

VETERANS DEMAND REPORTATION OF DISLOYAL ALIENS

ASK GOVT. TO ELIMINATE HUN MENACE

Delegation of 1,500 Returned Soldiers Requests Premier Norris to Take Action—Suggests List be Prepared.

In unmistakable terms, returned soldiers of Winnipeg and districts impressed upon Premier T. C. Norris and members of the legislature Monday evening their attitude in reference to the alien question, and demanded provincial support of their policy, in demanding that the province be purged of aliens.

About 1,500 returned men thronged the floor of the house and filled the galleries of the legislature when at about 7 o'clock Mr. Norris received the delegation.

Accompanying the premier were Hon. Edward Brown, and Hon. R. S. Taormon.

The soldiers demand the expulsion from Canada of all those "alien born" and "alien-spirited" ones who during the period of the war failed to demonstrate their loyalty to the allies; the onus being upon the suspect to prove otherwise when accused.

Premier Norris expressed sympathy with the returned men and declared whatever his government could do to assist them, within the jurisdiction of the province, the government is ready to do.

The delegation was headed and introduced by Fred Law, secretary of the Great War Veterans' Association. There was but one matter at issue: the alien question, Mr. Law said.

Aliens Number 30,000

A. E. Moore, the first speaker, declared there were more than 30,000 unnaturalized registered aliens in Manitoba, of whom 24,000 dwelt in Winnipeg and district.

"My comrades and I" he declared, "returned from the war hoping to find Canada a changed country. We find instead of reform the cloven hoof of the Hun still present in our midst—not as a soldier and a fighting man, as over there, but in the form of insidious propaganda, against which it is difficult to contend.

"We find the aliens drawing bigger pay than our men can secure and many employers of labor hanging on to their alien help unmindful that men who fought and bled in France and Flanders walk the streets without a job and hardly enough to eat."

Comrade Moore warned the government that conditions of unrest in Canada now were only symptomatic of what would obtain in an acute form later when the bulk of the soldiers came back from overseas.

Suggests Round-Up

J. O. Newton, vice-president of the Great War Veterans' association, read part of the text of a resolution adopted unanimously by the returned men recently, anent the expulsion of aliens from Canada.

"In treating of the alien question," he said, "we do not wish to be unreasonable. We appreciate that there are many who may only be technically aliens. It must be remembered, however, that under the German law a man remains subject to German rule no matter whether he takes out naturalization papers in another country or not. Therefore we throw the onus upon all aliens to prove that during the war their sympathies, illustrated by deeds, lay with the allies."

Comrade Newton suggested that while the whole question was a federal affair, yet the province could go ahead with the round-up of aliens in order to be ready when the time for action came.

"If you had a list of those deserv-

ing expulsion prepared," he said, "then when the federal government passed the necessary legislation there would be no delay so far as Manitoba was concerned in starting the exodus of these 'undesirables.'"

The veteran spoke of the assertion made by employers of labor that there were places in local factories which could be filled by none other than aliens owing to working conditions. If such was the case, he said, then the government's factory inspection department should get busy and see that these conditions were improved.

He had read a list of names of alien extraction. These, he said, were men employed by the government. He hoped the premier would go through this list and if any aliens were included that they would be discharged to give place to returned soldiers.

Comrade Newton then stated that it was alleged that at Plum Coulee school and Altona school German was being taught the children. He hoped that such was not the case and, if it was, demanded that it be stopped at once.

Other speakers were Capt. G. F. Wheeler, a veteran of a score of campaigns; H. J. Mansfield, president of the Vocational Students' association, and A. Loosely, chairman of the Returned Soldiers' investigation commission.

Ask Square Deal

Comrade Mansfield told the government that the returned men had not taken kindly to the thought that despite the hot fight the men had been making to obtain a square deal from the federal government in reference to vocational training, not a member of the government, nor an emissary had come or been sent to find out the real cause of the trouble, or to offer help in any way whatever.

Replying to the various speakers point by point, Premier Norris expressed, on behalf of himself and his government, hearty sympathy with the policy of the soldiers in demanding the expulsion of the Hun. He declared emphatically that he knew of no alien employed in the civil service, but promised investigation.

"We will go through the list right away," he promised, "and I can assure you if any aliens are found, they will not last a minute after I know about it."

Referring to the statement that money was being spent in Manitoba for the spread of German propaganda, Premier Norris said he had not heard of it before.

"If the veterans will only give us what information they have," said the premier, "we will try to run down the culprits and I give you my word they will be punished insofar as it is possible for the courts of Manitoba to punish them."

The premier reminded the veterans that the expulsion of aliens was primarily a federal matter, and furthermore had become an international matter to be decided by the peace conference.

"Lloyd George," he said, amid cheers, "has promised that the alien shall be banished from England, and Canada can do no better than follow that example as soon as the peace conference decides upon the method."

Dr. Thornton spoke briefly after the premier concluded. It was news to him, he said, that German was being taught in Manitoba schools. He promised immediate investigation and prompt action.