

MINERS CUT FIGHT FUND

Per Capita Tax Reduced One-half--Plea for Re- lease of Prisoner-of- War Elmer

The beginning of the week finds the miners' delegates still in session, the big business of the meeting, that of drawing up the terms of the new agreement, not yet touched on.

The secretary-treasurer's report came up for discussion at the morning session, and with it attention was drawn to loans from the district fund still outstanding which, it was submitted, should be liquidated as soon as possible. Amongst these was one of \$20,000 incurred by the Fernie local for the erection of the Miners' Opera House, and additions. It was felt that the present members of the local could hardly be called upon to meet the loan, inasmuch as it was a back debt contracted by previous members. The opera house was regarded as a white elephant, and it was submitted that it should be disposed of as a means of paying back a portion of the debt. It was decided that two members of the executive board be appointed to go into the accounts of Fernie Local with a view to seeing what could be done in the matter.

REGARDING CONTRACTS

It was decided that the advisability of making all contracts expire simultaneously in the fall be brought before the International Board.

ECONOMIZING ON LEDGER

In the matter of cutting down expenses on the District Ledger, it was submitted that correspondence paid for should be curtailed as regards space on purely social affairs, and that more stress should be paid to having matter of educational interest to the readers at large.

VIEWS ON THE WAR

The convention agreed that it should go on record as decrying in no uncertain terms the European war, without commenting on the same. While remembering that the city of Lethbridge held the record for detaining aliens, pro rata with its population, and also the recent warning of the British government to Socialists and others in Great Britain that any action that may be construed to mean the attempting to keep men from enlisting will be considered a treasonable offence, it was felt that there is no law to prevent any individuals from expressing their abhorrence and demonstrating to the workers, especially in view of the cosmopolitan make-up of the organization that the members have no quarrel whatsoever with one another.

THE DEFENCE FUND

The matter of the defence fund which had been tabled, was brought up again, and after a roll call it was agreed that the present per capita fee be reduced from 45 cents to 25 cents.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The question of the organization as a whole taking up the establishing of co-operative stores, was debated at the Saturday afternoon session of the

miners' convention. It was agreed that while the convention held to the principles of co-operation the present time was inopportune for embarking on the scheme.

District officers were requested to gather data for forming a general sick and accident society with uniform fees.

THE ELMER CASE

The case of Herman Elmer, ex-secretary of the Michel local, who is at present incarcerated in the detention camp, Vernon, B. C., was taken up. The convention adopted a strongly worded protest against the action of the military authorities, stating that the seditious utterances charged against Elmer were purely and solely anti-war remarks in accordance with the principles of trades unionism in general, and not in any way pro-German. The protest went on to say that the method of laying information against Elmer was sinister and despicable, and that his daily actions were peaceable and law-abiding. Copies of the protest were ordered to be sent to Premier McBride and to the Dominion authorities, with a view to obtaining his release.