. Instead of assisting the returned soldier, it would be hurting him, he held, if aliens were forced to work in private concerns at military pay. The soldiers would not be able to compete with such labor, said the Alderman.

Would Abolish Senate.

Ald. Ball, seconded by Ald. Ryding, moved that the Council petition Sir Robert Borden, the Government and the House of Commons of Canada that a vote of the people be taken at the next Federal election on the question of abolishing the Senate. Ald. Ball, speaking to his motion, said he knew of no second House that was so out of touch with the people as the Senate.

Mayor Church claimed there was no necessity for a second House in Canada. While the object of the Senate was to check hasty legislation, it had not become what was desired by its authors.

"Don't you think," said Ald. Birdsell, "that they will think we are a bunch of soreheads? Only a few weeks ago we were wanting the appointment of a man to the Senate?"

The Alderman referred to a motion asking the Government to appoint Mr. J. W. Lyon to the Senate as a representative of the municipalities. The motion was carried however, with only one adverse vote.