

# The Courier

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## OTTAWA'S REPLY TO VETERANS' DEMANDS FOR ALIENS' DEPORTATION

OTTAWA. — The Great War Veterans through their Dominion secretary-treasurer, C. G. McNeil, have brought to the attention of the government, a number of resolutions forwarded by branches of that organization, principally in the west, urging the deportation of undesirable aliens, the examination into the loyalty of those suspected of enemy sympathies and the curtailment of certain civil rights of such as may be permitted to remain in the country.

To these, Sir Thomas White, acting prime minister, has replied in part, as follows:

"The resolutions which you have been good enough to send me have been presented to the council and received our most attentive consideration. Some of them, while embodying ideas which have our general support and sympathy, would present great practical difficulties in carrying out, and particularly at the present time. Some of the matters dealt with also are under our consideration, within provincial rather than Dominion jurisdiction. The government has already indicated, through an official statement in the press, its attitude towards the general situation regarding enemy aliens as it exists today. Briefly this is as follows:

### Undesirables Being Deported.

"With respect to interned enemy aliens, deportation of those dangerous and undesirable is being carried out as speedily as international conditions will permit. Pending the conclusion of the peace conference, this work will necessarily be slow as there is, in addition to shortage of shipping, the fact that enemy countries are still closed, except to such admittance of their nationals as it is possible to arrange. The order in council authorizing the internment of enemy aliens who are dangerous or a menace to the peace of the community, is still in full force and operation.

"The government has brought to the attention of the prime minister and his colleagues at peace conference the question of provision of shipping, and of passports for those alien residents of Canada, numbering, we are advised, many thousands, who desire to return to their various countries at their own expense, but who are unable to do so owing to their inability to obtain transportation.

### Asks Borden To Act

"We have also requested the prime minister to have the conference specially consider the stipulations which may be necessary in the peace treaty to enable deportation from Canada, for a period after the official conclusion of peace, of dangerous and undesirable persons of enemy nationality and for their admittance to the countries of their origin.

"In view of the difficulties and the complications surrounding the whole question in a country of mixed nationalities, such as Canada, we feel we can rely upon the full support and co-operation of the Great War Veterans' association in aiding, by their great influence, its successful solution. The matter of parliamentary legislation needed to effectually deal with some of the problems involved is now under consideration by the government."

### Asks Veterans to "Go Slow"

STONEY, N.S. — An appeal to returned soldiers to go slow in their demands for the deportation of aliens, was made by Major J. W. Madden, provincial president of the Great War Veterans' association for Nova Scotia, in a manifesto issued. Major Madden reminds the veterans that a vast majority of these aliens are engaged in labor which the average Canadian citizen considers beneath him and will not do. He forecasts great industrial expansion in which low class labor is imperative, and if the aliens now here are deported, others will have to be allowed in again.

## Grain Growers to Take Lead in Politics

In Andrew MacPhail's "Essays in Politics" we find in Chapter 5 "New Lamps for Old" the following statement: "We, in Canada, pretend that we are living under British institutions. In reality we are not. We are living under the government of an interested class, who find a party in power and keep it there until it becomes too corrupt to be kept any longer, when it seizes upon the other party and proceeds to corrupt it."

The Grain Growers of Canada seem to realize the truth of this statement. Hence the decision of Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta farmers in favor of political action. During this week the biggest and most important of all farmers organizations in Canada, the "Sask. Grain Growers' Association" will deal with the same question. On page 5 of this issue we are publishing an article which proves that Sask. Grain Growers are already playing a very important role in the political life of our Province. We are looking forward with the hopeful expectation that our organized Grain Growers will arrive at the right decision and will in the future do their full share in order to purify politics and create real democracy. The free spirit of the Western plains is living in our sturdy grain growers. They are fully awake to the seriousness of the political situation. We have

arrived at a crisis in the history of our country. The time has arrived when we must lay the foundations for the After-the-war-Canada. It seems that our grain growers feel that they cannot leave safely this important work to the old type party politician, who is in the hands of the capitalists, the "interested class," of which MacPhail speaks in his book. If Canada is to work out its own salvation, if the economic life of our country is to develop unhampered, the people must rule in reality and not only in name. Returned soldiers, farmers and laborers must unite and assert themselves. The organized masses themselves must appear in the political field. No longer can the masses allow themselves to be led by the old type politician who is in the service of the "interested class". In our Province the Sask. Grain Growers' Association is undoubtedly the strongest organization and therefore eminently fitted to lead in this fight for the rights of the people and the free development of our nation and country. The only wish this paper has, is to be allowed to set the necessity of such action on behalf of the common people clearly before the many tens of thousands of immigrated settlers throughout Western Canada. It will of course be necessary to do this in the language these people can understand.

## Importance of Economic Problems

One of the most striking sentences in Hopkins Moorhouse's splendid book "Deep Furrows" is E. A. Partridge's word: "If we are to create a fighting force by co-operation of the workers to meet the giants created by the commercial co-operation of the owners, we have scarcely started. If we seek permanent improvement in our financial position and thereby an increase of comfort, opportunity and sense of security in our lives and the lives of our families, the fight will be long and hard. And we are going to need every man we can muster."

Partridge is undoubtedly right when he says that "we are going to need every man we can muster." The "capitalistic giants" know that their power will be gone as soon as they are confronted by a united and well organized mass of the common people, and because they know this they are "always, only too willing to foster dissension and foment strife amongst the masses. With devilish cleverness they are using religious, racial, national and class prejudices in order to set the people quarreling amongst themselves. They know very well that they are safe and that their privileges as a class will remain intact as long as the common people fight amongst themselves.

Hon. C. A. Dunning, one of the truest and ablest leaders of our grain growers put the case very clearly, when in his speech at the closing of the last session of our provincial legislature he said: time will prove that the returned soldier on the land will find in due course that his interests are identically the same as his neighbor's on the next half section, whether this neighbor will be of British, Canadian, German or any other nationality.

If the "interested class," the

organized capitalists succeed again in dividing the people, and by doing so in electing a new Dominion Parliament ready to do their bidding, the hand of this "interested class" will lay heavily upon the people of Canada. Farmers who have done considerably well financially under war conditions should make no mistake as to the attitude of the "interested class." A parliament ready to obey organized capital will create conditions which may easily make life on the western plains not worth living. Organized capital will dictate again prices for all farm products. Organized capital will further safeguard and extend its privilege, and will bleed the farmer by imposing upon the people excessive tariff fees. In reality the farmer has been a laborer just as the workman. It is true that the farmer is an owner of land. Organized capital would like to make him believe that for this reason his interests are not identical with—if not opposed to—the interests of organized labor. But at the same time organized capital will see to it that the farmer owns his land just as the laborer owns his tools, that is as a means to create wealth for the capitalist. If our farmers are not earnest in their desire to work out their own destiny, organized capital will continue or recreate conditions under which the farmer will be allowed to make just a bare living.

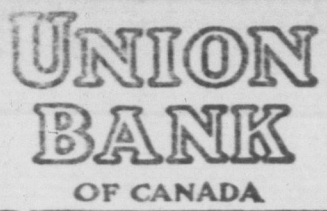
The common people must rule and in order to be able to do so they must be united. Each and every farmer in this province ought to be a member of the Grain Growers' Association. The gospel of the necessity of political action on the part of the common people and the importance of organization must be preached till the last farmer in the province has been converted.

## "German Type of Citizenship"

This is the heading for chapter 20 of Ralph Connor's novel "The Major." The writer of this article has always greatly admired Connor's qualities as a poet and a writer of fiction. It has therefore been a matter of sincere regret to see Connor carried away by prejudice and passion to such an extent that in his book "The Major" he has done grave injustice to thousands of law abiding and loyal patriots who have come to this country from foreign lands.

In the chapter above referred to some of the leading characters of Connor's novel discuss the so-called "Delbrueck Law." He has done this however with an astounding lack of understanding. It seems a pity that he places into the mouth of Larry Gwynne, the leading character of his book and a splendid type of Canadian citizen the following words: "Do I understand you to say, that if you were, say a naturalized citizen of Canada, having sworn allegiance to our government and enjoying the full

rights and privileges of citizenship, you at the same time would be free to consider yourself a citizen of Germany and in case of war with Britain, you would feel in duty bound to support Germany? And is it this that the Delbrueck law is deliberately drawn to permit you to do?" We have never been in sympathy with the Delbrueck law, and besides this law has been largely misunderstood and misinterpreted. Before the Delbrueck law was put on the statutes of Germany, any man who had left Germany and did not renew his relationship with the old land at least every five years, by reporting to a German Consul lost his standing as a German citizen. The Delbrueck law did away with this provision and made it possible for any man who had been living outside of Germany for a number of years to resume his rights of citizenship immediately upon his return to Germany. The bulk of emigrants from Germany did not care for this law. A considerable number



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even sought and obtained absolute release from their duties of citizenship on leaving the old country. Immigrants to Canada from Germany did not care for this law and did not bother about it; as a matter of fact very few knew anything of it. If the old German Government by enacting this law endeavored to strengthen the ties between the old country and emigrants who had gone to other countries, these people as a whole did not worry about such intentions of the old German government.

Besides, the fact ought to be remembered, that amongst the German speaking people of western Canada there are very few who came from Germany. Most of these people came from southeastern European countries, such as Russia, Galicia and Hungary. They came with the sincere intention of making their homes permanently in this country. They earnestly desired to obtain full citizenship. Ralph Connor is making a grave mistake when he says that "full citizenship" has been granted to our immigrants. In March 1914 the "German-Canadian-Provincial-Alliance of Saskatchewan" held a convention in Regina, which was attended by over 600 delegates, representing over 8,000 members. At this convention Victor Ullman of North Battleford introduced a resolution, asking the Dominion Government to grant our immigrants a full imperial citizenship, and in case the Dominion Government could not legally do so, to petition the British parliament to enact the necessary measure. In support of his resolution Mr. Ullman related the case of two German-speaking Russians who had come to this country, had one well as pioneer farmers and had become Canadian citizens. They desired to see their old parents in Russia and went over for a visit. In London they applied for passports to the British authorities, who explained to them that their citizen-paper granted them "rights and privileges as British subjects within Canada" only, and that therefore the British authorities had nothing to do with them, as they were now outside Canada. British officials in London sent them to the Russian embassy, where they were informed that they had left Russia without fulfilling their military duties and that therefore they were regarded as deserters and could not be recognized. In their desire to see their old parents the two men proceeded in spite of the discouraging information received in London and succeeded in entering Russia by bribing boundary officials. While staying with their parents they were found out and arrested. One was shot and the other imprisoned. After relating this incident Mr. Ullman continued: "Is it fair that these men who had become citizens and had done their share in the up-building of this new country by working hard on their farms for

ten or fifteen years, received no protection from our Government? When we come to this country and make our homes here we demand that we be granted an imperial citizenship, and that the British Empire, we have sworn allegiance to, will give us protection all over the world wherever we go." The convention showed its sympathy with Mr. Ullman by voting unanimously for his resolution and by electing him as a member of the executive.

A few months after this happened in the spring of 1914, the war broke out. Mr. Ullman was one of the first to enlist. He soon became a commissioned officer in the Canadian Overseas Army and was wounded twice on the western front. In 1917 a prominent citizen of North Battleford told the writer of this article that Ullman, who had always rejoined his Regiment as soon as he had sufficiently recovered from his wounds, was again in a London hospital suffering from serious effects of a gas attack in the trenches. In the face of these facts nobody can doubt the man's sincerity in his desire to have full privilege of "British Imperial Citizenship" extended to himself and his fellow countrymen.

In 1915 the writer of these lines had the opportunity to lay this matter of the granting of full citizenship before Sir Robert Borden at Ottawa. Delegates sent to Sir Robert Borden by the German Provincial Alliance pointed out to the Canadian Premier in April 1915 that enlistments amongst the foreign speaking population could be greatly increased if the government could make arrangements which would give these people the full protection of the British Empire as their citizens. The delegates also pointed out to the Canadian premier the desirability of making arrangements under which it would be possible to fully protect as British-subjects all men who during the war had proven their loyalty to the empire in case such men should ever care to visit relatives in the old country after the war. Sir Robert agreed that this was only just and said that the Canadian representatives would take this matter up whenever the time for peace negotiations might come. Let us hope that he has not forgotten his promise.

As the mass of our naturalized citizens has conclusively proven that they are sincere in their loyalty and patriotism the only solution of the problem of immigrated Canadians is to treat them with confidence and consideration. We hold no brief for any man, who in any way, shape or form forgets what he owes to the country of his adoption. We are in favor of drastic measures against such offenders and desire to see them severely punished, but such cases must be treated as single cases, and thousands of law-abiding and sincerely loyal citizens should not be discriminated against on account of the default of a very few.

## Labor Problems and Foreigners

Just recently we found in a daily paper two different headlines, which characteristically illustrated the marked difference of opinion on the question of the so-called "Alien Labor in Canada." One headline read: "Demand Deportation of Aliens" while the other announced that the Bankers' Association of Canada recommended to the Government to take action to prevent aliens leaving the country at least for a period of four or five years.

To all those who would like to see aliens of enemy nationality deported we may from our intimate knowledge of the so-called foreign population in Western Canada say, that as far as the deportation of aliens is concerned the government of our country might just as well safe money. Most of this people are not only willing but eager

among these emigrants left European countries because they were convinced democrats and found conditions under the old regime in most of the European countries unbearable. Today these men believe that with their wider experience they will have a splendid chance to progress in the newly established democracies of Europe. Therefore, if Canada desires to get rid of these people, all our Government has to do, is to lift the ban and allow them to leave this country.

This paper has always advocated a policy strongly in favor of doing full justice to the returned soldiers. But if alien laborers have to be dismissed in order to make room for them the Government should at least allow the aliens to leave the country if they care to do so. It is neither safe nor desirable to have considerable numbers of men kept deliberately out of work for some time. Permission to leave Canada would solve the problem of alien labor at once and completely.

Whether it will be advisable to encourage people to leave Canada we doubt. It is only natural that this first period of re-adjustment and re-construction will have its inconveniences and troubles. But as soon as the nations of the world have settled down again under conditions of a permanent peace it will

be found that human power will be regarded as the most valuable asset. We in Canada should not forget that our railway construction work, the building of our western cities, construction of sewers, etc., has been largely done by so-called foreign labor. A few years from now there will be a demand for laborers to do similar work as we have just mentioned, and it will be impossible to secure such labor.

If an attitude of hostility and dislike is continuously shown towards the non-English speaking part of our population the inevitable final result will be that a great many more than our alien laborers, who have not yet become naturalized, will leave our country. Under conditions as they are at present, deprived even of any means to obtain information and news, people cannot continue to live.

A few thousands of alien laborers desirous of leaving the country have already so scared the Bankers' Association that they demand measures to prevent aliens from leaving Canada. What would the Bankers' Association, the Mortgage and Machine Companies, the Railways and last—but surely not least—our Farmers' Organizations say, if a general exit of non-English people, — including farmers who have become naturalized citizens years ago,—should begin!

## Returned Soldier, Who Fought at the Somme, Points Out Desirability to Let the Foreign Language Press Continue It's Work

STONEY PLAIN, ALB., Feb. 8th, 1919.  
To the Editor of the Courier,  
Regina, Sask.

Dear Sir,—  
One of our German neighbors recently sent me a copy of the "Courier" of Jan. 15th. I find the paper very interesting and like its tone and matter in most things very well.

Your article on "The Case of the So-called Enemy-Language-Paper in Canada" seems well placed. Those of us who have lived for years side by side with German speaking neighbors know how loyal, how industrious and what good neighbors and citizens many of them really are. That some are not loyal to our country but are even talking in favor of Germany we well know; and such have no business in this country. But whether loyal or disloyal it is only a wise policy to give to our German speaking citizens reading matter in their own language—which they can read—reading matter which we know to be honest and loyal to our country and our Empire. And that such matter should be forbidden publication in Canada while permitted to enter from another country is unthinkable. Early in the war I wrote to Ottawa urging that our Government take some action to enlighten our German speaking citizens as to the real causes and the conduct of the war, and preferably through the medium of the Canadian newspapers they published in the German language. It seems to me that such could easily have been done while allowing a large measure of freedom of expression by the papers themselves; seeing to it that the British case was honestly and fairly presented while false impressions which the papers might of themselves give could be carefully exposed and corrected. Where a paper (as the "Courier") seems to have ever been) was of itself honestly loyal to our country the case would be more simple and much more good could be done. We long for the time when friendliness and good-will will animate the heart of every citizen of Canada and strife and hatred be for ever put away. And such a condition can exist only with real enlightenment of all people—a fair understanding by them of the important questions of the day. And such will produce loyalty to our country and our institutions. That such enlightenment is needed by some of our people is evident from the following:

A few weeks ago one of our German speaking neighbors and myself were talking about the war. Amongst other things he maintained that Canada sent a yearly tax to England to help pay King George's salary and to help keep up the British Government in London; that England levied a tax (in times of peace) on the other nations of the world for the privilege of sailing on the High Seas—Wilson's demand for the "Freedom

of the Seas" was proof of this, he said,—that Australia and the other British Dominions were anxious to be free from British rule; and that the ruin and desolation caused in France was caused by the British and French troops themselves. On this last point I was able to tell him of some of the things which I had witnessed in the Somme region of France in the summer of 1917 which could only be ascribed to the devilishness of the German army of occupation which had then but just retired. However, he maintained that he couldn't believe our English press nor public speakers and that he had seen those statements in their own papers and so they must be true. And he sent me this (Jan. 15) copy of the Courier to prove some of his statements (he had marked an article on the trouble in Ireland).

Now, I cannot think that he ever saw such articles published in the "Courier", but such things are believed by some of our German speaking neighbors here, and their talking such things causes the whole German speaking people to be disliked and distrusted by the British element of our country. Why could you not do good work in correcting such false impressions? Faithfully yours,

C. L. Price.  
P.S.—An enclosing subscription to the "Courier".

### Editor's Note:

For more than four years the Courier has done its best to correct false impressions as above referred to. Aside from the giving of real and true information concerning the war and questions connected with the war, the Courier has from the very start pursued a thoroughly loyal and patriotic policy in its editorial columns. Before Canada established a censorship we wrote immediately after the outbreak of war in August 1914, the following:

"The representatives of the Canadian people, hurriedly summoned to an extra-session of our Dominion parliament have unanimously decided to enter the war against Germany as a free nation belonging to the British Empire. We people of German descent who have come to this country by our own free will with a sincere intention to become citizens, and who have sworn the oath of allegiance must realize our responsibilities. What every citizen needs most during the time of such a crisis is unity and harmony at home. We have had confidence in our representatives in parliament in the past, and we have no reason to withdraw this confidence now. Under the circumstances existing it is our solemn duty to give wholehearted support to the country of our adoption and to stand solidly behind our government."

When censorship was established at Ottawa, our paper has been (Continued on Page 8.)