

Council, made a lengthy explanation of the situation in reply. He said it was true that the firm in question continued to carry on the drug business after the courts had inflicted a fine, and just at the present there was a doubt whether the Act under which they prosecuted reached incorporated companies. The point was a new one, for which there was no Canadian precedent, but there was an English precedent, which, he regretted to say, was against them. Still, they intended to go on with the fight. There was a case now pending against The Robert Simpson Company, and they intended to prosecute it to the bitter end, and find out whether the Act gave to incorporated companies privileges that it denied to individuals. The Council were determined to proceed with the matter if it took every dollar they had. (Hear, hear.)

Continuing, Mr. Karn said that there were many small infringements being committed all the time by retail druggists, and if he had his way they would be brought to time in every case. He would always give a man fair warning, but if he persisted in spite of warnings he would take steps to stop him. (Hear, hear.) He considered, further, that it would be a step in the right direction if every retail druggist was compelled to keep a properly qualified assistant; this would weed out the weak men and provide positions for the students when they had received their diplomas.

Another thing they should do, and that was to endeavor to influence the wholesale houses against the practice of setting up and backing men of small and insufficient means. A young man, without capital, could get a wholesale house to give him a few hundred dollars credit, and be set up in a town where the market was already fully stocked, to the detriment of those already in the field and at no ultimate advantage to himself. The society, too, should protest most emphatically against the wholesale dealers and the manufacturers placing physicians on the same footing with the druggist. The doctor could get goods at the same discounts and on the same terms as the druggist, and they should protest against this continuing.

In conclusion, Mr. Karn endorsed the suggestion in the president's address, that steps be taken towards forming a Dominion association. Such an organization would bind the whole trade in a bond of mutual protection. They had a right to such protection. They had spent the best days of their lives in preparing and fitting themselves for the business, and with the time and money expended—far more than in most businesses—they were entitled to this measure of self-protection. Only in that way could they secure what they needed; but by careful, judicious organization, they could get what they wanted from the wholesalers and jobbers, from the manufacturers, and, if necessary, from the legislature, too. (Applause.)

Mr. Phillips, Fergus, thanked Mr. Karn for his full and lucid exposition, and in-

formed the meeting that only a few miles out of Fergus there was an ordinary country store which was selling patent medicines at cut rates.

Mr. Karn replied that his committee was prosecuting a vigorous campaign against country stores, and they were securing convictions every day. The number of these cases was very large, and the effect of their activity was becoming apparent, he thought.

At the invitation of the president, Mr. G. E. Tremble, of Montreal, secretary of the Retail Drug Association of that city, addressed the meeting briefly. He said that the trade in Montreal had given some consideration to the question of forming a Quebec Provincial Association similar to this, but at present they were not troubled with the evil of price-cutting, consequently there was considerable apathy in the matter. One evil that did exist among them, however, was the practice among the wholesale grocers of carrying big stocks of patent medicines for the country dealers in the many villages where no drug stores existed, and the whole trouble in the trade was that they had not faith enough in one another. (Hear, hear.) It seemed to him that they were too ready to think the next fellow was the biggest fakir on earth, "and," added Mr. Tremble, amid laughter, "it's not necessarily so."

A desultory conversation followed on the question of fees. Some difficulty presented itself to many present in understanding the situation, from the fact that the treasurer's report had shown payments all the way from \$1 to \$5. The president, however, explained that the constitution provided for the levying of fees up to \$5 in \$1 instalments, that the first dollar had been paid by all who were counted as members, that a lesser number had paid the second call, fewer still the full amount, but that wherever systematic collecting had been adopted the full \$5 had been willingly given. It was, however, a very expensive way to get in their funds, and he thought some change should be made. It was a mistake in the first place to put the first call as low as \$1.

Mr. Jury, Bowmanville, suggested that the executive committeeman in each district act as collector for the fees in his district.

At this point the nominating committee returned with their report, which was as follows: That the officers for the ensuing year be: President, G. E. Gibbard, Toronto; vice-president, L. W. Yeomans, Belleville; secretary, J. L. Pepper, Woodstock; executive, H. Watters, Ottawa; D. M. Waters, Belleville; H. S. Macdonald, Peterboro; I. Curry and F. W. Flett, Toronto; George Monkman, Barrie; T. Stevenson, Orangeville; W. Greenwood, St. Catharines; R. Ferrah, Galt; W. T. Strong, London; Robert Wightman, Owen Sound; J. Auston, Simcoe; J. E. D'Avignon, Windsor.

The report was received and some discussion arose as to whether the president should again be charged with the duties

of organizer. Mr. Gibbard himself protested against his re-election, declaring that he had given up almost the whole of his time to the affairs of the society, greatly to the detriment of his own business, and that he would much prefer that someone else be put in the chair now. This the meeting refused to consent to and finally it was decided that the matter of the organizer be left in the hands of the executive, upon which Mr. Gibbard consented to stand again for the presidency, and the committee's report was adopted without change.

The president thanked the members for their expression of confidence, remarking that he knew some had professed to believe that the society only existed for the purpose of giving the president a soft sit. If anyone who had that idea would apply to him he would gladly assist him to secure the job if he had the ability to do the work. The time and labor required interfered greatly with his private business, and if it were not for the interest he had in the work, and his anxiety to forward the interests of his fellow-druggists, he would not stay with it another day for all the money they could offer him.

Mr. Secretary Pepper also returned thanks for re-election, at the same time regretting the general lack of interest in the doings of the society. This was the last effort that would be made to protect their interests as a class, and if it failed he would not give much for the future. The wholesale houses were all right, and ready to treat them fairly, but there were still some manufacturers who wanted looking after.

The consideration of the president's report was then taken up, special attention being given to various suggestions offered therein. The proposal to increase the annual fee was introduced by a resolution from Mr. Curry, who moved that the annual fee be at least \$3 and not more than \$5, the said \$3 to be payable on the first call, and the balance to be levied if required. A long discussion followed, and much time was taken up in explaining the exact situation at present existing, but, finally, after several amendments had been proposed and withdrawn, the motion carried unanimously, and was ordered to be incorporated in the constitution.

The president's proposal to reduce the acting executive, on economic grounds, was, after some discussion, left to the executive to deal with, as was also his reference to the wholesale grocers of Montreal and the general question of the control of patent medicines.

The suggestion that steps be taken towards organizing a Dominion Association of Retail Druggists was also referred to the executive for action if deemed advisable.

A resolution was passed instructing the secretary to call in the arrears of fees, which, if fully paid up, will, in all probability, carry the society until the meeting of 1897.

The society then adjourned to meet again at the call of the chair.