

NOT ENOUGH JOBS FOR RETURNED MEN

Some Veterans Came Near "Cleaning Up" a Lot of Ali- ens at Employment Office.

Since the opening of the Returned Soldiers' Employment Bureau 20 days ago, 800 veterans have registered, seeking work. Of the first 550, about 57 per cent. were found positions which they are still occupying, and of the remaining 250 who have registered during the past week, only about half have been able to find work. The employment bureau is working energetically and smoothly enough, but there are not enough jobs to be had.

"The supply of men very greatly exceeds the demand," said Captain Cleverly, who is in charge of this department. "We are finding it increasingly difficult to place men. One very good thing the bureau has accomplished is to raise the proportion of returned men getting work, as compared with others looking for employment. More returned men, proportionately speaking, have been given work during the past half month."

Soldiers and Aliens.

That the feeling between returned men and alien labor is running high, is demonstrated by an incident which occurred in a local employment bureau this week. The returned men and others were making application at the same time for situations, and the foreign appearance of a gang of applicants, coupled with their manner, irritated a body of veterans. Only the action of cool heads among the returned soldiers, and the intervention of an officer, averted commotion that might have been serious. The majority of the ex-fighters were for "cleaning up" on the aliens, particularly when it was rumored that there were some alien enemies in the group. This enmity is explained to some extent by one of the G.W.V.A. officials, who said:

"The men heard a great deal of high war wages being paid to foreigners while they were at the front. It rankled them, when they were risking their skins at small pay. Now that they come home and find it hard to get jobs, and almost impossible to get them at war wages, it does not help any. From the information I have wages have undoubtedly taken a slump. The fact that many aliens are still employed adds to the irritation. The men have become encouraged by the success of the Winnipeg disturbances, which has given them the idea they can get what they want if they go about it that way."

Aliens More Easily Handled.

"I think unemployment is growing," stated Mr. W. E. Turley, Provincial Secretary of the G. W. V. A., to The Star. "I regret this very much, because it is not good for a man just discharged from the army not to get employment. It develops the restless spirit already acquired in army life, and makes it increasingly hard for him to buckle down to work again.

"I have not been able to discern any widespread desire on the part of employers to hire returned soldiers in preference to others, nor in preference to aliens. Many aliens are being kept on and taken on to the detriment of all Canadian-born workers, including our men. One of the reasons for this, I think, is that they form a class of labor more easily driven. The great majority of them do not belong to trade unions. Those that do seem to be the cause of internal trouble more than anything else, as far as one can judge from the outside."

Situation Intensified.

The unemployment situation is being daily intensified here and reacts with most effect upon returned men, many of whom cannot secure employment, while their ranks are constantly being increased by comrades from overseas. Veterans are more affected by the flooded labor conditions than any other one class for the reason that they start civil life, in a very great many cases, without a job. For them it is not a case of holding their positions, but of getting places to retain. Again a considerable number are suffering from disabilities which limit the range of work they can take up. This restriction interferes again to make it difficult for them to get work.

The returned soldiers' branch of the Government Employment Bureau, King street, is working overtime in the interest of returned men. They work in conjunction with the Ontario Labor Bureau and co-operate as closely as possible with both the men and prospective employers. They have been successful in a great number of instances, but each position filled means one less for those still seeking work. The result is that it is becoming increasingly difficult to place men.