

Europe. Of course, they could admit only a limited number,—as, indeed, they have advised us in the despatch referred to—of enemies for repatriation in Austria and Germany. As intimated in the recommendation which I read, they advised us a short time ago that they had made arrangements whereby one hundred could be transported via Great Britain to the land of their birth. Immediately that number was secured of the most undesirable, as we deemed them, and they were sent over for repatriation.

Steps have been taken with some success to secure the transportation and admission to their home land of a number of aliens, not alien enemies. At the same time, the number is very limited, and can only be secured, I believe, through the ports of the United States. But as regards alien enemies, the primary factors in the problem—indeed, the controlling factors—have been clearly stated to the House, and I know that every member will understand that the policy of the Government can be carried out only in so far as permitted by those two controlling factors.

The resolution then goes on to deal with the question of the deportation of undesirables generally.

Mr. EDWARDS: What is the attitude of the British Government and of the Government of the United States in regard to interned alien enemies?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Does the hon. gentleman mean as to deportation?

Mr. EDWARDS: Yes.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The policy of those two countries is just the same as ours. Of course, the rights of interned alien enemies are subject to our obligations under international law. We give them such rights as international law provides for them; we do not go beyond that.

The question of the deportation of undesirables generally, aside from the matter of internment, is, of course, one that should be dealt with by the Minister of Immigration and Colonization, as well, indeed, as the general subject of immigration dealt with in the speech of the member for Comox-Alberni. As to the treatment of soldiers, that subject is necessarily under the administrative control of several departments of government. The department over which I preside has to do with the treatment of soldiers only to the extent of the provisions of land settlement privileges for them. I do not think the hon. gentleman or the House would expect me to deal at this time with the policy of the administration

in the matter of land settlement. A soldier land settlement Bill will be introduced at the earliest possible moment, and ample opportunity will be given for discussion. The review which I shall be able to give at that time will show that in providing land settlement opportunities for soldiers Canada is in advance of all the Allied countries, not only in the extent of the individual provision made, but also in the extent to which the actual administration of that provision has been worked out. I believe we are further ahead to-day than any of the belligerent powers that were embraced within the entente in making this provision. We have not, generally speaking, gone beyond provision for land settlement and vocational training in the way of offering remuneration—subject, of course, to the war gratuity—to our soldiers overseas. The same can be said of every country in the world. But in providing civil advantages for the returned men, I think that in each of the three activities to which I refer—vocational training, land settlement and war gratuity—we are in advance of other countries and it is the policy of the Government to maintain any lead we may have in that regard. If Canada differs from any other nation in her methods of providing for the returned men, she differs by being more generous than any other nation in this respect. The subject is so wide, and must necessarily be dealt with by the House as the several topics come before it for discussion later, that I would not be justified in detaining the House longer at this time. I think that the policy of the Administration with regard to the treatment of interned aliens and their deportation is now fairly well known. As to the passing of this resolution, I have no opinion to offer; I suppose it does not alter the situation whether it passes or whether it does not. It is only right, however, as suggested by the member for Comox-Alberni in his resolution, that the policy of the Government should be fully disclosed to the House.

Hon. J. A. CALDER (Minister of Immigration and Colonization): Mr. Speaker, I desire to add only a few words to what has been said by the Acting Minister of Justice (Mr. Meighen), because I feel that my doing so at this time will have a tendency to shorten the debate.

In my judgment, the criticism that has been levelled against the immigration policy pursued in this country during the last fifty years is well founded. Canada is to-day paying the penalty which she deserves to pay for what has taken place in