

# EMPLOY ENEMIES IN MINES

Austrians and Austro-Germans Are Taken From Internment Camp to Work in Mines at Nanaimo.

## RECEIVE SAME PAY AS BRITISH MINERS

William Sloan Undertakes to Deal With Situation Adequately Within 48 Hours If Liberals Elected.

With over fifty alien enemies—interned Austrians and Germans who were taken from the Edgewood internment camp—already at work in the Nanaimo coal mines and more of them coming, the people of Nanaimo are naturally up in arms against the Bowser government allowing such practices, according to the statement of Mr. William Sloan, Liberal candidate for Nanaimo, who spent Sunday in the city.

Mr. Sloan was most emphatic in his statements, but at the same time declared that he could not voice his feelings over this matter half forcibly as the people of Nanaimo. What the people of the Coal City felt so indignant about was the fact that these alien enemies, some of whom have admittedly never had any experience in coal mining, are receiving exactly the same scale of wages as the

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best paid British or allied miners, while at the same time there are scores of unemployed, but competent white miners walking around idle in Nanaimo and Extension who have been for months seeking to obtain work in the mines at current wages.

### **Danger of Employing Enemies**

Aside entirely from the questionable right of the provincial authorities to consent to the release of these enemy aliens to work in competition with British and allied subjects, the danger of having enemy aliens employed on such work endangering the lives of British subjects, or possibly endangering the safety of the whole city of Nanaimo and its chief industry is being commented on in Nanaimo in no uncertain terms.

Already one clash between these released enemy aliens and British miners has occurred in the No. 1 shaft of the Western Fuel company. A squad of these recently released aliens who came down from the Edgewood camp to work under a species of contract with the Western Fuel company were started at work in No. 1 shaft on Saturday morning. They had no sooner started and their identity learned than some twenty miners threw down their tools. The leader in this action was a returned soldier who has had one brother killed in the trenches already.

### **Are Not Galicians**

Officials of the Western Fuel company deny that any of the men they have taken on are Austrians or Germans, and claim that they are all Galicians. This statement, however, has been completely disproved by letters which are now in the possession of officials of the miners' association, and also the official discharges which several of the aliens carried which stated their nationality in some cases to be Austrian and in others Austro-German.

Mr. Sloan aroused the big audience at a meeting in his interests on Saturday evening to a great pitch of enthusiasm by stating that if Mr. Brewster be elected as the coming premier next Thursday and he himself elected and fail to deal with the situation regarding these alien enemies adequately within 48 hours, he would place his resignation in the hands of the executive of the Nanaimo city Liberals to deal with as they saw fit.