

FRATERNAL BODIES ASSIST SOLDIERS

Representatives Meet Soldiers' Aid Commission to Plan Co-operation.

Representatives of the various fraternal societies in the province met the officers of the Soldiers' Aid Commission at the parliament buildings yesterday for the purpose of discussing ways and means of assisting the returned soldier. The leaders of the fraternal bodies expressed a desire to co-operate in every way with the commission in assisting to restore the soldiers to civil life. The statement was made that approximately 150,000 members of the various orders had enlisted for active service and that more than \$2,000,000 had been paid out in death claims. A discussion it was moved by Dr. W. H. Hunter of the I.O.O.F., seconded by W. Brooks, of the I.O.O.F., that the organizations represented should put forth every effort to assist the government of Ontario in its work of returning the soldiers to civil life and would put all the machinery at the disposal of the Soldiers' Aid Commission in order to promote that work.

Hon. W. D. McPherson, who presided, pointed out that the commission had a branch in practically every centre in Ontario, but it was desired to extend the organization so that every community from which soldiers had departed for overseas would have a branch to look after their welfare on their return. Where branches do not at present exist the secretary will communicate with the local authorities and representatives of the fraternal societies regarding the formation of a branch in that locality.

Among those present were the following: W. B. Graham, Canadian Home Circles; W. Brooks, I.O.O.F.; J. T. Hart, M.L.A., G.O.L., Ontario West; N. Champagne, Ottawa; Artisan Canadian Franchise; L. Lee, Royal Arcanum; A. Fraser, S.O.S.; Dr. W. H. Hunter, I.O.O.F.; C. Bell, I.O.O.F., War Club; G. R. Ross, I.O.O.F.; E. Cross, Daughters and Maids of England; M. Brown, Independent Order Good Templars; H. P. Gilbert, Manchester Unity, I.O.O.F.; J. M. Ford, Home Circles; J. L. Wilson, A.O.W.; W. L. Oler Elliott, and Major Kidd, Kingston; Orange Young Britons; W. F. Montague, Chosen Friends, and secretary Canadian Fraternal Association; Robert Fleming, Canadian Order Oddfellows; J. H. Stewart, M.P., C.O.P.; Alex. Coulter, Knights of Pythias; J. A. Brodeur, Montreal, C.O.P.; A. G. Sandford, Kingston, Inspector Soldiers' Aid Commission; W. F. Platt, Toronto; W. W. Shaver, W. W. Nichol, Major R. J. Christie, W. Banks, John Laidlaw and Major Innes of Soldiers' Re-establishment Committee.

FURTHER DEBATE ON NOBLE SYSTEM

Dr. Cody to Meet Board on Double School Scheme.

Dr. Noble's plan for a double school system for each school building was debated again at the board of education meeting last night and was referred back to the management committee for further consideration.

Trustee Edmunds stated that he had been misled by a statement that Hon. Dr. Cody has written signifying approval of the system in an experimental way.

Dr. Noble denied that any misrepresentation had been made and read a letter from Hon. Dr. Cody offering to confer with the board on the question.

Trustee Brown read another letter from Hon. Dr. Cody, which reminded the chief inspector that the statutory school hours were 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The letter again expressed the minister's willingness to confer with the board on the question.

Trustee C. A. B. Brown, chairman of the finance committee, stated that the estimates for 1919 would not be much in excess of the present year. The increases will be chiefly in relation to the usual increases of salary.

Mrs. A. C. Courtney placed on the motion paper a motion "that as the department of education has required this board to appoint two additional pupils school inspectors, and as there are about six times as many women teachers as men on the staff, while one-half of the pupils are girls, and a large number are small boys, it is expedient to appoint a qualified woman inspector to fill one of the positions created."

On motion Dr. Carroll Brown, the occasional teachers were granted two days pay for the period the schools were closed by order of the medical health officer.

HARBOR AND VIADUCT WORK TO CONTINUE

Announcement was made yesterday by the Toronto deputations who returned from Ottawa, where they had interviewed the minister of public works in regard to the harbor work. It is learned that the improvements on the harbor are to proceed without interruption.

The railway viaduct work will also commence in the spring, so that operations will be visible from Ashbridge's Bay to the Humber River.

Altho it was thought that the work on the eastern end was all that was intended by the department, Chairman Lionel H. Clarke, of the Toronto Harbor Commission, accompanied by R. Home Smith and E. L. Cousins, chief engineer, went to Ottawa, and after consulting with Hon. Frank Carroll, had the assurance that altho it was the intention to consider the work on the west end as more in the nature of a park and boulevard scheme, it would be proceeded with as well as the eastern end.

DROPPED DEAD IN STREET.

John Vickers, who rooms at 74 Lewis street, dropped dead at the corner of Queen street and Broadview avenue last night. He was carried into the office of a doctor nearby, but pronounced dead due to heart failure. The body was removed to the morgue, but no inquest will be held.

POLICE NEGOTIATE WITH GOVERNMENT

(Continued From Page 1).

cause they felt that they would be doing themselves an injustice. On the other hand, they showed their willingness to extend the olive branch when they offered to return providing their union was recognized, the dismissed heard and a royal commission appointed.

Motorists Observe Law. President Frank Roden of the Ontario Motor League said yesterday that the league officers noted with satisfaction that the vast majority of automobile motorists were obeying motor law officers on the streets.

They were stopping behind street cars and pedestrians. One or two gross infractions of the law had been noticed and the league would be glad if members and other law-abiding motorists would lay complaints against offenders.

Big Mass Meeting. More than 300 of Toronto's striking policemen assembled in Victoria Hall last night. The men seemed in even better spirits than at previous meetings and every speaker was greeted with hearty cheers.

Before the meeting started a piper from the police band kept up a continuous whirl of music and later while the men were waiting for the speaker to return from the conference at the parliament buildings, an impromptu concert was held.

The strikers seemed confident of victory, and believed we have got them where we want them," as it was expressed by one of the speakers.

Capt. "Billy" Crawford was the first speaker, and he told the men that they were only asking for what was just and fair. He assured the men that the sympathy of every right-minded citizen was theirs.

A telegram was read from Tom Moore, president of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, which read as follows: "Just returned to Ottawa. Impossible to leave immediately for Toronto as requested. Keenly interested in your struggle for self-determination. Reorganization of Congress affiliation is being entirely misrepresented by police commissioners. Affiliation leaves you completely autonomous as to power to strike. To leave Saturday, and address you Sunday, if no settlement reached before that."

Letters were also received from the Hamilton police and the National Labor Council, expressing their sympathy and congratulations on the manly stand taken by the men.

The secretary read a report which showed that 90 men had not responded to the strike call and were still on J. Platt, Toronto; W. W. Shaver, W. W. Nichol, Major R. J. Christie, W. Banks, John Laidlaw and Major Innes of Soldiers' Re-establishment Committee.

There were many fraternal speakers present to address the strikers, and among others was President W. Moodie of the firemen's union. He expressed the sympathy of the firemen with the men, and altho his local had not yet held a meeting to discuss the question he assured the police that if it looked like defeat for the strikers and the firemen had, the deciding kick it would be on the policeman's side.

President W. D. Kennedy of the Civic Employees' Union, also expressed his fraternal sympathy, and that the men of his local were behind the police for any assistance which might be needed. "We won't see it put over the police," he concluded.

President A. Conn of the Trades and Labor Council spoke briefly, and also several members of other organizations.

The Toronto police strikers are still considering the situation and what I could do for them. Thus far the public has been with you. Don't lose the public support."

The mayor stated that the question of sick pay would be taken up by the board and as to the Ellis case, he did not think that Ellis had received a fair hearing, and that for one, was willing to take him back.

What Commissioners Offer. In an effort to end the strike, Mayor Church introduced the following resolution, which was passed unanimously at the special meeting of the police commissioners yesterday:

"That the public be informed that the police force being out on strike and damage may result at any time to the public property, for which the taxpayers may have to pay by reason of any damage done to property or life."

"And whereas the interest of the public there should be some way of adjusting the dispute between the commissioners and the men, and altho the men have been adjusted by the board from time to time and have practically all been granted, the only question now in dispute is the status of the union, the board of police commissioners has given the ruling that they will recognize no outside union, but will be satisfied to let the men have an inside union, and their grievances adjusted from time to time, the mayor moves that, provided the men return to their duty, the officers be authorized to reinstate them, and to await the ruling of the attorney-general's department or the government as to the status of the union among the police under the meaning of the act under which the board is constituted."

The proposal of the police commissioners looking to a settlement was submitted to the strikers at their meeting yesterday in Victoria Hall and was turned down unanimously.

A standing vote was taken, and when the men rose in a body to reject the suggestions, they broke into a hurricane of cheering and stamping.

Chief Won't Talk. "Have you any idea?" Chief Grasett was asked.

"You have got it all there," he replied, and refused to be further questioned.

"From what I saw of the temper of the men they were willing to surrender the charter, providing their grievances were settled and they were not discriminated against further," said the mayor. "There should be some way of settling the dispute in the interests of the public, and I have been endeavoring to get the parties together."

Meanwhile the men and officials of the union refuse to make any statement. They reiterated, however, that they still stood for the recognition of the union, reinstatement of the dismissed policemen and the reopening of the Ellis case.

Specials Sworn In. While the commissioners were in session yesterday 11 applicants were sworn in as special constables.

Yesterday passed off very quietly, as did the first day of the strike, and the men have lost nothing in public opinion for the orderly manner in which they are conducting their strike.

Not only did the strikers send in an alarm for the firemen at the fire which broke out in Snell's bakery, East Toronto, but the constables who had been patrolling the city during the night in a motor car saved some of the horses and vehicles from the blaze. Among the men who helped save some of the bakery property was Policeman Kerr, who had been dismissed by the commission. With him were Policemen Dunlop, Williams and Cummings.

Another case in which the police proved that altho they are out on strike they are not recalcitrant to their duty as public servants was shown early yesterday morning when Policemen Boyd of No. 2 division, notified a man acting in a suspicious manner around a jewelry store. Boyd promptly placed the man under arrest for vagrancy.

Several acts of lawlessness were committed during the first night of the strike. At a drug store on Queen street near Parliament an attempt was made to break in. The brick street liquor vendor's warehouse was also broken into, but nothing taken, as far as could be learned.

The strikers were reinforced by quite a few other men yesterday who did not walk out at the beginning of the strike. It also mooted that the patrol sergeants may come out. There are two of them out already, and a peculiar coincidence is that both of them returned soldiers.

VETERANS

Items of Interest to Returned Soldiers Will Be Printed in This Column if Placed or Sent In.

CANDIDATE FOR PARLIAMENT.

St. Catharines, Dec. 19.—There will be a contest for the provincial election for the riding of St. Catharines. Forty-two members of the Independent Labor Party decided this question last night and chose C. Longden, a returned soldier from the ranks and secretary of the local branch of the I.L.P., to be their candidate.

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CHRISTMAS GIFTS

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SOCIETY

Conducted by Mrs. Edmund Phillips.

His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire has received a cable announcing the safe arrival in England of her excellency, Lady Maude Mackintosh, Lady Dorothy Cavendish and the members of the viceregal staff who accompanied them.

The annual Rugby dance took place at Upper Canada College last night for the first time since the war, with great excitement among the boys and their friends, 150 of them gathering in the prayer hall, which was gaily decorated with plants, and the viceregal orchestra once more played for the newness and best of dance music. Supper was served in the college dining hall at small tables, the room draped with blue and white bunting. The principal and Mrs. Greig presided at the latter, a very smart in black net with green enamel ornaments. Mrs. Craik, wife of the dean of residence, also received.

Major-General A. D. McRae, C.B., who has just returned from overseas, spent the evening with his sister, Mrs. E. D. McRae, Leslie street, on his way home.

Mrs. Coats, Rosedale road, gave a very enjoyable little dance last night for her sister, Miss Willmott, Belleville, who wore pink tulle and silver lace. The room was very prettily decorated with pink roses. Among those present were: Mr. George W. Wessley, Lady George Wessley, Col. Tyle, R.A.F., Major Rubie, Capt. Mitchell, General Hoare, Miss Marguerite Rathbun, the Misses Broun, the Misses Ince, the Misses Langmuir, Miss Rosamund Slade (Boston), Miss Honor Soames, Mr. and Mrs. Broadbent (New York), Mr. Percy Arnold, Mr. Campbell, Capt. Gordon Campbell, Mr. Wilfrid Stratton, who has just returned from overseas, Miss Alexia Gardie (Ottawa), Mr. MacKenzie Waters (Belleville), Captain Blake, Major Scott, Mr. Hamilton, Wilde from Camp Borden, Capt. Parsons, Major Meredith and Mr. Basil Durant from Deseronto, and Mrs. John Coulson.

Miss Marie Macdonell has returned from Battle Creek, Mich., where she has been staying with the Hon. Claude B. Macdonell.

The meeting of the Women's Musical Club yesterday afternoon in the Masonic Hall, Yonge street, was not quite so well attended by the members as usual, owing to the press of Christmas work with nearly everyone. Those continuing to the program were Miss Catherine Bouché, who sang a group of songs, Miss Grace Boucher playing her accompaniments; Mr. Alberto Gase Guerrero played a group of melodies and was well received. Mrs. A. A. Marshall, Mrs. D. M. Robertson, Mrs. Barclay Falconer and Mrs. Frank Cowan poured out the tea, and a few of those present included Mrs. Miller, Mrs. W. J. Elliott, Mrs. Leonard Wood, Mrs. Stanley Mills, Mrs. F. C. Clarkson, Mrs. M. MacGregor, Mrs. Lambie, Mrs. F. N. G. Starr, Mrs. J. F. Ross, Mrs. Dalton Davies, Mrs. Casey Wood, Mrs. Boudard, Mrs. Campbell Humphreys, Mrs.

At the Toronto Conservatory of Music Wednesday, Miss Vida Coatsworth gave a piano recital covering a program which embraced compositions by Bach, Schumann, Chopin, Liszt and other composers, in all of which she showed beauty of tone, grace and individuality and seriousness of purpose.

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