

RESOLUTION IN SEVEN TONGUES

Adopted at Big Mass Meeting of Aliens in National Theatre

A P P E A L FOR JUSTICE

Want to be Permitted to Leave This Country as Free Agents

With hundreds clamoring to get in, and then turning to the street, where English-speaking orators addressed them from the soap box amid wild cheers, a thousand or more of Toronto's foreign population packed the National Theatre on Teraulay street last night to reply to the agitation which is again developing through the country against the alien.

The meeting was arranged some days ago.

Every care was taken not to run foul of the law. Mr. J. G. O'Donoghue, the well-known Labor lawyer, was present and read the resolution which set forth the claims of the foreigners as they had been made to him prior to the meeting. He also advised the several speakers upon the nature of the addresses which should be delivered. The speakers included E. R. Bales, a carpenter; Louis Braithwaite, another trades unionist; Mrs. F. Custance, an active Socialist, and David Rees, a returned soldier, who were followed by foreign translators. Detectives from headquarters, and constables under Police Inspector Bond stood about the hall awaiting the slightest infraction of the law. At one point Detective Godfrey Maurer, who has had charge of the alien work during the war, thought he detected a misplaced word, and rushed wildly to the stage. Mr. O'Donoghue explained that it was a reply from the audience to the address of the Finnish translator, and apparently from an individual who did not seem to hold the same mild views as the translator.

As he opened the meeting, Chairman Bales explained that he hoped it would be the commencement of a propaganda from coast to coast, which would enlighten the returned soldier and result in a more favorable opinion of the alien among the general public.

Mrs. Custance opened her address to "Proletarians, brothers, sisters and comrades, workers of the world."

Be Just to Aliens.

"I am not here," said Mr. O'Donoghue, "to ally myself with Socialism, Liberalism or Toryism, but for the purpose of assisting in any manner possible to prevent a grave injustice being done to those who are called aliens. The objection was once directed toward enemy aliens, but now it has broadened to include all aliens. If any were active enemy aliens, you should have been interned; if not, you are entitled to certain liberties and to justice. The cause of the agitation may be economic; it may be jobs. You can't blame the returned soldier for wanting a job, for he has earned every consideration from anyone who loves fair play and equal opportunity. If there were no aliens in the country the situation would be exactly the same to-day. I remember well when organized Labor protested against the advertisements which lured men from Europe. It was of no use. You were brought here, and you are entitled to your rights. I realize that the worker in Russia, Italy, United States or Canada is an alien to the class who employs him and pays him, and that there is nothing alien among financiers. Remember, when Prussianism was defeated on the battlefield all oppression did not vanish. If you men surrender your jobs to the returned soldier, see to it that other classes make the same sacrifice."

Mr. O'Donoghue closed with pointing out that the remedy for injustice lay in the ballot box, and appealed to the workingmen of Canada to vote for their own men. Ballots, not bullets, were the solution. He thought that the profit system might have to go.

Mr. Braithwaite declared that the C.P.R. and other great enterprises which had resulted in the development of Canada had been built by foreign labor at a time when the Englishman would not or could not adapt himself to the conditions.

Mrs. Custance declared that for many years she had been a wanderer on the face of the earth, and had met with the same conditions everywhere." David Rees, the returned soldier, said that he was also anxious to go back home. He had endeavored to explain the proper solution of the alien questions to returned soldiers, and was meeting with some success. When he returned from Flanders he commenced to read, and had now become enlightened. He had nothing but a good word for the foreigner. He openly declared that the war was a capitalistic war, and was brought about to save the system.

Resolution Lengthy One.

The resolution, which was a lengthy one and read in seven languages after Mr. O'Donoghue had read it in English, pointed out that aliens had come to Canada "on the invitation of the Government, and until the beginning of the war had been welcomed, but as soon as we organized and upheld our co-workers we became aliens." It set forth that many had given their children to the allied cause, that few had broken the laws of the country, declared that soldiers were entitled to the best that the country could provide them with, and held that industrial unrest was not caused by aliens.

"We do not want to be sent to England or elsewhere to be used as strike-breakers, nor do we want to be compelled to take up arms against our own people. Let us leave Canada as free agents, just as we came—to go where we will. We appeal to the workers of Canada and to the soldiers to protect themselves by seeing justice done to us. Our cause is, in reality, their cause, for they will have to combat the same elements in their endeavors to make the world better for them and their children," concluded the resolution.