

(1913), 4 O.W.N. 1542, binding on him as on me, decided that those elected up to the 7th January, 1912, were duly elected and were members of the society. After that time, the society split into two factions, which I may call the Wirta and the Vick factions: the Vick faction held semi-private meetings from time to time and took in members—but by no stretch of charity could these meetings be called meetings of the society. Still less, if possible, could that character be ascribed to the meetings of the Wirta faction—they held socialist and not temperance meetings. From the evidence before the returning office—and before me—he was perfectly right in ruling, as he did, to allow to vote only those who were members in January, 1912. It is to be noted that non-payment of dues does not destroy membership *ipso facto*.

On that basis, admittedly, there is no objection to the general conduct of the election.

It is, however, objected that the election of manager was irregular—and no doubt that is so.

The general rules of the society are in Finnish, but we have been furnished with a translation in what is represented and apparently believed to be English. They are somewhat incoherent and apparently inconsistent—it would seem, however (rule 22), that the board of directors are to be elected at the last regular meeting in December and June (rule 15) “composed of 7 persons.” At least 15 days before the meeting, the board is to “advertise the situation of manager vacant,” “applications shall be with the board of directors at least 7 days before the election,” and the board “shall select three or less if there is not so many of the applicants of which the . . . meeting . . . will elect a manager”—the society at the meeting “will independently elect a manager of the candidates selected by the board of directors.” This complicated and (I venture to say) unique proceeding may have some good object and be of some advantage. However that may be, it was impracticable to carry it out, all parties having agreed and the Court having ordered the election to be held on the day specified.

The chairman and vice-chairman are also to be elected independently; and it is said that that was not done.

But all these matters are of a very minor significance—and when, admittedly, the present board has a very great majority, it would be absurd to order a new election, which would undoubtedly have the same result. The internal regulations for election, etc., were intended to bring out the sense of the society, and that has been done.