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G. W. V. A. Meeting.

A very largely attended meeting of the G. W. V. A. was held last night, Petty Officer Kearley presiding. The chairman made a brief plea for increased membership, after which letters of thanks were received from the family of the late T. J. Edens, Esq., for the Association's expression of regret at his death, and from A. Hammond, stating he was writing the Regatta Committee as to entering an Army and Navy crew on Regatta Day, and also a cutting from the High Commissioner at London stating an ex-service man was being sent home. Following the adoption of the minutes of last meeting, Mr. H. Anderson, convenor of the Committee appointed to interview the Government as to various matters concerning the veterans, reported they had met the Executive on Tuesday and from 12.30 for 2 hours had discussed pensions, housing and appointments to civil service positions. Mr. Squires had asked a lot of questions and taken notes, and yesterday he had received a communication stating a Committee of Council had approved of only granting the 20 per cent. bonus for the following pensioners: totally disabled, orphans of sailors and soldiers, children of deceased sailors and soldiers and all other cases where deceased or totally disabled sailor or soldier was the sole support. This was to be retroactive from January 1st, 1920, and would include about 500 pensioners. The granting of the 20 per cent. bonus all round, the same as the Canadians are getting, is being considered. Dr. Parsons had gone to Ottawa to compare the Canadian scale with ours and the whole question will be dealt with on receipt of his report. The deputy heads of the different departments will be asked for the names of those employed lately and others members of the Government will be asked later. This related to civil service positions which civilians got, but Messrs. Coaker and Squires say they always gave soldiers. He felt the veterans should hold out for the Canadian scale, which is to be increased 30 per cent. soon. At another meeting he hoped a loan up to $3,000 would be granted sailors and soldiers for housing.

An explanation of some slight misunderstanding with regard to the appointment of Lt.-Col. Bernard as a Commissioner on the other side was made. However, this gentleman has received an appointment.

Mr. C. F. Garland pointed out that Lt. Col. Bernard, Lt. Col. Rendell, and Major Parsons had decided the Newfoundland pension scale was good enough for the veterans here. Lt.-Col. Bernard then had $130 per month pension himself and was wrong in saying the scale here was the best.

Mr. L. Woods—It is up to us to see the government don't put us off.

Mr. B. Murphy felt no definite results had been obtained, though the government had been given plenty of time to consider.

Mr. J. Robinson pointed out that while the doctors gave a good board, the ideas of civilians were followed, and if men could be cut off they would. As President of the Association Lt. Col. Bernard should have given some notice of his departure. He believed in fighting the government till they 'came across'.

Mr. Garland, who was on the special committee, said no increase over last year is asked for. The scale for a Private here is $600. In Canada it is $720 and by September it is to be $900. As to Lt. Col. Bernard he had shown scant courtesy to the Association, as he had not even told the Vice-President of his appointment.

Mr. Robinson—He had the nerve to suggest the officers to be elected before.

Capt. Thistle, of the special committee, knew nothing of Col. Bernard's going away.

Mr. Garland said he had only to give the opinion of the Association to the government.

Mr. J. McKinley pointed out that his pension had been cut though he couldn't walk Long's Hill and cab hire cost him more than the pension.

Mr. L. Woods moved, seconded by Mr. J. Robinson and supported by Messrs. J. Higgins, T. Mahoney and McKinley, a resolution which unanimously passed, "that the Canadian pension scale, with bonus and other increases that may be adopted, be demanded from the Government, retroactive from Jan. 1st, 1920, and that local oversea doctors comprise the examining board."

It was decided to leave the housing matter over till next meeting.

Mr. J. Higgins pointed out that a definite answer as to pensions was to be received to-night.

Mr. B. Murphy added that the Prime Minister was expected to leave here on the 15th inst., and nothing had been decided.

Mr. Boutcher stated that a request had been granted before in a week when a firm demand was made.

On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. B. Murphy, it was decided "that the special committee press the Executive Government for an interview before the 8th inst. and demand a definite answer before the 14th, on the housing and other matters."

Mr. R. Matthews asked if the audience would agree to appointments to the Civil Service by a board of reliable men, assisted by representatives of the G.W.V.A. The majority leaving the country on every train and steamer are veterans, whose jobs were grabbed by slackers while they were fighting.

Mr. J. Sexton agreed with the idea. He had gone to Mr. Brownrigg about a position but was told to go away. A slacker, he said, got it who grew whiskers to make himself look too old for enlistment. I left a wife and three children, one only 7 days old, and wouldn't remain over till the next draft leaving for England. Is that a fair show? Slackers are in many other positions too. Squires' promises are the same as he gave in the Majestic when he took off his glasses to wipe away the tears for the sailors and soldiers. You'll get blood from a turnip quicker than you'll get anything from him. He's going off on a picnic, though his Government was not going to have any. The proposal of Mr. Matthews was carried by a standing vote, but Mr. Lea Murphy objected to the ruling on the grounds that this was the first time a vote was taken in this way. Mr. Matthews pointed out he only asked for the vote to show if the Association wished him to carry on in his idea. The Chairman again put the motion, which was carried unanimously. The plea of Mr. J. Robinson for a big parade on Sunday to do honour to the fallen comrades was supported by Messrs. Matthews and L. C. Murphy and endorsed by the meeting, which was brought to a close at 11.45 by singing the National Anthem.

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