

Alien Riveters In Port Arthur

At a time when a large portion of the region's population was unemployed, this story of 'aliens' from the United States being imported for their labour to be utilized to work at the Dry Dock must have upset many people. The article reports on an agreement between the Dry Dock officials and travelling immigration inspectors, D.H. Reynolds and H.G. Johnston, allowing twenty-nine riveters to come from the United States.ⁱ The 'aliens' had been imported to aid in building the Turret Chief which had apparently been met with some resistance from local labour groups.ⁱⁱ The agreement stated that once the job was finished, Mr. Wallace, manager of the Dry Dock company, had to notify the local authorities so that the 'aliens' could be deported back to the United States.ⁱⁱⁱ In response to the deputation of labour men, the next time labour was required Mr. Wallace was to advise the Trades and Labor Council in order to advertise in the local papers in hopes of attracting local labour.^{iv}

References

"Alien Riveters May Stay In Pt. Arthur." *Port Arthur Daily News*, 18 June, 1915.

ⁱ "Alien Riveters May Stay In Pt. Arthur." *Port Arthur Daily News*, 18 June, 1915.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Ibid.

ALIEN RIVETERS MAY STAY IN PT. ARTHUR

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A satisfactory arrangement has been arrived at between the Dry Dock officials and D. H. Reynolds and H. G. Johnston, traveling immigration inspectors, of Ottawa and Winnipeg, respectively, in connection with the importation into Port Arthur from America of twenty-nine riveters, to work on the Turret Chief, at present on the slips at the dry dock undergoing repairs.

The immigration inspectors were called to Port Arthur by the local Trades and Labor Council to investigate the case, and yesterday they met a deputation of labor men, when

it was decided, after much discussion, that after the job on the Turret Chief had been ended, the aliens employed as riveters would be handed over to the local immigration authorities for deportation to the United States.

Mr. Wallace, manager of the Dry Dock company, agreed to notify the local authorities when the job was finished, and that in future, if they require labor from the United States, they will advise the Trades and Labor Council of the necessity, advertise in local papers for the kind of workmen required, and do everything in their power to utilize local labor. Mr. Wallace said he had done everything in his power to get local labor and was anxious to secure Canadian workmen.

The immigration authorities stated they were treated courteously by both the Trades and Labor Council and the Dry Dock officials. They left the city last night.