

VETERANS ANGERED AT PREFERENCE TO ALIENS

They Say That Trouble May
Come If Attitude of Some
Employers Doesn't Change.

According to the heads of the various branches of the G.W.V.A. in Toronto, some action will be necessary on the part of local employers to avert a crisis on the question of the employment of alien labor in the factories of this city. To all the local branches a considerable number of reports have come of late that alien labor, and in many cases alien enemies, are being given the preference over returned men seeking employment. Feeling among the returned men, according to G.W.V.A. officials, is running very high, and the situation is very keenly felt in all the branches in the city.

To-day the report was made to Secretary Murell, of the Central Branch, by a returned man who sought employment from a local manufacturing plant, that while he was refused employment, two foreigners were taken on during the time he was waiting to make application. This, according to the secretary, is illustrative of incidents which are being repeatedly brought to the attention of G.W.V.A. officials, and which are causing increasing dissatisfaction among a growing body of returned men.

"The situation a year ago promised trouble," said the Central branch secretary, "but abundance of employment provided the remedy and proved a solution to the problem. Now there are a very large number of returned men seeking employment, and the situation is decidedly strained. The central branch have appointed a repatriation and employment committee which will get in communication with the employers. Already we have investigated several such reports and I regret to say a large number of Toronto factories seem to be favoring the alien applicants. Among those are some whose names appear in the long list of concerns who have promised to give the returned men preference."

In marked contrast to the action of many firms is cited the case of the Toronto Carpet Company. This firm has committed itself to the entire elimination from its working staff of all alien labor, and is dismissing employes at the rate of three to four every day. They then communicate with the G. W. V. A., who furnish them with the calibre of men needed to fill the vacancy. This plant has been following this course for some days now, and have given their word that it will continue until its factories are free of alien labor and the vacancies filled by returned men.