

VICTORIA TRYING TO CONTINUE WOODEN SHIPBUILDING

The people of Victoria and the Foundation Company plant at Victoria are struggling with the idea of building wooden ships on the plan of ships recently completed for the French Government. The matter has been brought before the Victoria Board of Trade with the idea of making community subscriptions. The Colonist says:

Further progress was made with the Community Shipbuilding Scheme when the council of the Board of Trade decided to appoint a committee of five to confer with Edward E. Jenkins, assistant northwest manager of the Foundation Company, and representatives of ex-soldier organizations and draft a prospectus to place before the citizens of Victoria. J. O. Cameron, president of the Board, will announce the committee and it is expected that very shortly the definite policy of the shipbuilding scheme will be submitted for the consideration of the public.

Mr. Jenkins, accompanied by Comrade Axon, president of the G.W.V.A.; Comrade Slavin, of the Comrades of the Great War, and George Wayland, superintendent of the Ogden Point outfitting plant, waited on the Board and briefly explained the objects of the scheme and pointed out the necessity of some work being instituted this winter in order to care for the returned soldiers.

Mr. Jenkins stated that his company would be willing to go ahead with the scheme, which would require a subscribed capital of \$2,000,000. Shares would be sold to the people of Victoria and the twenty ships built would be operated by a board selected by the shareholders. Mr. Jenkins stated that 1,200 employees of his company were prepared to take out shares. He also stated that the same scale of wages now operative in the yards would be maintained under the scheme.

"What would be the cost of these ships?" asked President Cameron.

"About half a million," declared Mr. Jenkins.

Beaumont Boggs likened the scheme to the old methods employed in Nova Scotia, when the workers had shares in the ships they built. He was quite in favor of work being provided for the returned soldiers, whose needs at the present moment were pre-eminent.

"But," he added, "until we have something definite of the prospectus of the company, we can only give it our encouragement."

C. T. Cross thought that probably the Provincial Government might assist the scheme. An appropriation of \$2,000,000 had been made for industrial work, and as far as he knew only \$600,000 of this sum had been allocated. This scheme would be purely industrial and Government assistance might be forthcoming.

Mr. Cameron asked Mr. Jenkins if he would be prepared to act with a committee from the Board of Trade and assist in the drafting of a prospectus. Mr. Jenkins indicated that he would.

A motion that a committee of five practical and business men be appointed by the president to act with the other branches in the formation of a policy was unanimously passed.

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