

The Courier

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Letters to the Editor

The Editor, "The Courier," Regina, Sask.

Dear Mr. Editor,—You will, I hope, pardon the liberty I am taking in availing myself of the opportunity offered to your readers to make use of the columns of your paper for expression of opinion on matters of public interest. I am not in the habit of sending communications to newspapers but there has arisen a question which, as a member of the Rosthern branch of the Grain Growers' Association and as a Canadian citizen, it would be utterly impossible for me to ignore; I refer to a certain resolution introduced by W. A. Munro at the annual meeting of the Rosthern local branch of the association, held a few days ago in Rosthern regarding the immigration problem in Canada.

Many of us expected to read the contents of this resolution in the last issue of your newspaper, but as Mr. Munro apparently has not seen fit to publish his masterpiece, I think it is only fair to those members of the association who were not present at the meeting, seeing that the resolution was shelved to the next meeting to be held on the 28th, that I should enter into a little discussion on the subject in print. Let me deal first with the opening paragraph of the resolution which is as follows:

"Whereas, during the progress of the Great War it became increasingly evident that the very heavy percentage of foreign-born population in Canada either direct from those countries with which we are at war or of that extraction, was a menace to the safety of the land;"

Now frankly, Mr. Editor, what do you think of it? Here is the Rosthern branch of the Grain Growers' Association, composed of hundreds of good, industrious, successful farmers who have helped make this district known throughout the world as the best wheat-growing district in Canada by following the example set by that wheat-wizard of ours, Senger Wheeler. And yet, according to the resolution, about 90 per cent. of these would belong to that class of citizens who have been endangering the safety of the land. Can you beat that, anywhere, Mr. Editor?

Does Mr. Munro realize what he was asking the Grain Growers of Rosthern district to do in introducing this resolution? Does he realize that he was asking the members of the local branch of the association to come forward and actually declare themselves guilty of the greatest crime that could be committed against the country in times of war? For that is what the resolution means; it hits the foreign 16frn indiscriminately. Why, the thing is so staggering, Mr. Editor, that one cannot but help wondering how men with the apparent education and understanding of the sponsors of the resolution could allow themselves, even in moments of wild fancies, to consider themselves justified in doing such a thing as this.

When did the foreign born farmers of the Rosthern district ever show themselves to be traitors to their adopted country? What have they done that they should have forfeited the credit which should be coming to them for having, through long years of hardships, wrested this portion of the province from a state of wilderness and transformed the same into a prosperous district, dotted with happy homes, Mr. Editor, but I am compelled to admit that those same homes could and should know a far greater happiness if they were not denied the consideration and ordinary human sympathy which should be the lot of the white man and the free born. Mr. Munro, in his address, spoke disapprovingly of what he called the "breeding tendencies" of the so-called foreign-born. What a pity, Mr. Editor, is it not? Such a crime, in Mr. Munro's eyes, to bring up a fine bunch of healthy kiddies. In this respect, however, there are no prohibitive orders-in-council, and unless present indications are very much deceiving there appears to be no relief in sight. So, there you are. But, speaking of immigration, may I remind Mr. Munro, who is an employee of the government of Canada, that years ago that same government of Canada made huge efforts and spent large sums of money to get settlers from those European countries where there was to be found a good supply of good industrious farmers.

the loafers. Those settlers that came across the pond then have not drifted towards the cities to a life of idleness and crime. They have been "sawing wood" figuratively speaking, and are still at it. But what some of them experienced when they first came here is not to be forgotten. No one knows better than I do that heart-breaking state of uncertainty, if not discouragement, which invariably assailed those foreign settlers when they arrived in this strange land. For nine solid years I had the opportunity and privilege of being able to assist them in finding their way across these then deserted plain, and in locating the spot where they were to begin a new life. I have camped with them in the open when food was scarce and civilization seemed a long way off. Let me tell you that it took some fortitude of the soul to urge on those worried, wearied hands of settlers to do what was expected of them. And look at the transformation that has taken place! In less than a quarter of a century, in the very lifetime of that generation of early settlers, you find a new generation taking their place in the great competition for success and taking to the ways of modern life like a duck takes to water. True, they have remained faithful to the faith of their ancestors, but is this not a country where religious freedom has always existed?

Now, just let us see what Mr. Munro thinks of these people. Here goes the second paragraph of his very complimentary resolution: "And whereas, in times of peace such settlers do not make for national unity and are especially a menace when allowed to settle in communities, there to perpetuate their own language, habits of thought and radical ideas;"

Yes, Mr. Editor, the author of the resolution is worried, very much worried, because those old early settlers thought it well, in those days, to mitigate the loneliness of what they looked upon as their voluntary exile by grouping together as much as possible; a privilege which, by the way, was not only tolerated but encouraged by the Government of Canada. And, mind you, this practice of forming colonies was not confined exclusively to the foreigners. Look, for instance, at the Barr Colony, composed essentially of settlers from the British Isles. The reason which prompted them to get together was the same which was responsible for the establishment of our so-called foreign colonies in the West. Mind you, Mr. Editor, this does not by any means imply that I am in favor of the colony scheme under present conditions in Canada. I do not believe in it because I consider that our foreign-born citizens would gain greatly from a free intercourse with the various other elements of our population. And this is something in which everyone must help and show at least common human interest and charity. But to make of this early practice a crime of such magnitude as to overshadow all those years of earnest toil on the part of those settlers is an entirely different story.

Now, Mr. Editor, I have just discussed Mr. Munro's strong arraignment of his fellow citizens. We have seen how well he appreciated the early sacrifice, the subsequent years of hard, honest toil and the ultimate success which has been the lot of those whom he is attacking. And now we come to that part of the resolution which deals with the future immigration policy of Canada. In his resolution he strongly urges that we petition the Honourable the Minister of Immigration with certain recommendations as to regulations for the future selection of immigrants. And certainly the principle of a careful selection of immigrants is not only a good one but is of the utmost importance. But there are certain recommendations contained in the resolution which should not be passed upon lightly. For instance, it suggests that only those who can read and write the English language be allowed to enter the country. I know hundreds of fine citizens of French, Belgian and Scandinavian origin who would never have been allowed to step off the boat if such an impossible piece of legislation had been in existence in Canada. Suppose, for instance, that some of those war-scared veterans of the French or Belgian armies should wish to come and live in this coun-

may have relatives here waiting for them; should we bar them from our shores? Think of it, Mr. Editor! This is not altogether a joke. We want immigrants and real good immigrants. We want the man with the strong arm to develop our natural resources. We want the man with a fair average education, and, above all, the God-fearing, home-loving, industrious kind, willing to give the best of his energy towards the development of the country. That, Mr. Editor, is the type of man I call a good settler and the makings of a good Canadian. We don't want the disloyal type, neither do we want the firebrand agitator, the fomentor of discord amongst the races. We have no use for those who forget that most wonderful of God's teachings, that about brotherly love, those who forget that we are all one big family, God's creatures, striving for the same end. And we don't want the Bolsheviki type, whether it be the type of man who, regardless of consequences, would set a whole community afire by a deft little stroke at a public meeting or a pointed remark in a newspaper, or whether it be the type of man who would revolutionize all things, and then keep on revolutionizing until there is nothing left to revolutionize and no one left to handle the process.

But why speak of Bolshevism in the West? We have read in our newspapers of certain mysterious reports from Eastern Canada, especially certain organized classes. But I always understood that the West was particularly free from that sort of thing. Our Grain Growers' Association is about the biggest and finest organization we have in the West; but surely Mr. Munro does not wish to insult the Grain Growers by suggesting that Bolsheviki tendencies exist amongst that organization of which he is a member. True, we have here an occasional crank and here and there a poor type of a citizen, but this surely is not sufficient to throw the rest of the community into disrepute. Even when we read of certain agitators amongst the United Farmers of Ontario we were not at all scandalized, Mr. Editor, because even that, you will admit, was no Bolsheviki movement.

There is one more aspect of the question that I should like to discuss, but I just realize, Mr. Editor, that as it is I have already robbed you of a very large portion of your valuable space, so I will content myself by saying that no one disputes the fact that a thorough knowledge of English is needed in this province. But let Mr. Munro be honest with himself and observe a little what is going on around him and he will find it an absolute fact that so accustomed are our foreign-born youngsters attending school to express themselves in English that their own mother can hardly get an answer from them in the old mother tongue. What a shame; and yet these are those in the province who talk themselves blue in the face about banishing foreign languages. If we could only stop to think that there are those assembled today in Paris in the most important conference ever held among nations of the world. Those are the men, to my mind, who today hold the destinies of the world in their hands. Could we not put a check upon our taste for revolutionizing things a little until this big conference is over, for there is no doubt that the result of that conference will have a tremendous lot to do with the future policies of our country.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, and in order that you may fully understand the spirit in which this letter is written, permit me to quote here a few sentences from a letter recently written by Mr. P. M. Friesen, of Rush Lake, Sask., which letter was brought to my attention a few days ago through the medium of the press. Here is what he says: "We want to build up a united Canada, with a united people, governed by idealism of liberty and justice, united in love. Without liberty the opportunities of life really do not exist. Without justice no assimilation can take place; without love no social structure can be established." Could there be a stronger plea for a patriotism founded on mutual understanding, or a more ardent expression of a desire for a united country than that contained in the above words? This, Mr. Editor, represents the earnest prayer of a million or so of Canadians whose greatest wish is that they were born in a land which has since become enemy territory. And I believe, Mr. Editor, that this cry for national unity will not remain un-

world has ever seen rests upon the principle of fairness to minorities, of equality amongst men. And whenever in the past this great principle was lost sight of, retribution has been swift and costly. Our great British Empire has stood the onslaught of an enemy nation with an ambition to rule the world and has just emerged triumphant from a bloody struggle which threatened its very existence. And we believe that this Great Empire will flourish in the future as it did in the past; and Canada will, in spite of the work of a few misguided apostles of petty persecution, who would work the assimilation of races with the club and the whip, come into its own some day; and then, and then only, will every citizen of this great Dominion of ours fully realize what a wonderful family a united nation can be.

GERHARD ENS, Rosthern, Jan. 20th, 1919.

EDITORIAL NOTE:—In connection with Mr. Ens' letter we publish the resolution referred to as introduced by Mr. Munro.—Ed. Courier)

"Whereas, during the progress of the Great War it became increasingly evident that the very heavy percentage of foreign born population in Canada either direct from those countries with which we are at war or of that extraction was a menace to the safety of the land;

"And whereas, in times of peace such settlers do not make for a national unity and are especially a menace when allowed to settle in communities, there to perpetuate their own language, habits of thought and radical ideas;

"And whereas, with the return of peace it is evident that there will be a great tide of immigration towards Canada;

"And whereas, under such conditions it will be our privilege and duty to a greater extent than ever before to require not only a high standard both mentally and physically of such would-be future citizens; but also a high moral standard, keeping out effectively the Bolsheviki and those quasi-religious sects who would seem to desire all the privileges of citizenship without being willing to take their full share of the duties which such citizenship involves;

"Therefore, be it resolved that we ask the Honourable the Minister of Immigration that he establish for all immigrants an examination of physical fitness as high as that which was required for our soldiers who were allowed to engage for overseas military service and only those of sound mind and able to read and write in the English language be allowed to enter the country and of moral standard, keeping out those who are associated in any way with those movements which at the present time threaten to undermine the principles of our Commonwealth;

"And be it further resolved that as Grain Growers of the Province who have indicated to the best of our ability the value which we place upon Canadian citizenship we assure the government of our active co-operation in securing the highest standard and suggest that every preference in keeping with such standards should be given to the peoples of Northwestern Europe and especially of the British Isles."

PARTIAL RAISING OF SEA BLOCKADE

PARIS, Jan. 30. — The war council at a meeting today considered economic and financial questions and the subject of raw materials. The sentiment was favorable to the relaxation of the blockade so far as it concerned Southern Europe, including the Balkans and Austria-Hungary.

SIX MILLION BUSHELS FOODSTUFFS FOR GERMANY MONTHLY

NEW YORK, Jan. 30. — Under the general food program outlined by the Allies, Germany will be allowed about 6,000,000 bushels of breadstuffs a month, mostly from the United States, if she finds the money to pay for it, according to a detailed statement of foreign grain requirements compiled by Herbert C. Hoover in Julius Barnes, president of the United States Grain Corporation and made public here tonight.

Between now and July, France and Italy will take 80,000,000 bushels of wheat and flour from the United States.

W-S-S logo. The Dominion of Canada offers War-Savings Stamps at \$4.00 each during this month. And will redeem them for \$5 each on Jan. 1st, 1924. Every dollar will be worth more. W-S.S. can be registered against loss. THRIFT STAMPS 25 cents each. 16 THRIFT STAMPS exchangeable for one W-S.S.

Tentative Program for G. G. A. Convention, February 18-21.

During the last few days the following tentative program for the four days' annual convention of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association has been mailed to the various directors; but which is subject to revision before the opening day. While the convention proper will not commence until Tuesday morning, February 18, there will be a meeting of the Board of Directors on Monday morning, Feb. 17, commencing at 10 o'clock and during the evening of the same day there will be an open meeting for the delegates in the Metropolitan church, Regina, when short "Get Acquainted" speeches will be delivered by the delegates. PROGRAM OF SPEAKERS. Amongst those who are scheduled to address the convention is one Dr. Salen G. Bland, of Winnipeg, who will speak at the big mass meeting which will be held on Tuesday evening; the subject of his address being, "Canada's Challenge to the Grain Growers." At the same meeting Major A. E. Lavell, B.A., D.D., will also speak on the subject: "The Viewpoint of a Soldier." On Wednesday evening Hon. S. J. Latta, Minister of Highways, will deliver an address on: "The Press: Its Merits and Its Menace." Fraternal greetings will be extended by Premier Martin, Hon. George Langley, Mayor Black and W. G. Styles of the Regina Board of Trade. Information and registration bureaus will be established in the basement of the Metropolitan church and an "Accommodation Bureau" will be open on the first floor of the McCallum-Hill Bldg. A FIVE DAYS' PROGRAM. Following is the first draft of the program as sent out by the general secretary, J. B. Musselman: Monday, Feb. 17th. 10:00 A.M.—Meeting of the Board of Directors. 2:00 P.M.—Information and Registration Offices in basement of Metropolitan Church, open all day. Accommodation Bureau, First Floor, McCallum-Hill Building. 7:30 P.M.—Open meeting of delegates. Short "Get Acquainted" addresses by delegates. (Metropolitan Church.) Morning Session, Tuesday, Feb. 18th. 10:00 A.M.—Formal opening of Convention (men and women present. Doxology, Lord's Prayer in Unison, led by Rev. R. Milliken, D.D., National Anthem, and God Save Our Men. 10:15 A.M.—Introduction of speakers. Hon. W. M. Martin, Premier of Sask. Address of Welcome to Regina by His Worship, Mayor H. Black and Mr. W. G. Styles, Regina Board of Trade, Acknowledgements. 11:00 A.M.—Presidential Address by kindred institutions of Sask. Sask. Co-operative Creameries, W. A. Wilson, Gen. Mgr.; Sask. Stock Growers' Ass'n, Jack Byers, Pres.; Sask. Municipal Hall Ins. Ass'n; Sask. Co-operative Elevator Co., Hon. Geo. Langley, Vice-President. 12:00 A.M.—Noon recess. BRITISH FLAG OVER STRASSBURG. STRASSBURG, Jan. 31. — (Havas) — Estonian officials claim that the defeat of the Bolshevists after the capture of Narva amounted to a complete rout, according to a Hel-

SOLDIERS DEMAND THAT EVERY ALIEN SHALL BE DEPORTED

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 30. — Criticism of the Dominion government for not having an absorption scheme ready, a demand upon the employers for work, not as charity but as a square deal, and a demand that alien enemies should be cleared out of Canada were the dominant features of the speeches at a meeting, under the auspices of the Returned Soldiers' association and the Next-of-Kin association here to-night. The statement that if the deportation of the aliens meant the stopping of every wheel in Canada, they should be let stop, was cheered by the audience of between two and three thousand.

REEVE MADE TO KISS FLAG THEN KICKED OUT OF TOWN

OWEN SOUND, Ont., Jan. 30. — A number of returned soldiers and a large crowd of civilians ran out of town tonight Jos. Weber, reeve of Neustadt, who came to attend the county council here, but was arrested on Tuesday on five charges of sedition and later allowed out on \$2,000 bail.

On his exit from the theatre to-night, Weber was surrounded by a large crowd and taken to his hotel to collect his belongings. There he was made to kiss the flag.

The crowd was firm that he leave tonight and not wait for the morning train. Although he wore a big overcoat and carried a club bag, Weber was forced to leave on the run and was escorted out at the northwest end of the town by a special guard of returned soldiers. Weber's son was recently tried in Toronto for violation of the Military Service Act.

SAYS GERMANY CAN STRANGLE INDUSTRY

Have Carefully Prepared for Days of Peace—Could Crush Small Nations

ST. CATHARINES, Ont., Jan. 30. — "Even if Germany has conceded President Wilson's famous fourteen points, they still beat us 90 per cent. Germany has prepared for peace far more carefully than she did for war," declared Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, pastor of Pilgrim church, Brooklyn, in the course of an address on "German atrocities," here last night.

Dr. Hillis declared that Germany has massed all her banking deposits in one system, and conserved the funds to buy up control of the water powers of Switzerland, the coal mines of Poland, the platinum and petroleum deposits of Russia and the vast timber tracts of Siberia.

"Unless we bring in a fifteenth point forcing Germany to release her industrial stranglehold on the smaller nations of Europe, we have failed hands down," Dr. Hillis declared. "Germany herself values her stock and bond holdings at \$165,000,000,000. I would place that figure nearer \$250,000,000,000. She can afford to pay back all the great indemnities required of her and still have holdings great enough to make her the greatest industrial power in Europe. However, we have men over there at the peace table who know what they want. They have bought their knowledge with blood and they will see that they get what they want."

DR. MEHRING IS DEAD

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 30. — Dr. Franz Mehring, Independent Socialist member of the Prussian diet, is dead. Advice received here say that death was due to pneumonia.

PREMIER PADEREWSKI PROTESTS

PARIS, Jan. 30. — Premier Paderewski, of Poland, according to advices from Cracow, has protested to the Czecho-Slovak government against the invasion of Silesia by Czecho-Slovak forces.