

MANUFACTURERS ELECT OFFICERS

Mr. J. A. Cunningham is Again Honored With Presidency of Provincial Or- ganization.

WILL FORM COMPANY TO CAPTURE FOREIGN TRADE

Plan to Hold Mammoth Banquet to Start Movement to Com- pete With States.

Mr. J. A. Cunningham, who for the past year has filled the office of president of the B. C. Manufacturers' Association in a most able and efficient manner, was last night, at the postponed annual meeting of the organization, re-elected to the position, the only other candidate being Mr. James Ramsay, who is also an energetic worker in carrying on the affairs of the association, which is doing so much towards keeping British Columbia manufactories to the fore. Last night's meeting was well attended considering the fact that a counter attraction formed a conflict, and a mass of business, in addition to the annual election of officers, was transacted.

The following is a complete list of the officers elected for the ensuing year: President, J. A. Cunningham; vice-president, J. Hanbury; vice-presidents: Vancouver, G. G. Bushby, New Westminster, J. R. Duncan; honorary-treasurer, E. G. Baynes; reception and membership committee: Vancouver, J. W. Curran, New Westminster, W. R. Gilley; tariff committee: Vancouver, Blake Wilson, New Westminster, Nels Nelson; railway and transportation committee: Vancouver, J. C. Grant, New Westminster, John Reid; commercial intelligence committee: Vancouver, J. H. Hamilton, New Westminster, Henry Schaake; press and advertising committee: Vancouver, Harry Duker, New Westminster, W. R. Gilley; vigilance committee: Vancouver, R. H. Gale, New Westminster, J. McDonald; parliamentary committee: Vancouver, W. F. Martin, New Westminster, Nels Nelson; insurance committee, W. H. Leckie. Upon motion of Mr. E. G. Baynes it was decided that the Victoria nominations would be voted upon at the next regular meeting of the Victoria association and later added to the list.

Acknowledges Honor

In a brief address, Mr. Cunningham thanked the members for the honor accorded him. He stated that during the past year he had endeavored to place the interests of the association foremost in his mind and would endeavor to continue to do so. Similar speeches were made by other newly-elected officers, all of whom received generous applause.

Mr. F. W. Newton, secretary of the Victoria association, was present, and spoke briefly as representative of that branch of the organization. He expressed the opinion that the annual meeting should be held in the capital city next year, but no action was taken in this connection.

Although the discussion at last night's meeting was upon several subjects of vital importance to the province, greatest enthusiasm centered around a proposal of the president to the effect that some decisive action should be taken by local manufacturers with a view to developing trade with Russia, the Orient and other foreign countries. He pointed out that in Seattle a company capitalized at over \$1,000,000 had been formed in an effort to reach out for this trade and recommended that action along this line be taken by British Columbia manufacturers.

Plan Big Banquet

After considerable discussion on the question, Mr. S. A. Prenter moved that a committee consisting of some of the strongest business men of the city be appointed to make arrangements for a grand banquet composed of members of the various organizations of the city to be held in the near future. It is planned to look into the question of forming this company along the same lines as that formed in Seattle at this banquet. In moving the resolution, Mr. Prenter pointed out that in the past Vancouver had always followed Seattle in matters of this kind rather than taking the lead. He also referred briefly to the excessive freight rates to the Orient and expressed that something along this line should be done, with a view to having these high freight rates reduced.

Mr. J. R. Duncan, of New Westminster, seconded the resolution, and in doing so stated that nothing could be done by talk and that decisive action should be taken to make the move a success. The question was

also discussed by Mr. Tanner, of the Pacific Lime Company. The motion passed, President Cunningham nominated the following committee: Messrs. Alderman Gale, J. A. Hall, G. G. Bushby, S. A. Prenter, Tanner and Cairns.

Tonnage for Port

The president then brought up the question of the appointment of a customs officer at New York and outlined his scheme for the securing of tonnage for traffic between the eastern and western Canadian ports, via the Panama Canal, by asking the government to place on this route the two steamers which have been operating between the Hudson's Bay and Montreal and which are off that route for the winter months. The question was not discussed at any great length but referred to the transportation committee for a report at the next meeting.

Another matter which the president brought to the attention of the association was that of the Canadian Northern Railway allegedly failing to live up to its agreement in connection with building operations in the province regarding the purchase of materials from local firms. It was pointed out that plastering contracts had been let to a Seattle concern and that companies in the east were being given contracts which were promised to western manufacturers. He recommended that representations be made to the government with a view to having a provincial commission look into the matter at the earliest possible date. A committee was appointed to take the matter up.

The question of trade with firms of alien origin was also taken up and it was moved that a request be made to the government that it go on record as opposed to giving trade to such concerns as these. The move was intended to be along the same lines as the imperial policy in this connection.

Interned Labor

Interned alien labor with relation to British Columbia was a question which was also discussed at considerable length. The discussion simmered down to the question of whether it was wise to employ interned alien labor in places where labor was at a premium. Mr. Tanner, of the Pacific Lime Co., pointed out that his firm was compelled to employ about 30 Chinese in cutting cordwood. He thought that a better policy would be to secure interned alien labor, pay them half wages, and turn over the remaining portion of the wages to the Patriotic Fund. Mr. Falconer, of the B. C. Vinegar Works, also spoke on this question, pointing out that in Vernon it was feared that much of the apple crop would go to waste owing to the difficulty in securing apple-pickers. He thought that it would be good policy to utilize the 200 Germans interned in this district for this purpose.

Alderman Gale threw considerable light on this question when he stated that the question was entirely one which came within the province of the military authorities. He also opposed turning loose any interned aliens in British Columbia. He pointed out that while interned British might be worked in Germany, it was a principle of international law that interned prisoners could not be forced to work unless they were so minded. It was finally decided to appoint a committee to make representations to the proper authorities if their investigation so warranted. The committee named consisted of President Cunningham and Messrs. Falconer and Tanner.

London Deciding Question

Brief mention was made of the question of shipbuilding in the province, the secretary pointing out that he had wired to Mr. Howard, the association's representative at Ottawa, several times with a view to finding out what the government was doing with regard to securing the privilege of local concerns being able to turn over the ships which they would build to foreign countries. So far no reply had been received, the last wire being to the effect that the matter was being taken up in London.

Discussing the matter, Mr. Coughlan, jr., whose firm, as we announced in *The World* yesterday, is in a position to secure a contract for the building of two steel ships from a Norwegian syndicate, stated that it appeared to be a matter of imperial policy. He thought that in view of the fact that the securing of these contracts meant a great deal for British Columbia, no impediment should be placed in the way by the government.

Should Teach Languages

The meeting endorsed the action of the board of trade in asking the University of British Columbia to make provision for two chairs, one for the teaching of the Russian, and the other for the teaching of the Spanish language, with a view to facilitating the endeavors of British Columbia merchants to capture a share of the trade with the countries represented by these languages.

With regard to the movement which is on foot to secure new quarters for the association, a committee of three was appointed to work in conjunction with the board of trade in this matter.

Messrs. Falconer and Hamilton addressed the meeting announcing that a British Columbia branch of the British Society of Chemical Industry was being formed and solicited the encouragement of the association in forming the organization.

A communication was received by the secretary from Mr. F. Clement Brown, pointing out the necessity and value of an insurance bureau where members might be able to find out the strength of the various insurance companies. The writer advocated the establishment of such a bureau in the province. This matter was left in the hands of the incoming insurance committee.