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ALIENS IN CANADA.

Elsewhere in these columns will be found an article on the question of the Alien in Canada. There is no doubt but the evil pointed out is serious, and one that is well worth the whole-hearted support of the soldier.

Quoting from the Manitoba Free Press we have the general view of the question.

"It did not require the war, however, to reveal to Canadians the fact that the inclusion in the population of large alien strains has brought social and political evils that off-set in large measure the economic advantages resulting from their presence. It is indubitably true that the responsibility for these evils must be borne in large part by the Canadians themselves. The foreign settlers from Central Europe were mercilessly exploited by our "commercialists", and systematically debauched by politicians. The Canadians were the prime factors in creating the problem of the foreign settler, which must now be faced and dealt with."

It matters little who was responsible for the alien in Canada at this moment, but rather let us get together and see that he does not get a greater benefit than he deserves in comparison to the soldier.

THE TANK.

The tank was a British invention and was first used at the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

In some of the most fiercely contested struggles of that campaign the tanks were of great value in sheltering the attacking British infantry and in dealing with German machine gun posts, which even at that early period were scattered along in front of the main enemy trench line in shell holes and carefully concealed redoubts.

The tanks ceased to be of much value as the season advanced and the shell holes in the area of operations were filled by the autumn rains, which transformed the battle fields into morasses. Many tanks were bogged and abandoned last summer in the region of Warlencourt, rendered immobile by the mud. Others had been subjected to heavy bombardment by the German artillery and put out of action.

The tank was regarded by the British infantry during the early part of 1917 as a costly fad useful under certain conditions but not useful enough to warrant the spending of millions of pounds upon.

One or two tank successes were scored in the battle of Arras, but generally speaking the mud at Vimy during April put the tanks out of business. They were very valuable in the second stage of the battle of Mesines but in Flanders during the Passchendale operations the mud and the shell holes combined were too much for them.

The Germans asserted after a few weeks experience that they had taken the measure of the tank and found it of little practical use. But that was camouflage, for we know now that the German arsenals were given orders to produce in large numbers tanks which they claimed to be a better type than the British—more heavily armed and armour-

ed, with the caterpillar propellers more carefully protected and with space inside for storing munitions to be carried to the front in case of need. Sir Julian Byng's victory at Cambrai, in which British tanks played so conspicuous a part, doubtless confirmed the Germans in their opinion that the tank had a future. They themselves used tanks in the Aisne operations and in the fighting in the Valley of the Somme, but their "landships" have proved no match for those of France and Britain.

While they have been constructing movable forts, heavy and difficult to manoeuvre, the Allies have been evolving a tank that can be used on the battlefield to attack machine gun positions either by gunfire or by crushing them into the earth. These new armoured cars probably have not weight enough to smash a "pill box" of the Flanders type, but in a war of movement there is no time to construct concrete machine gun emplacements.

The later British tanks are easily steered and have much greater speed than the original tanks, which weighed from thirteen to fifteen tons and took a curve very slowly. They appear to have solved the problem of attacking lightly-entrenched forces depending for protection largely on machine gun outposts in shell holes and concealed earthworks. The loss of life in the capture of Vaux and the Wood of Vaire by the Australians is reported to have been astonishingly small because of the service rendered by the tanks silencing the enemy's machine guns in the fore-field. In still later French attacks the tanks seem to have been equally useful. As a weapon of offensive in dry weather the landship is proving its value. And the superiority of the Allies in tanks is proving as great as their superiority in the air. Canada has already sent one tank battalion to the front and will probably send more.

M.P.'S TAKE NOTICE.

Why is it that some of the huskies who prefer the duties of an M. P. to going overseas and facing the Huns use the tactics of the enemy when bringing in a soldier who has happened to fall from the straight and narrow path. We would like to know if it is necessary to disfigure a man for life.

It has been conceded that brute force is no longer the ideal way of correcting an error. Remove the cause of the error and we won't need so many M.P.'s but until that is done let the representatives of the law remember

that the soldier is just an ordinary human being with many faults yet a few virtues, and he will find his unpleasant job much more enjoyable if he thinks twice before using his "black jack".

"Brum".

NATIONALITY OF CANADIAN ARMY AT THE FRONT.

Someone made a statement that half the force sent by Canada to the front is composed of men born in the United States and someone in England claims that more than half are British born. A statement prepared by the Department of Militia and Defence classifies the 364,750 men of the C. E. F. who went overseas up to March last according to the country of birth as follows:—

Canada, of British descent	147,505
Canada, of French descent	16,268
England . . . . .	121,571
Scotland . . . . .	37,496
Ireland . . . . .	12,657
Wales . . . . .	3,574
Other British Possessions	3,648
United States . . . . .	12,000
Other countries . . . . .	10,031

These figures show that nearly half the men are native born Canadians. The United States born form a considerable number. Many of these were allowed to transfer to the U. S. army as soon as it was mobilized in France.

LIEUT. A. PINSONNAULT RETURNS.

(From The News)

Lieut. A. Pinsonnault, who proceeded overseas with the 163rd Regiment, recruited by Lt.-Colonel O. Asselin about two years ago, returned to his home on Thursday evening of last week. Lieut. Pinsonnault, who has been twice wounded and once gassed is on a three months furlough to recuperate his health.

He was met at the station by a large crowd of friends. The band of the Engineer Training Depot being in attendance, also Lt.-Colonel Melville, O.C., Major Keefer and a number of other officers and men of the depot.

Mr. Jos. Demers, M.P., made a speech of welcome which was replied to by Lt. Pinsonnault in a few words, after which, accompanied by his father, Mr. J. L. Pinsonnault and a number of invited guests, he proceeded to his home, where a further welcome was extended.

Lieut. Pinsonnault reported his return to headquarters in Montreal on Monday of this week.

It is the sincere hope of his many friends that he will soon regain his accustomed health.

A negro soldier from the United States, being asked why he was fighting overseas when it was not his country or his race that was being oppressed, replied that he was fighting for his race. "What is your race?" was the question. He replied, "The angry Saxons."