

VETERANS CONDEMN ACTION OF TORONTO MEN IN THE RIOTS

Ask Punishment Be Meted Out Severely To Those Re- sponsible

Toronto, Aug. 3.—“We, the Great War Veterans Association, as composed of returned soldiers, condemn the grave breach of civil and military discipline taken part in by some ‘returned soldiers’ in the city of Toronto yesterday. It is just by such actions as these that the work of the G. W. V. A. is hampered and our cause brought into disrepute throughout Canada in the public mind.”

This motion, moved by Col. Hendrie of Montreal, and seconded by Comrade Dyson of Calgary, was passed by unanimous vote at the convention this morning.

Major MacPherson of Ottawa introduced another motion to the effect that:

“The Dominion executive be instructed to make a thorough investigation of the rioting, and that the ring leaders be punished.”

Comrade Dyson stated that Calgary already had gone through similar experiences. He continued:

“It was a disgraceful proceeding on the part of the returned men to take such action in their own hands. We of the west do not believe in, or tolerate, such actions.”

Comrade MacPherson declared he would not deal with the affair in such moderate terms as expressed in the resolution. “It was a disgrace,” he declared. “I was in one of the places raided. They simply smashed everything in the place. Not content with that they broke into the U.N.”

—Some Hot Talk.

Comrade McCloud said that in view of the peculiar situation of allied and enemy aliens in Toronto, there was at least cause for a protest by returned soldiers. He said that aliens could put things over that an ordinary “Tommy” could not.

The remainder of the comrade's

speech was hooted down and by special request of the president not given publicity.

Major A. T. Hunter said that he felt sure that he spoke for the entire Toronto delegation when he disassociated himself from the whole proceedings.

Frank Gjolma, M.L.A., of Victoria, B.C., said:

"No one wants violation of the law and disorder. However, if the cause is removed, there will be no trouble. Everybody regrets the occurrence. I do not like it, but the cause should be removed. The returned soldiers are decent people and it just shows what they will do when incited.

"The same thing will happen when all the soldiers come back. The trouble could be removed by licensing the restaurants."

James Robinson, of Vancouver, said:

"The government has been petitioned to deal with these foreigners. If the matter is not dealt with in some matter the situation will become worse with the return of more men from the front daily and find so many businesses monopolized by foreigners. Then there will be more trouble."