

VETERANS RE-ELECT COL. CARRUTHERS

624 Members Enrolled During Past Year by Army and Navy Veterans in Canada

Lt.-Col. G. F. Carruthers was re-elected president of the Army and Navy Veterans in Canada at the annual general meeting of the association held at the headquarters, 428 Main street, last night, when there was a large attendance of veterans of former campaigns and veterans of the present war.

Lieut. W. A. Shepard was elected first vice-president and J. H. Holman second vice-president.

The following nine members were elected to the executive council for 1917: Lt.-Col. Carruthers, J. H. Holman, Maj. Prideaux, Charles Midwinter, J. Hillyard Leech, K. C., J. M. Tees, W. Murphy, W. Willis and J. F. Tennant. These nine will meet on Thursday evening at 8 o'clock, prior to the first meeting of the new executive, and elect three other members of the executive.

The following six members of the executive for 1917 had already been elected by their respective units: W. S. Grant, Fenian raids, 1866 and 1870; W. A. Shepard, Red River expedition, 1870; E. W. Low, Northwest Rebellion, 1885; R. P. Rooke, Canadian South Africans; A. Hibbs, Imperial South Africans, and W. Christian, European war company.

Col. Carruthers, who occupied the chair, referred to the gratifying progress which the A. and N. V. had made during the past year. No less than 624 new members had been enrolled, and of these 154 were veterans of the present war. During the last thirty years the veterans had accomplished many things, but the problems and activities which faced them in the future necessitated the co-operation of all. He wished to congratulate the ladies' auxiliary of the A. and N. V. on their fine record and wished them success in their efforts to achieve a membership of one thousand. Mr. Carruthers paid an eloquent tribute to the patriotic work of the late Mrs. Murdoch, who had been indefatigable in her efforts on behalf of veterans of all campaigns.

Col. Carruthers referred to the action of the veterans with regard to the employment of aliens by public bodies, and the steps which were being taken to secure the resignation of F. J. Dixon, M. P. P. He outlined the development of the veterans' organization, and the establishment of branches at Regina and Yorkton. He congratulated the association on the fact that 200 members were serving at the front, many of them South African veterans, and referred to the outstanding success of Decoration day parade last year, when twenty thousand men of the C. E. F. acted as a guard of honor to the veterans. That was a tribute to the veterans, said Col. Carruthers, and showed the esteem in which the organization is held by the public and the military authorities.

In conclusion Col. Carruthers expressed the hope that the year 1917 would see the reunion of all veterans of every campaign, for all had helped to build up the British empire, and their motto should be "Shoulder to Shoulder."

Secretary Ed. W. Low then read the following report of the executive council for 1916:

"The great European war has, naturally, engrossed the attention of every citizen in Canada, and your executive has lost no opportunity to assist in its successful prosecution and in all its efforts in that direction has had the cordial support of the members of our association. Some two hundred of our members, who fought in former campaigns, have again donned the khaki and thus demonstrated anew their devotion to the British empire. We regret, alas, that some of them have laid down their lives for the cause of liberty and justice.

"As far as we can ascertain, the following members have died during the past year, and whose memories we shall ever cherish: Comrades J. C. Fryer, W. Dixon, killed in action; Capt. Harry C. Baker, killed in action; Capt. Wm. Shepard, Capt. R. W. A. Rolph, Don Maddigan, Wellington Elliott, John C. Bears, died of wounds.

"The veterans of the present war are joining us in large numbers as they return wounded and broken from the front. The interests of these comrades are being carefully looked after by a capable committee of members of the Great European War company of our association.

Regret Dissension.

"We regret that some men of the present war, acting under ill advice, have organized an independent association on similar lines to our own, though ostensibly for veterans of the present war only, and have thus caused, for the time being, a break in that unity which should at all times be the distinguishing characteristics of British veterans, and by which they can alone expect to continue to merit the confidence of the public and to receive from those in authority the consideration they are entitled to expect from any just demands that they may put forward in connection with their interests. We trust that the Great War Veterans will yet see the wisdom of affiliating with this association.

Finances in Good Shape.

Secretary-Treasurer E. W. Low presented the following financial statement, which had been audited by R. P. Rooke:

Receipts for 1916—General account—Balance in bank, \$290.98; from entertainments and donations, \$1,451.28; membership fees, \$666.25; canteen, \$2,699.50; pool tables, \$515.62; sale of songs, \$785.26; sale of merchandise, \$428.78; total, \$6,837.67. The disbursements for the year amounted to \$6,170.46, leaving a balance of \$667.21.

The entertainment committee account showed a cash balance of \$626.07 and \$2,000 worth of Dominion government war bonds.

Chairman W. Willis, for the employment committee, appealed for more co-operation. He had received promises of assistance from 111 business houses, and had booked orders for 218 men. He had received applications for work from 184 men, and had placed 87 satisfactorily. Of these 87, Mr. Willis stated, 72 were veterans of the present war.

Membership Committee.

Lieut. W. A. Shepard's announcement that during the past year 624 new members had been enrolled was received with loud applause, and with 45 associate members, the total membership reached 906. During the last quarter 189 new members had joined, and the membership included 154 returned soldiers, three honorary members, and two life members. Among the members were two major-generals, 11 lieut.-colonels, 8 majors, 18 captains, 16 lieutenants, 15 sergeant-majors, 56 sergeants, and 18 corporals.

The new branch at Regina had a membership of 100, of whom 65 were returned soldiers, and Yorkton had a membership of 36, of whom 70 per cent were returned men.

Messrs. J. H. Holman, J. F. Tennant, and Paton presented the reports of the entertainment, publicity, and house committees, and various votes of thanks were passed to the ladies' auxiliary, the respective committees, the artists, and speakers at the concerts, and to the press.