

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

BRITAIN FOR THE BRITISH.

The Mass Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday afternoon last, organised in five days, to support a resolution to denaturalise and intern all Germans, and register all aliens, was a stupendous success, enthusiastically inspired by fine old British feeling. Mr. Noel Pemberton Billing, M.P. (President of the Society of Vigilantes, 5, St. James' Place, S.W. 1) was in the chair, moved the resolution, and was the only speaker, but the business part of the meeting was preceded by an excellently arranged programme of music; and between Mr. Billing's opening and concluding speeches Miss Gertrude Tomalin thrilled the great audience by her recitation of "The Firing Squad."

Resolution.

The following is the Resolution moved from the chair:—

"That this Mass Meeting of Citizens of the British Empire, assembled at the Royal Albert Hall on the day of the 15th June, 1918, view with dismay and alarm the pernicious influence of the naturalised and unnaturalised enemies in our midst, and calls upon His Majesty's Government to take immediate steps to denaturalise all enemy-born subjects and to intern them forthwith; and further, to take powers under the Defence of the Realm Act to provide that all aliens shall, for the duration of the War, exhibit on the lapel of their coats an emblem of their nationality."

Mr. Billing said that five days previously he had made up his mind that the time had come when a Mass Meeting should be held to force the hands of an apathetic Government. There was hardly a Government Department which did not harbour some Hun.

He had committed a sin which only the British people could forgive—politicians never would.—He had dared to challenge the political system. (A Voice: "It's rotten.") Had we a right to be dissatisfied with it?

It took over three years to persuade the Government that the only way to stop air raids in this country was to raid Germany. Why were Germans walking about our streets to-day and conducting businesses? Why were German banks still open?

There was an influence at work which made it difficult to take a firm British stand, a hidden hand, a sphere of enemy influence in England. Recently he had been engaged in a criminal libel action. There was a good deal of rumour as to who was behind him. It was common talk in the West End clubs that Mr. Bottomley, or Lord Northcliffe, or Mr. Lloyd George was behind him; but there was something greater than any of them, and that was the British People. No man need ask for a greater honour than to be the spokesman of the British People.

From that meeting he was going straight to Clapham, and was going to strike the politician

in the only place that hurt. He was going to challenge his votes on a straight issue, the internment of Germans and the registration of aliens. Few people realised what a shock it was to the political system to lose a seat to an independent candidate. The nomination day at Clapham was Monday, and the polling day, Friday.

"If we beat them at Clapham," said Mr. Billing, "every German will be interned. Will you people here do something to win Clapham in the interests of England?" He believed that the Government only wanted a definite expression of public opinion to intern the Germans. He asked those present to come down to Clapham with him and help to distribute 100,000 hand bills supporting the candidature of Mr. H. H. Beamish, and see to it that there was not a house in Clapham where one was not delivered that evening.

He had asked 1,400 questions in the House of Commons last Session; amongst them, why Germans were allowed to run munition works in England, and to compete with discharged sailors and soldiers.

The public must take things into their own hands. There was no need for riot and disturbance, but the German influence had got to go. What about German landlords? They should see to it that no German bought a rod, pole or perch of British land.

The verses ("The Firing Squad") which he would ask Miss Tomalin to recite had got the British spirit behind them. There was only one place for a traitor, and there were many in this country to-day, that was with his back to the wall and a handkerchief round his eyes. At present we gave him six months—or a peerage.

We needed a little more justice, and a little less mercy.

The Resolution was then read again from the chair, and carried unanimously and with tremendous enthusiasm by the great meeting. If the Government wants a definite expression of public opinion, the spirit which animated the meeting certainly provided it.

A PATRIOTIC NURSE.

LONDON WELCOMES PREMIER HUGHES.

Premier Hughes of the Commonwealth of Australia arrived in London last Saturday. London feels the better for it. We hope he will remain here and see peace terms through. Mr. Hughes is one of the few politicians who thoroughly understand German psychology and has the courage to tackle it.

JUST THE WOMAN.

Mrs Pankhurst, who has arrived in New York on a win-the-war mission, went to France before sailing for America to enlist the services of French women, who have accompanied her. Her idea is to tour the United States and place before the women there the facts of the women's efforts in France and Great Britain to stimulate American women in work for the Allied cause.

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