

NO RUPTURE WITH AUTHORITY

Earnest Appeal to Veterans by President Purney to Preserve Order

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—Though insistent that enemy aliens should be sternly dealt with, veterans will not countenance any open rupture with constituted authority. That is the attitude taken by the Dominion command of the G. W. V. A. In an open message to the association tonight, the Dominion President, W. P. Purney, makes a stirring appeal to the members to uphold the tenets of the organization, which urge the maintenance of law and order as being among the responsibilities of citizenship.

Considerable anxiety has been felt in official circles recently as to the attitude displayed by returned soldiers toward enemy aliens resident in Canada. In almost every Province the veterans have expressed themselves in no uncertain terms on this question, and of late fears have been freely expressed that this latent antagonism would develop into lawless action at various points.

When called into conference with the Government, officials of the G. W. V. A. emphatically affirmed that the general body would not condone any violence, and though extremely dissatisfied with conditions which had permitted aliens to exploit the country's necessity, restraint would be exercised pending the action of the Federal authorities.

Insuperable Difficulties.

It was stated by Sir Thomas White, the Acting Prime Minister, that insuperable difficulties confronted the Government in accomplishing the deportation of seditious aliens, owing to the lack of transportation facilities and the impossibility of gaining admission for these people into central Europe.

Refrain From Conflict.

The message of President Purney reads as follows:

"To all those sincere, brave and loyal men, who have built so high and glorious a name for the citizen soldiers of Canada, and who have banded themselves together as much for the future general welfare of the country as for the interests of themselves, their comrades yet to return, and the dependents of those who can never return, we, your chosen representatives, remembering the patriotic, constructive aims of our organization, as well as your power to so greatly assist in the progress of the country through a period of history fraught with so many possibilities of danger, earnestly appeal, as the G.W.V.A. stands for law and order, to our members to refrain from all acts which might bring our association into conflict with constituted authority. Upon your attitude in this regard at this time rests the future of the country. The Government, in dealing with enemy aliens, is hampered by conditions which require time and patience to overcome."

Appeal on Behalf of Comrades.

"We are not making any appeal on behalf of the Government, but on behalf of our comrades all over Canada and those still to come home. We ask that the glory of the sacrifices made by never-to-be-forgotten comrades be not dimmed by any hasty or unlawful act of ours. We cannot hope to gain the good-will of our fellow-Canadians if we seek to obtain by force what we will surely get by the consistent pressure of constitutional methods."