

to bring about the desired result. One broad principle may be laid down. Labour must receive a greater portion of that which it produces. Consciously or unconsciously, Labour demands, I think, three things: First, personal and individual liberty, and it is going to get that if it has to fight for it. Secondly, a comfortable living, and surely it is entitled to that. Canada is rich enough to keep all in comfort, and I think that an eight-hour day is long enough, if the working man uses those eight hours to good advantage. Third, it desires some sort of security for the future. Is it too much to expect the Government to remove from the minds of everybody, and particularly from the minds of the working people, that great haunting fear of the future? I am certain that in the minds of all there is a fear that they may not be able to produce enough to maintain themselves and their dependents in the coming years. If this means the introduction of old age pensions, pensions for unemployment, and pensions for widows and mothers, I for one am ready to support any legislation in that direction. It is necessary also that men should be educated and the right men fitted to the right jobs.

In conclusion, I am going to refer to a matter which has been touched on by some hon. members, notably by those of the city of Toronto. I refer to the alien question. I am sure that even a number of enemy aliens in this country have received less than justice at times. I shall take the liberty of reading a short extract on this question from a Conservative newspaper that supported the Union Government in the last election. It embodies my view:

Summed up, the matter of the alien citizens stands: We induced them to come here and wield our picks and shovels; we allowed them to live how and where they pleased; we made no attempt to prepare them for the duties and responsibilities of citizenship and since the war, have accentuated rather than relieved the disabilities under which they are labouring.

We in effect say: "You cannot now become a naturalized citizen and where you have been, we suspend your rights, duties and privileges; we pass laws which declare that if you are under 60 years of age you either must work or go to jail; when you are industrious, we regret exempting you from military service and envy the wages you draw. If you show signs of prosperity and live in Toronto you are likely to have your places of business raided and your property destroyed, and take a long chance of being able to collect any damages, because you were born in an alien land.

There is not one alien among a thousand, unless he live in Toronto, who would return of his own accord, to Europe. They came to Canada to work, to make a home and rear a family in a land where liberty, justice and opportunity are said to exist and may be shared in by whomsoever will.

There probably is not one alien in ten thousand, who has lived here long enough to get a hair cut, and who having come from an enemy country several years before the war, would knowingly do anything to aid or comfort the enemy.

This paper holds the opinion that every alien who is industrious and law-abiding should be given a square deal and assisted to become a Canadian citizen. The Allies generally have adopted President Wilson's slogan: "Make the world safe for democracy." In its application is it to be confined to Europe or will Canadians take some of their own medicine?

Even the Yanks can set us a good example in the treatment of aliens matter. They are naturalizing them on every hand and opening schools for instruction in English and the inculcation of the principles of American citizenship.

I now pass to another phase of this question. There are men in Canada to-day who are called aliens who, to all intents and purposes, are good citizens, but technically have no country at all. In the county of Waterloo, the northern riding of which I have the honour to represent, and also in Perth, Huron, Renfrew and perhaps elsewhere there are living many people who came from Germany from twenty-five to fifty years ago. Many of them have taken the oath of allegiance and have always regarded themselves as citizens. Unfortunately, however, many of them have not taken out naturalization papers, which it is necessary for them to do in order to become full-fledged British subjects and Canadian citizens. This difficulty has been aggravated, in our riding at all events, by the fact that in past elections neither of the two political parties has challenged the voter on the score of nationality; there was a sort of compact in regard to that. When the war came these people who had lived in Canada many years and considered themselves British subjects found themselves denied the right of protection which citizenship ought to give. The matter was brought up in the House of Commons in 1917 and Sir Robert Borden recognized the justice of their claim for naturalization. On that occasion he stated in the House that an Order in Council had been passed under which these people could be naturalized during the war under certain conditions. I quote from the Order in Council:

The Minister observes further that many persons of alien enemy origin who came to Canada many years ago, during infancy, and have grown up believing themselves to be British subjects, now that questions of nationality are being carefully scrutinized, find it impossible to show that they have become British subjects although they have voted and held municipal positions for many years. Many others believe that they became British subjects through naturalization of their parents, but they are unable to prove it because the records are not available.