

# CITIZENS UNITE IN ORGANIZING STRONG LEAGUE

Between 2,000 and 3,000 Attend  
Meeting Marked by Utmost En-  
thusiasm and Unanimity

Temporary Officers Appointed, But  
Permanent Selection to be Made  
at Meeting in Two Weeks

Deep Sense of Loyalty to Canadian  
Laws, Protection of Life and Pro-  
perty Paramount Feature

At a meeting of between two and three thousand citizens of Winnipeg of all classes and creeds, occupations and professions, held in the convention hall of the Board of Trade building last night, the Citizens' League of Winnipeg was organized. Officers were temporarily elected and another meeting will be held in two weeks, when the permanent officials will be chosen.

With unanimity and enthusiasm, the constitution and bylaws were adopted, the only serious discussion arising when the meeting reached the election of officers. The bylaws provided that at the organization meeting these should be chosen by a committee nominated by the chairman. But when the list was submitted it was thought this was not a sufficiently democratic method and it was therefore decided that these officers should only act temporarily and that the general body of those who would become members of the league should have an opportunity of sending in names that will be voted upon at the adjourned organization meeting.

A. K. Godfrey presided over the gathering, and A. L. Crossin and Fletcher Sparling acted as temporary secretaries. The resolution forming the association and adopting the constitution and bylaws was moved by Rev. Dr. Pidgeon and seconded by Lieut.-Col. Harold Riley.

The constitution sets forth that:

(a) The inculcation of the best Canadian ideals; the cultivation of respect for Canadian law; the proper maintenance of constitutional government and the combatting of all forms of propaganda tending to subvert our established Canadian institutions.

(b) To create a deeper interest in public affairs, particularly in those civic departments essential to the protection of life and property, and to create among the citizens a greater interest in the selection of civic representatives and officials.

(c) To study economic principles as they relate to general employment and industrial questions; to disseminate reliable information on this subject and to cultivate a better understanding and closer relationship between employer and employee.

(d) To advocate and assist the formation of a National Organization through Canada under the name of "Canadian Citizens' League," to further the purposes and objects herein set forth as they affect Canada at large.

(e) To permanently carry on the work of the Citizens' Committee of One Thousand.

## Work of the League

The scope of the work of the league is indicated by the following fourteen standing committees which will carry on its activities: Committee to cooperate with returned soldiers; legislative committee; publicity committee; finance committee; membership committee; auxiliary motor transport; industrial economics; fire department; police department; telephone and postal departments; military and federal police departments; water, light and power, public works, health and parks; education and Canadian citizenship; municipal affairs.

The constitution also provides for the formation of a Women's auxiliary, and in addition to the officers and the executive committee, there will be what is called "The Citizens' Committee of Winnipeg," composed of them and the standing committees, and this committee shall be called in from time to time to advise the executive on matters of importance.

## Not Antagonistic to Labor.

"Much to my surprise I understand there is a question of the attitude of the organization committee or the old executive of the Citizens' Committee of One Thousand to organized labor in the minds of a percentage of our members," said Mr. Godfrey in opening the proceedings. "But there can be no question," he added, "that it is the desire and the intention of those who have in mind the perpetuation of this organization to make it possible for the better element of the labor party to associate itself with us," a statement which was greeted with loud applause. "I would not identify myself for one moment with this organization were that not the case. It is only by co-operation with labor, impressing upon them that their interests are our interests, and

our interests theirs that the desired ends can be attained. There is a gulf between employer and employed. I trust that the Citizens Committee of One Thousand by whatever name it may be called in future will endeavor to remove that gulf."

Continuing, the chairman said, it was because labor had not met its responsibilities in the past that it had been necessary for the citizens to organize. "The labor man who remains at home and works in his garden while the agitator is working his organization is not doing his duty, and we as citizens, notwithstanding our regard for labor, cannot forget that element was responsible for the trials and tribulations visited upon us during a period of six weeks. We cannot forget there was a movement started at Calgary last March, endorsed or assisted by American organizations, which was responsible for the launching of a revolution in Winnipeg on May 15 of this year; and we are also of opinion there was a percentage at least of the labor leaders in our community who had so deceived their following as to identify them with that movement, and that it was the intention of those leaders to organize in our community a soviet form of government which it was intended to extend throughout the west and take in the Non-Partisan league on North Dakota, the Twin cities and in Duluth."

#### Tells of Work Done.

Telling of the work of the Citizens' committee he declared that at no time was it tied up with either the employer or the employed. Its activities were along the lines of maintaining the public activities of the city. The committee did not represent any class or interests. "We represented," said the chairman amidst applause, "the interests of the loyal citizens of Winnipeg," and he added that the reports of what the committees had done should be incorporated in the archives of the city as an important part of the history of the city.

Concluding, he said, he looked upon the gathering as a great reunion of kindred spirits who had given service to the community in providing for the protection of its homes in a time of crisis.

"But there is additional work for you to do and I trust you will organize tonight, in such a way as to carry on, for the work is not completed. We have got to assure ourselves we will never have a recurrence of what happened in those six weeks; and it is for the purpose of perpetuating the organization of the citizens and eliminating a possibility of that recurrence we are here tonight."

#### Explains Constitution.

The chairman resumed his seat when Mr. Crossin read and explained the constitution and the bylaws.

"At the present time," said Mr. Crossin, "throughout Canada, throughout the United States and throughout certain of the European countries a campaign was being carried on, well organized and well financed, for the purpose of substituting constitutional means of removing grievances and obtaining redress by what is known as direct action, which is force. The leaders of the movement were profiting by the social unrest to get their propaganda before the people of this country with the idea of destroying the whole of our organized civilization. It was to combat such a movement, he said, the league was being formed and in support of action by constitutional means.

Coming to another branch of the league's work, Mr. Crossin said, a greater personal interest should be taken in civic affairs and said that citizens should be prepared to make sacrifices in behalf of the good government of the city. As to labor, he pointed out that the "Red" leaders wanted to create class hatred. It should be the business of the citizens to find some means of contact with their friends in the labor unions to discuss with them economic principles and what was beneficial for the whole field of industry.

Winnipeg, said Mr. Crossin, had got a reputation by what it had achieved as a result of the strike. Whether they liked it or not the name of the city had gone abroad through its fight with Bolshevism and they should be prepared if other places called upon them for assistance if something like what they had experienced occurred elsewhere.

#### Rev. Dr. Pidgeon.

Rev. Dr. Pidgeon in moving a resolution that the league be formed and that the constitution and bylaws be adopted, contrasted the forms of government that were put forward against democracy and pointed out that guaranteed opportunity was the gift of democracy to all classes that formed part of it. There was equal opportunity for all under democracy of getting a fair discussion and having a fair hearing. He claimed that every attempt to substitute force for fair discussion was a retrograde movement taking them back to conditions that obtained before democracy existed. What were they going to substitute for fair discussion and the appeal to public opinion? The clash of interests with the combination of the strongest interests prevailing until a stronger combination arose. "We must stamp that out wherever it appears," he exclaimed, with the approving cheers of the house. "We will give a man a right to fair discussion, a right to legitimate influence over the laws and the institutions of our country, but the right to take them by force; by any other means than persuasive and educative means we will not grant to any individuals or any set of individuals in our midst."

Dr. Pidgeon emphasized the opportunity the league would give the members of the community for getting together and spoke of the need of educating democracy. In face of the destructive propaganda that was being carried on. As an instance of the danger the country was facing he told of what he had learned from the officers of soldiers' organizations whom he met in Vancouver and what an American officer who had traveled across on a Canadian transport had informed him of the activities of an agitator among the returning men on that steamer. They should counteract this false education by emphasizing the importance of the human society. They must teach men to seek welfare of all classes, said Dr. Pidgeon and he expressed the belief that the league would do much to heal the gaps and wounds that appeared on the surface of the democratic life of the country.

Lieut.-Col. Riley, in seconding, declared that the people of the city must take a more attentive interest in their civic and political affairs and he expressed the opinion if such an organization as they were forming had been in existence before the strike it would have been the means of eliminating much that had happened by giving opportunity of fair discussion. "We must take a personal interest in these things," said he.

G. R. C. McLean thought that the clause in regard to the Citizens' Committee of One Thousand in the constitution should be eliminated. The strike was over and although he appreciated the work of the committee, he thought it would be better in the interests of the league if it were not permanently identified

with the committee. He moved an amendment to this effect.

The amendment having been seconded, Capt. Wheeler, speaking in opposition, called attention to what the committee had done and said he hoped the league would go through because, he said, "some of us who are in the know have positive proof that this movement against democracy is being financed by German money."

On a vote the amendment was lost, about fifty rising in support of it. The resolution was put and adopted unanimously.

The chairman then nominated Horace Ormond, Geo. Seale, D. J. Dyson, W. E. Wright, W. K. Chandler, W. J. Finucan, Hugh S. Y. Galbraith, as a nominating committee to name the officers.

#### Ald F. O. Fowler

Ald. F. O. Fowler, called upon to address the meeting, spoke of the work the league could perform in educating the public along the lines of good will and what was of general interest to the citizens. Declaring he had the greatest respect for labor he complimented the party on the interest it took in civic affairs and said it was not a credit to the citizens generally they did not act in the same way. He urged the community to give more attention to the affairs of the city. Speaking of the particular work of the league, he said that the great problem was to create a better feeling between the employing class and the employed, and emphasized that when labor troubles arose the great mass of citizens in between suffered. One of the duties that would devolve upon the league would be to correct some of the wrong impressions that existed between the employer and the employed of one another.

Capt. Wheeler, speaking again while the meeting was waiting for the nominating committee, said they should forget the sores of the past and stand shoulder to shoulder together for the welfare of the whole community.

When the nominating committee came in and submitted its selections, exception was taken by several as to the mode of election. It was pointed out that to avoid the charge the officers were the nominee of a clique and to have the election proceed on democratic lines all the members should have an opportunity of sending in names that could afterwards be voted upon. After a long discussion, during which some of the members named offered to resign, the meeting was adjourned as stated.

#### Temporary Officers

The officers selected by the nominating committee who will act temporary are:

President, Isaac Pitblado; first vice-president, A. K. Godfrey; second vice-president, Dr. W. F. Tay-

lor; third vice-president, Major N.K. Melvor, M.D.; hon.-secretary, Fletcher Sparling; hon.-treasurer, W. H. McWilliams.

Executive: A. L. Crossin, D. J. Scott, Burton McLean, Thos. Boyd, F. E. H. Luker, Geo. Guy, F. W. Adams, W. A. T. Sweatman, Capt. F. G. Thompson, Dr. E. S. Moorhead, Geo. W. Markel, Edward Parnell, A. S. Bond, J. E. Botterell, A. B. Stovel, C. C. Ferguson, Robert Jacob, M.L.A., R. A. C. Manning, Duncan Cameron, F. J. Baker, Louis Lelpste, Geo. Munro, E. C. Ryan, C. J. Brittain, T. J. Langford, M. F. Christie, D. B. Mulligan, J. A. Woods, Horace Chevler, J. C. Waugh, D. A. Clark, W. W. Richardson, H. M. Tucker, A. E. Rowland, G. W. Northwood, Thos. Sharpe, Dr. Halpenny, R. H. Smith, J. G. Sullivan, C. W. O. Lane, A. J. Bonnett, C. A. Richardson, R. L. Smith, D. N. Flinnle, Thos. L. Waldon, Norman Leach, H. D. Campbell, S. M. Campbell, D. Drehmer.

The report of the nominating committee was presented by W. K. Chandler, chairman, and its adoption was moved by Horace Ormond and D. J. Dyson.