

CHARGE IS MADE AGAINST MEMBER

Formal Allegation That J. H. Hawthornthwaite Has Been Acting for Bodo von Alvensleben.

HAD POWER OF ATTORNEY SINCE OPENING OF WAR

Great War Veterans Intend to Ventilate Charge in the Courts.

VICTORIA, B. C., June 10.—After hearing reports from a special committee which had been investigating allegations that James H. Hawthornthwaite, M. P. P. for Ladysmith, had been doing business for Count Hans Bodo von Alvensleben since the outbreak of war, under a power of attorney, a largely attended meeting of returned soldiers, summoned by the Great War Veterans, on Saturday night, decided to carry the matter as far as possible through the courts.

The information laid before the meeting will be sent to all the service organizations, and they will be asked to give their moral and financial support to the course which was adopted.

The Great War Veterans' Association had heard of the case, and appointed a committee to investigate.

The report was as follows:

"On July 28, 1914, six days before the declaration of war, Count Bodo von Alvensleben made a power of attorney to James H. Hawthornthwaite of Victoria. This power of attorney was not registered until February 3, 1915. It is general and is revocable.

"On October 15, 1915, a bill of sale was registered in the supreme court registry here, signed Hans Bodo von Alvensleben by James H. Hawthornthwaite, his attorney in fact. This bill of sale conveyed all Alvensleben's furniture, about 500 items, to Estelle Anita Ford for a consideration of \$1500.

Ottawa Was Informed.

"On learning these facts on February 14, 1915, James Gaden, of this city, wired the minister of justice at Ottawa. On February 15, he saw Col. Ridgeway Wilson at Work Point, and later made an official statement to two officers who were sent to his house by Col. Ridgeway Wilson. He later showed a representative of Col. Ridgeway Wilson where the furniture in question was stored, but no further action was taken by Col. Wilson or his officers.

Mr. Gaden's telegram to Ottawa resulted in a Mr. Reid, of Vancouver, being sent to this city to take an official statement, and as a result of that statement, E. C. Newcombe, deputy minister of justice at Ottawa, wrote him in part as follows:

"As the administration of justice is assigned exclusively to the province, you must therefore look to the attorney-general of your province to assume responsibility as to whether the facts in his opinion warrant the institution of proceedings.

"Deputy Attorney-General Johnson, being seen on the matter, said he would not prosecute.

"This matter was laid before the member for Golden, B. C., and Mrs. Ralph Smith, but nothing came of it.

"It does seem to be a startling thing that a British subject should be allowed to hold a power of attorney for an alien enemy, such as Alvensleben is believed to be, and that such an attorney be allowed to act under such power during the war as has been done in this case."

Received in Silence.

The reading of this report was received with a silence by the soldiers and ladies present, and it was not until Chairman Webb had asked several times as to what was the will of the meeting that Comrade W. Bevan moved that the report be accepted and the committee making it be supported to the full extent and influence of all present. In speaking to the motion, Gerald Cross said:

"It is amazing that the member for Ladysmith should have been allowed to hold his seat in the Provincial House when it was known to his fellow members that he had been doing the pleasure of alien enemies."

His words were greeted with rounds of applause, and the motion was unanimously adopted.