

tained which will produce from investments a sufficiently large revenue, this income might alone be expended, but if not large enough to enable this to be done, both capital and income would be distributed upon well defined lines. Each case would be treated upon its merits, and assistance given in many ways. For instance, a totally disabled man could have his pension augmented by a sum to enable him to obtain additional physical comforts, while a partially disabled man, if unable to follow his former employment, would be assisted to take up some new occupation within the scope of his crippled ability.

Communications as to this fund should be directed to Mr. E. H. Scammell, secretary, Military Hospitals Commission, 22 Vittoria Street, Ottawa.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF ALIEN ENEMIES IN THE PRODUCTION OF COAL AND STEEL AND OTHER MUNITIONS OF WAR

For some time past there has been manifest in this country a desire to dismiss from employment all alien enemies. This cry is confined to a small section of the population, but it is a section that is noisy out of all proportion to its size and importance. The agitation is ostensibly based on patriotic motives, but it is to be feared that it has its origin in much baser things, and that the general objection to the "foreigner" is being used by designing agitators and irresponsible news sheets under the gloss of a spurious patriotism and an appeal to the lowest human passions. Reference was made to this danger in the Journal of June 1st in an article which had for its main arguments the fact that "alien workmen are assisting in the production of coal and steel, upon which to a very large extent depends the ability of Canada to manufacture munitions of war and to transport these munitions and men to the battle line," and the further statement that these alien enemies "so long as they pursue their peaceful avocations and indulge in no overt acts, should be allowed to earn their daily bread and otherwise be treated as potential citizens of this great Dominion."

Between the date of this article and the present time a section of the miners and steel workers—principally confined to the mainland coal fields of Nova Scotia—have taken the stand that they will not work with alien enemies, urging that these men should be immediately interned. The men who have taken this stand are without doubt sincere in their attitude, but their logic is hopelessly twisted. The purpose of internment camps is usually understood to be the removal of alien enemies to a place of safekeeping where it will not be possible for them to indulge in espionage and active hostility, or to escape to neutral countries from whence they may be able to return to Germany or Austria. In short, it is to prevent alien enemies from performing service for their own countries. But what is being urged with reference to alien enemies employed in Canada is the very

reverse. To-day these men are doing service for Britain and the Allies, digging coal, working steel, making shells, building railway cars, and helping materially the cause we all have at heart. At the same time these men are supporting their families, swelling the savings banks deposits of Canada, and in the great majority of cases are, in the words of the Government's proclamation, "peacefully pursuing their daily avocations." If these aliens should be forcibly interned, they at once, together with their families, become a source of expense to the country; peaceful men are turned into sullen enemies, confined in internment camps in enforced idleness; still greater drafts must be made on the defence forces of the country to guard these camps, and every department of civil administration will require to be on guard against office-seekers and would-be "grafters" and that type of citizen who regards the multiplication of internment camps as meaning fresh "jobs" and opportunities to make money out of the Government.

Very many of the so-called alien enemies are men who have been attracted to Canada by the widespread and elaborate advertising programme that has been pursued throughout Europe by the Immigration Departments of the various Canadian Provinces. In very many cases also the sympathy of aliens of belligerent nationality with their own country's policy is doubtful. The Bohemian Czech has no love for Austria, the Galician or Russian Pole, the Roumanian from Transylvania, the Austrian from the Trentino, may be assumed to view the progress of present events without any overwhelming love for Austria or Germany. These men left their birthplace, in most instances, to escape the very evils of militarism that Britain is now combating. They came to Canada as a refuge from oppression, a free land for freemen, and they are entitled at least to the benefit of the doubt, and the spirit of fair play that the Briton boasts he possesses.

The German propaganda in the United States has been directed to the stopping of the manufacture of munitions of war in that country for the Allies, and dire threats have been breathed through the press of that country against Germans who should dare to help in the manufacture of munitions. And here in Canada there are persons who propose that alien enemies should be prevented from working, not because they are dangerous men, but simply and solely because they are Germans and Austrians. In other words, our enemies should be imprisoned not because we are afraid of them, but because we hate them. Our actions are to be guided not by reasons of military advantage or necessity, but by the unreason of hatred. And this in a country which has laughed itself hoarse over Lissauer's Chant of Hate!

The miners who think they are serving the country by refusing to work with Austrians and Germans, not because they fear them, but because they don't like them, should read Lloyd-George's appeal to the miners of Great Britain, and his presentment of the all-para-