

APPEAL TO LABOR MENTO WITHDRAW THEIR CANDIDATE

Capt. Cornelius of G.W.V.A.
Urged I. L. P. to Support
Mr. Cockshutt

An earnest and ringing appeal for the avoidance of party dissension at the present time, by the withdrawal of Ald. M. M. MacBride in favor of W. F. Cockshutt, officially endorsed as union candidate, was delivered by Capt. J. R. Cornelius to the Independent labor party last night. The executive, anxious to give due recognition to the returned men of the city, promised consideration, and at once went into session on the appeal, but without reaching a decision.

While a courteous hearing was accorded Capt. Cornelius, it was patent that his appeal did not meet with the approval of the majority of the members present, and opinions were expressed that the labor classes were entitled to bring forward a candidate, and that no appeal should be made to them unless it was made to the other candidates now in the field.

Capt. Cornelius made it clear that he was acting solely on his own initiative.

Campaign Under Way.
"The present campaign," observed Mr. Rice, president, in calling the meeting to order, "will never be won by public meetings. The labor campaign, he declared, was coming along well. A large number of the women voters of the city would cast their votes for MacBride. The speaker appealed for more workers.

Capt. Cornelius, addressing the gathering, declared that 85 per cent of the men at the front were workmen. There all parties fought side by side and died together, for the common cause of smashing the Hun. Capt. Cornelius urged his hearers to rally and give "Quebec" and their followers their answer.

For the sake of union, the speaker appealed to Mr. MacBride to withdraw, that all unionists might get together and smash the Laurier man. Mr. MacBride was a friend of the speaker's, he was a loyal man, but it was for this very reason that Capt. Cornelius appealed to him.

"Never mind about politics he urged. 'Damn politics, there is only one thing in this case—keep between you and your hallo, the faces of the boys at the front.'

He referred to the union meeting some three weeks ago as "a comedy of errors," better

than many a high priced vaudeville show. It was a matter to-day of voting, not for one particular candidate, but of casting a ballot for or against the boys overseas.

WANT LABOR REPRESENTED

"In view of the fact, as you have stated, that 85 per cent of the overseas are workmen," asked Mr. Flaherty, "why does Capt. Cornelius ask us to withdraw our candidate in favor of one of the capitalistic class?"

Capt. Cornelius explained that Mr. W. F. Cockshutt had been endorsed by Sir Robert Borden as union candidate in this riding, and hence was the logical candidate.

"If we vote for a labor man, we will be taking the most effective measures to prevent rule by Quebec," observed a member. And it is achieve that purpose that Capt. Cornelius has appealed to us.

On the motion of Ald. H. J. Symons, the executive retired to consider Capt. Cornelius' request.

A Returned Man

Mr. McGrattan, viewed the appeal in the form of a counter attack. "I'm not inferring with anything," he remarked, "but a man can think what he likes."

"W. F.'s behind it" declared another speaker.

Ald. Symons.

"I think we should elect a labor man," declared Ald. Symons, "because he is a member of our own class, and will legislate for his fellow workers, with whom his sympathies lie."

Dealing with Mayor Bowlby, Ald. Symons doubted whether His Worship himself knew where he stood on the conscription issue. The complaint was made that conscription was not being enforced fairly, and the speaker expressed the opinion that Quebec, who had failed in her duty in the past, was now being treated more leniently than her sister provinces. He was certain that the opinion of labor was for conscription if fairly enforced.

Mayor Bowlby was to support Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Symons doubted whether these notables would enforce conscription more rigidly in Quebec than would Sir Robert Borden; rather, the English speaking provinces would be called upon to contribute the greater share of the men taken from the first hundred thousand.

"The volunteer system," declared Ald. Symons, "did not break down, it was murdered." The government had not offered adequate wages to enlisting men, and those who enlisted to-day received, in proportion to the cost of living, only half the wages of those who enlisted three years ago.

If it was a good thing to keep the private soldier at the front, the officers should be kept there also, declared the speaker, who went on to insist that the volunteer system did not get a fair trial.

"Would the labor party lose their \$200 deposit if they withdrew their candidate?" asked a member.

"We would," replied Ald. Symons



"Then let us stick by our ship," urged the former speaker.

Ald. Symons declared that Mayor Bowlby would have a better chance with Ald. MacBride out of the field. He went on to recall Mr. MacBride's efforts on fuel and food questions. Mr. McGrattan criticized the Union government as not giving sufficient representation to labor.

No Decision

The executive at this juncture re-entered the room, having failed to reach a decision. Mr. Rose laid before the meeting the importance of the soldiers' and the women's vote. He suggested that Mr. Cockshutt might be induced to withdraw.

Mr. McGrattan saw little possibility of this. He believed that the men overseas would follow the example of the Australian troops in voting against conscription. The speaker supported Ald. Symons in his demand for better pay for soldiers,

and criticized the administration of the patriotic fund.

"Conscription is all right," declared Mr. McGrattan, "but who don't they conscript Quebec? We have Sir Sam Hughes' statement, never contradicted, that he was ordered to slow up on voluntary recruiting."

Mr. A. G. Brown considered that after 11 years in parliament, Mr. Cockshutt should be willing to step aside in favor of another candidate, a laborite. The patriotic fund, he declared, had only been placed on its feet when the working classes got behind it. The labor men had as much right to stay in the field as any other party. Mr. Cockshutt, he declared, could not properly represent the working classes of Brantford.

The time has come when labor must have recognition," he declared, "and we will back down for no one. We should at least keep our candidate in

the field until we know where we are at."

"MacBride isn't going to back out," declared Mr. McGrattan, in demanding immediate action on the question.

Ald. MacBride

"We are in the fight," declared Ald. MacBride. "I think it good business to discuss the matter fully. We have just as much right to make a counter proposal to Mr. Cockshutt."

The speaker proposed to be short on promises, and long on performances, if elected. He denied rumors that he was a hard-shelled Tory. The soldiers and their dependents had much more to hope for from an independent labor candidate than from a capitalist. It was time the soldiers had men in parliament who sympathized with them, and who would grant them their rights. Labor was entitled by reason of population and service in war, to representation in parliament, and Brantford, Toronto

and Hamilton were three cities which should return labor men to Ottawa.

Labor men had been responsible for getting the women of Canada the franchise, which was brought about by the labor organizations of the Dominion.

In the parliament of Great Britain labor was properly recognized, and Canada should follow that lead. Labor representatives would not be hide bound, they would support beneficial measures introduced by either side. Ald. MacBride criticized the action of the government in applying the closure rule on the C.N.R. bill, and in delaying genuine war measures. The labor party had had a hard fight to secure the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Support Conscription
Two proposals were before the people of Canada on the Conscription issue, and the speaker declared Laurier's referendum platform a

straight scheme. It would take 10 months to take a referendum of the Dominion.

"It is the duty of every Canadian to adopt the conscription act as passed," declared Ald. MacBride, "and insist that it be enforced impartially."

At the present time, this was not being done, for wholesale exemptions were being granted in Quebec. It would not be a safe thing to repeal the conscription act, for in that event the U. S. might step in, and the speaker warned his hearers against revolutionary schemes which might precipitate civil war. To administer the conscription act fairly and impartially was the solution of the problem, and this would probably mean the raising of 200,000 men from Quebec alone, and the taking of less men from Ontario and Brant county. He criticized the Quebec Ministers in the Union Cabinet, Messrs. Blomfield and Severy, who while they remained would support a policy of inaction where their province was concerned.

Labor's Duties.

One of the duties of labor representatives would be to secure more adequate pay for soldiers. Another, equalized pensions.

"We have some work to do at Ottawa," declared the speaker, "for the soldiers who we hope will vote for us, and who are not now being treated right. The present bunch of politicians will not properly look after returned men as they should be looked after."

The foreigners throughout the Dominion should be conscripted for farm work, or they would prove a menace to the men coming back from the front.

Harping on his pet fuel and food question, Ald. MacBride demanded more energetic action by the fuel and food controllers. This could be secured by labor men.

A real man's sized job would be the abolition of war profiteering and the "firing" of Sir Joseph Flavelle, who had been convicted of profiteering, but no further action taken.

To make Quebec do her duty was the question of the hour. There should be no religious cry, "or it was no religious issue; such men as Lavergne and Bourassa," declared Ald. MacBride should long ago have been interned.

The labor men could be trusted to carry on the development of Canada after the war.

Canada's first two war loans had been snapped up by the capitalists, who alone were making money in Canada to-day.

"Let the soldier and his kin," concluded Ald. MacBride, "figure out for himself, who will best represent him at Ottawa, the wealthy man, the lawyer or the labor man."

He hoped to see the campaign conducted cleanly and honestly. The labor men had no "bottle" to distribute among the workers.

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