

WITH THE GREAT WAR VETERANS

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

VETERANS DEMAND FEDERAL ACTION

(Continued From Page 1)

and all over the world. Many of the problems came, making soldiers any human government, unless they have the support of all classes. You have sent to the war over 60,000 men. You have fought for liberty and civilization, and done your duty by your King and country. In times of peace the government have paid pensions to civilians, and if they can do that in peace they can pay liberal pensions and gratuities to the men who fought in the war. (Applause.) Had the war lasted another year, it would have cost the country \$400,000,000, and the finance department would have found the money. You men have saved that big sum. (Applause.)

Commission Not Wanted.

Mayor Church went on to say that if the government wanted to do the fair thing they need not appoint a commission at all. He was glad to observe that in the house of commons on Monday next Col. Currie, member for North Simcoe, had given notice that he would move a resolution of the house to bring up the question of gratuities. He believed the house was united on the question, as were the people of the province of Ontario that the \$2000 should be paid. The mayor alluded to the share of the German indemnity by Australia and New Zealand, and said there was no reason why Canada should not also participate to a large extent. That was one way of finding the money. Then the profiteers, the bacon and the cheese kings could disgorge \$200,000,000. (Applause.) He had seen W. F. O'Connor and showed him where profiteers were willing to pay no more, were only assessed for income tax at \$35,000. The profiteers were being dealt with in England, and the jails were being filled with them in the United States.

Cannot Measure Services.

The mayor said the men richly deserved the gratuity. They had endured the horrors they had endured by any mere gratuity. They had saved the state of civilization in Canada, and if the Germans had come here it would have cost the country \$800,000,000, but a far bigger ransom, and Ottawa would have had to pay without any objection. He alluded to the slanders and alien enemies had made during the war, and he said that the loan could be repaid in Canada, to pay the gratuity. He said that the government allowed the banks of the country to be a law unto themselves during the war, and he said that the circulation of the banks were to pay the government, and he said that the people for their privileges during the war it would be many millions. The government could not do the thing for which the gratuity if they went about it in the right way.

Mayor Church alluded to the money spent on railways and on which the people were not consulted, and he said that promoters merely went to Ottawa and never considered anything about bankrupting the country. He said that he had fought over four years in the trenches, and it was said that the man who had not worth a measly \$2,000. Would the people of this country ever be able to pay the great debt of gratitude they owe the men who defended them? (No.) He alluded to the fact that the union being in advance of public opinion on the gratuity question, and now a caucus of the house of commons had been held and awakened out of a long sleep. (Applause.)

Bankruptcy Not Feared.

In my opinion, said the mayor, a commission is not needed. It is known over a hundred commissions, but never knew them to do anything save draw their salaries and defend the profits. The parliament of Canada is a commission in itself. The soldiers and their dependents put the union government where they are, and they can put that government where they want to make good on this particular question. (Applause.) The country is not going to be bankrupt. We have one of the finest countries in the world, and our resources of the west. We have a surplus national debt compared with Britain and other countries. Let the government sit down and arrive at a solution of the gratuity problem. It is a small thing to ask. You have the right to demand. It is unassailable, and you have all classes of the community behind you. (Applause.) He said that the prime minister, the house and senate, will deal with the subject of the gratuity before the week is over. He said that the chance to make a survey of the books to the whole of the country can stand. I am satisfied they are behind you. (Loud applause.)

Toronto Behind Soldiers.

J. H. Flynn said the great meeting was striking testimony to the fact that Toronto was behind the returned soldiers on the question. While we are satisfied with proof of unity, also some officials of another society had sought to break that unity. Why are there these two societies of returned soldiers? Because the politicians had split the ranks. This country belonged to the returned soldiers. Why, then, should they have to parade the streets and make demonstrations for their rights? Their only hope was the union.

Mr. Flynn referred to the G.W.V.A. band declining to turn out for the parade and declared that, in his estimation, the greatest enemy to the returned men in the province was Bill Turley. (Applause.) Mayor Church intervened and hoped Mr. Flynn would stick to the question. The meeting was under the auspices of the city.

Asks Immediate Action.

Mr. Flynn declared that the great question was of the returned men and their unity, and he was going to do his best to do away with disunity. Mr. Turley was present and could reply if he desired. (Applause.) If one great union were formed and returned men sent to Ottawa to represent them they would get what they deserved and to which they were entitled. He said that the returned men wanted the gratuity, and he was going to take a ballot on it. They did not want a government mission. The government wanted it and to hold the matter until the spring were over, so that the men would not do any harm. The men wanted immediate action. (Applause.)

Mr. Flynn regretted that the premier of Ontario was unable to be present, and read Sir William Hearst's message of sympathy with the returned men. He went on to speak of the so-called opposition of the Ontario G.W.V.A. to the gratuity. "That is a lie," Mr. Flynn exclaimed, "and they know it. We demand that no commission be appointed and I believe you are behind me. We want to talk it over with Sir Robert Borden." He concluded by moving:

Resolution Approved.

"That this meeting of returned soldiers and citizens of Toronto hereby approve of the government of Canada granting \$2,000 indemnity, this session, as a gratuity for war services on the basis of the Calgary convention."

Private Baker seconded and the resolution was carried with great enthusiasm.

The mayor had to leave "to take a look at the city council, which might be sitting still," as he put it. Three hearty cheers were given for the mayor and the audience sang, "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

A telegram was read from the Ottawa G.W.V.A. secretary approving of the gratuity movement.

John Delaney, Tom Morgan, said he would like to have seen his old friend, Sir Joseph Flavelle, on the platform. Sir Joseph should have been invited.

He suggested Dominion notes being issued to meet the cost of the gratuity. He was met by a delegation of the returned soldiers' gratuity league when he received the G.W.V.A. delegation on Wednesday next.

Comrade McLeod proposed, Comrade Hawtrey seconded and it was agreed: The Sir Robert Borden be requested to meet a deputation of the Returned Soldiers' Gratuity League when he receives the G.W.V.A. delegation on Wednesday next.

A. W. Roebuck urged that it was a right and not a gratuity for which the men were asking. He pointed to the Canadian nickel rights being given to a nation which had not done anything for the nickel lands and prospect for a good paying claim. (Applause.)

Mr. Flynn announced that a telegram would be sent to Sir Robert Borden conveying the resolution passed by the Returned Soldiers' Gratuity League.

Capt. Carey of the Y.M.C.A. put in a strong plea for prior claims for disabled men.

Comrade Hawtrey of the Army and Navy Veterans' League moved that the credit be given to pay the gratuity. The pensions, he also urged, should be properly adjusted.

Mr. Flynn thought the imperialists, too, called for some consideration. A letter was read from Commissioner Richards of the Salvation Army, expressing sympathy with the gratuity movement.

Sergt. MacNamara, a one-armed veteran, rose in the body of the hall and made an impassioned appeal for the women. "Every woman," he said, "who married a husband or a son should be given the gratuity." He moved a resolution accordingly.

Mr. Flynn seconded, and the resolution was carried with enthusiasm.

You are the only man who has spoken for the women tonight," said Mrs. Vera Criss tearfully to Sergt. MacNamara. "God bless you."

The meeting ended after this incident, and the audience sang the National Anthem.

Over twelve thousand veterans of the great war last night marched from Queen's Park to the Returned Soldiers' Gratuity League.

By seven o'clock several thousand, many with women friends, had gathered around the concentration point in Queen's Park. The parade was led by the G.W.V.A. officials, after having promised to lend their band for the parade, had refused to do so.

President Flynn then announced the order in which the marchers would follow. He immediately formed themselves in four in the various sections to which they had been allotted.

Order of March. An official took the head of the parade, being followed by a woman and a young girl carrying the banner of the league. Behind them came the returned men and women in khaki. Next were 100 returned men who came specially from the United States to join the parade.

Behind them marched a number of unemployed returned men, carrying a banner which read "The Unemployed Men of the G.W.V.A. in Toronto."

Then came the returned men in civilian clothes, carrying a banner which read "The Returned Men of the G.W.V.A. in Toronto."

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DEMAND COMMISSION

Rally of Three Thousand Returned Men—Warn the Government.

Hamilton, Ont., Sept. 11.—Nearly three thousand veterans at an open-air meeting on the Scott property tonight, unanimously passed a resolution calling upon the government to take immediate action in the matter of meeting the request of the G.W.V.A. for the appointment of a commission to deal with the gratuity question.

The meeting was full of ginger from start to finish, and during the address Sir Robert Borden and the local members of parliament were scored—the premier for the manner in which he had refused the request of the G.W.V.A. to meet the committee of three, and the local members for not having given when asked to state how they stood on the question of gratuity.

Among the speakers were Capt. Fitzgerald, soldier candidate for the provincial house; H. Pearce, member of Dominion G.W.V.A. executive; H. L. Cook, Wm. Henson, and the local members of the G.W.V.A. Sir Robert Borden, president of Central G.W.V.A. Sergt. Major Jordan presided.

The resolution passed was as follows: "Be it resolved at this mass meeting of the returned soldiers and citizens of Hamilton, Ontario, that the G.W.V.A. of Canada and other returned soldiers' associations, and the Returned Soldiers' Gratuity League, hereby demand of the government in refusing the reasonable request of the Dominion executive of the G.W.V.A. for the appointment of a parliamentary commission to discuss war service gratuities and war service pension action in so doing."

Further, that the mass meeting here assembled demand that the commission be immediately appointed by the government before the irritation caused by its refusal to grant and cause unnecessary agitation through the country.

And lastly, that this mass meeting is convinced that it is in the best interests of the country that the government immediately comply with this request.

At the meeting with The World Mr. Jenkins stated that he had waited upon Gen. Sir Arthur Currie earlier in the day, and that he had expressed his views on the war service gratuity question.

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STANDARD FUEL CO.

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LABOR NEWS

C. F. OF L. CHAMPIONS

MODERATES' CAUSE

Tom Watt, the energetic organizer for the Canadian Federation of Labor, stated to The World yesterday afternoon that the C. F. of L. was determined to do its share in fighting the aggression of the champions of the "one big union."

It was the hope, he said, of all true members of the association to co-operate with all the moderate forces of trades unionism in Canada to extinguish the spread of an undesirable movement in the Dominion. "As a matter of fact, I believe most Canadians prefer to work on the ground floor to fancy stunts on the ceiling, at least, that is my experience," said Mr. Watt. "Socialists and extreme radicals are eternally sitting on the thin ice and walking the ceilings. We are becoming tired of such foolhardy inanities."

It is understood that the general organizer has been requested to make a tour of the northwest in the interest of moderation.

SHOE WORKERS ORGANIZE

E. W. A. O'Dell, one of the foremost labor men of Ontario has organized a branch of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union in the town of Aurora, and the charter is expected shortly. This union is among the most progressive, and at the same time the most moderate, in the A. F. of L. and its slogan has always been "Abide by your contract."

A motto exemplified during the recent general strike in Toronto.

JUDGE GUNN PRESIDENT

Judge Gunn of Ottawa has been appointed chairman of the board of conciliation selected to deal with the differences of the telephone operators in Toronto. Other members of the board are Fred Bancroft for the men and Glynn Oesler for the Bell Telephone Company.

MANY HEATED, FEW SEATED

Much interest is being manifested in the coming session of the Trades Congress of Canada, which is to be held at the Connaught Hotel, in Hamilton, on Sept. 22-24. It is understood that it will prove to be one of the most important sessions of its kind ever held. One well-known labor man, discussing the convention yesterday afternoon, inadvertently asked the gathering at the Labor Temple how many the hotel auditorium would seat (meaning "heat"). The general opinion was that most would be heated and few seated.

PIANO WORKERS MEETING

Piano and phonograph workers will hold an important meeting tonight at Occident Hall, when, it is expected, many new members will be initiated. This is a thriving organization with about a thousand members.

COAL-DRIVERS ORGANIZE

Coal Drivers, who are organized with the Canadian Federation of Labor, are expecting to hold a membership of a thousand before the winter is over. It is understood that they are amalgamating with the Longshoremen's Union. This union is said to be among the most recent associations formed, dating back only to the recent teamsters' strike in Toronto.

LONGSHOREMEN PROGRESS

Longshoremen and drivers last night held a well-attended meeting at Occident Hall and initiated a hundred new members. This union, which is accredited to the Canadian Federation of Labor, now has 500 members, and organization is progressing apace.

CO-OPERATION GETS IMPETUS

Co-operation in Toronto has at last been given its first impetus in the formation of the Toronto Co-operative Association, comprising at the moment 10 co-operators. Chief among these are John Hopkins, the veteran champion of the movement in Queen City; James Birks, one of the best known members of the radical section in the labor movement; and John Smith and A. Williamson. Mr. Williamson has been appointed general organizer, and immeasurable results from the campaign are anticipated.

BUILDING TRADES BUSY

Carpenters in Toronto will hold a great mass meeting on Wednesday evening next, at the Labor Temple, to consider important matters connected with the relations between the unions and the Building Trades League. It is expected that more than 1900 members will be present at this meeting. An interesting note in connection with the league is the fact that its representative on the Joint Industrial Council, John Doggett, is very busy these days as a member of the council, and he has expressed the belief that the proposition to have all contracts with the league as a condition of doing business on concurrent dates will carry.

HEARST TO ATTEND

Sir William Hearst, premier of Ontario, and Hon. F. G. Macdormid will attend the National Labor Conference, which is to be held at Ottawa next week.

TWO POPULAR CANDIDATES

J. H. Buckley of Mount Dennis, one

of transportation to all parts of the city; To impartial Commission.

Therefore, this council is of the opinion that the interests of the city will be best served by entrusting this important work to a commission of citizens, who shall not be members of the city council.

That the board of control be and hereby is directed to give effect to the wishes and desires of the council as herein expressed by nominating three or five citizens to constitute such a commission at the earliest possible date so that the said commission may be duly established and empowered to study traffic conditions, prepare plans and specifications, and with the assistance and co-operation of the finance commissioner arrange for the financing of the undertaking, to fix and regulate fares and to do any and all such things as may be requisite and necessary to provide the city with a first-class transportation system, thoroughly equipped with modern cars, ready for operation immediately the city acquires the Toronto Railway system.

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