

Patriotic Association.

WAR MEMORIAL DISCUSSED.

A meeting of the Patriotic Association took place in the Board of Trade Rooms last night, when matters in connection with the proposed Memorial were again discussed. His Excellency the Governor presided and besides the members of the Association, a deputation of the G.W.V.A. was also present. The Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting, which with some amendments, were received and adopted.

His Excellency the Governor outlined the objects for which the meeting had been called and explained that it was due to a requisition from the G.W.V.A., who were hoping that something definite would be done in the matter, and he called upon Sir W. F. Lloyd, convenor of the deputation, which was appointed at the last meeting to interview the Government in relation to the National Memorial. Sir William gave a short outline of the Committee's work, and explained why the committee had not met at an earlier date. He also explained why a representative of the G.W.V.A. had not taken part in the committee's deliberations, owing to an oversight on his part. He then read the following report in connection with the deputation's visit to the Government: "The Committee asked the Premier, if in his opinion, the Government would take over the cost of the proposed memorial building, the same being estimated from \$250,000 to \$300,000. The Premier's reply was that in his opinion the Government would not be justified in authorizing the expenditure of such a sum. He suggested as an alternative that provided the Patriotic Association would give satisfactory guarantees for \$100,000, the Government would increase its present vote of \$100,000 to \$150,000, the full sum to be expended on the building first," Sir William thought that owing to the present conditions in financial circles, it would be impossible to get any body of men to underwrite \$100,000, and he felt that even that amount would not suffice for the Normal School and the Monument together, as the latter would cost \$50,000, which would mean that the public would be called upon to subscribe \$150,000.

The chairman then read the resolution passed at the last general meeting of the G.W.V.A., urging that there should be no further delay, in the erection of a Memorial to "the men who died," and that the Memorial should take the form of a large size replica of the Caribou, to be placed on the highest point of Signal Hill, and that a replica of the Bomber be placed in a suitable part of the city.

His Excellency felt that we have not been slow in the matter of our National Memorial, as except for small local memorials, no substantial Memorial has been erected as yet in any part of the British Empire. Sir William Lloyd thought that as the proposed Memorial School was for the time being out of the running, that the question of erecting the Monument should be taken up and the Memorial be left in the hands of the Government to be erected later.

Sir P. T. McGrath thought it regrettable that the Memorial School should have been hitched on to the Monument from the start. We should have been content with a Monument that would have told its own story. He regretted that this matter had not been started when first it was proposed, as we were in a much better position then than at present. He, however, hoped that it was not too late for the Monument. He felt that the Association should leave this matter for the public's decision, as in his opinion it was not advisable that such a small body should decide on such an important question. He therefore proposed the following resolution: "Resolved, that this meeting of the Patriotic Association, having been informed that the time is not opportune for carrying on the scheme for a National Memorial, as laid before the meeting of November 9th 1920, commends that His Excellency the Governor be requested to call a public meeting of citizens of St. John's, to take up the question of erecting a War Memorial and of raising the necessary funds for that purpose." Sir Patrick thought that this meeting of citizens would be able to appoint a new committee to go into this matter and he felt that despite the financial conditions at present existing that \$50,000 could be raised to erect the Monument. He then quoted extensively from newspaper cuttings to show that in Canada and the United States very little has been done regarding the erection of War Memorials, and whilst it was a matter of regret that we are so backward in this respect, we were in good company. He felt however, that we ought not to delay much longer in this important duty to those who fought and fell.

Mr. J. G. Higgins, B.A., President of the G.W.V.A., explained the position of that Association in connection with the matter. They were in accord with the proposed Normal School provided the Government would take over the expenditure, and when they passed the resolutions it was in the hope that something definite would be done and it was with this object in view that the Executive forwarded

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the time was not opportune in which to raise sufficient funds, as with conditions at present existing, he doubted if even \$50,000 would be subscribed, and he thought it advisable to wait a little longer.

Mr. R. G. Rendell also supported the resolutions of Sir P. T. McGrath and he believed that the necessary funds could be secured. We are spending large sums each week in amusements and he believed that citizens would respond to the call for funds and that a suitable monument could be erected.

Dr. V. P. Burke, and Capt. H. A. Anderson also spoke regarding the memorial, after which the resolution of Sir P. T. McGrath was put to the meeting and carried. The matter of disbanding the Patriotic Association was then put before the meeting by His Excellency and was discussed by several of the members present. On motion of Dr. Robinson, seconded by R. G. Rendell, it was decided that as the work of the Association had not as yet been completed that the meeting be adjourned sine die. Several other matters of

minor importance were then discussed after which the meeting closed with the National Anthem at 10.40 p.m.

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