

G.W.V.A. FIXES SLIDING SCALE FOR BONUSES

Will Ask Cash Maximum of
\$2,500 and Minimum
of \$1,000

WILL COST \$215,000,000

Ask Government to Exclude
Aliens for Period of
15 Years

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Montreal, March 25.—After two days of discussion which at times became somewhat embittered, the Great War Veterans Association of Canada at its fourth annual convention here agreed to-night and adopted a definite bonus plan which fixes a maximum of \$2,500 and a minimum of \$1,000, subject to no deduction, and payable to 100 per cent. of the Canadian forces. This cash reestablishment bonus is based upon an additional \$1 per diem, total period of their enlistment to men who have seen service on a belligerent front. It is also asked that dependents of foreign soldiers or their beneficiaries should receive equitable compensation in the form of a lump sum cash bonus to be not less than the amount the soldier would have received had he returned at the date of the armistice. Finally the Government is asked to deal with the matter at the present session of Parliament. In view of the many and serious differences confronting the returned soldiers in their endeavors to become re-established.

The cost of the proposed bonus would be approximately \$215,000,000. Dominion Secretary-Treasurer MacNeill warned the delegates that the present Canadian Government had already definitely declared itself as being against an indiscriminate cash bonus and its opposition must be overcome before the passage of a measure embodying the bonus could be effected.

Having conceived a solution, he adds, it only remains to convince the public of Canada.

Embody Two Resolutions.

In speaking on the resolution brought in by the Re-establishment Committee, the adoption of which he had moved, Comrade Jenkins pointed out that the committee had tried to express in the resolution what appeared to be the wish of the convention. He showed that the resolution had a connecting link with the original G. W. V. A. plan. Comrade Woods of Calgary, in seconding the resolution, declared his endorsement of the measure, and said that he was out for the welfare of the country as much as for the returned soldier, and the last thing he would wish to do would be to embarrass the country in any way. He thought that the basis of \$1 per day for a man who served on a belligerent front was a very conservative one.

J. L. Ralston in moving the amendment to the effect that the G.W.V.A. scheme of the last convention be again adopted, submitted that the latter plan had been submitted by those who were thoroughly conversant with conditions

throughout the country, and that the plan was formulated only after thorough consideration. Its adoption, he said, would represent consistency on the part of the veterans, and submitted that without being consistent they could not hope for the sympathy of the people. He took objection to the Calgary plan, on the grounds that it did not show how much it would cost the country and did not favor giving able-bodied men who do not need re-establishment a gratuity on the same basis as men who are actually suffering. He further urged complete confidence in the chief executives of the organization.

Only Tentative Plan.

J. B. Dever, in seconding the amendment, opposed the resolution as presented as being a quit claim, and said he did not wish to place a price upon his head for services rendered. T. Dayso, of Alberta, stated that he was at Ottawa when the so-called G.W.V.A. plan was laid before the Parliamentary committee, and added that the plan had only been advanced as a tentative one, and that was the reason why it had not been acted on by the Government.

Col. A. T. Hunter of Toronto supported the G.W.V.A. plan called for in the amendment. He declared that the Government had in its possession all the figures showing the immense profits made during the war by the profiteers, but "would not dare give them out. The excuse was it would upset industry and production."

The soldiers of Canada had come back to this country, declared Col. Hunter to find that the Dominion had passed through an era of luxury and extravagance never before seen. He had been told that high salaries were paid men who remained in Canada because men claimed they could not live on less. He had replied that if these men had lived as the men in France had lived they would have been able to save.

Opposes Fancy Schemes.

He, though the Government should get after the profiteer and then pay the soldiers the gratuity they asked for, Col. Hunter was strongly opposed to any new "fancy scheme," preferring the scheme of basic re-establishment originally drawn up by the Dominion G.W.V.A. He thought the Dominion Executive should be backed up.

Capt. W. P. Grant, Ottawa, urged the adoption of the G.W.V.A. scheme also, but would add a clause that the gratuity be given all men "who desired it." This suggestion evoked considerable mirth in some quarters of the convention, but the amendment was placed on the table.

Bar Aliens Fifteen Years.

The Federal Government is asked to debar aliens from entry into Canada for fifteen years in a resolution passed at the morning session. The resolution occurs in the report of the Immigration, Naturalization and Deportation Committee, which was adopted after the time limit recommended had been changed. As originally presented, enemy aliens were to be debarred for five years. The amendment was mov-

ed by C. E. Haight of Toronto, and seconded by A. R. Wilkes of Toronto.

The resolution as carried follows: Whereas, in general, the present existing legislation in regard to immigration enforces certain restrictions in accordance with the economic conditions of the country, and, in certain instances, such legislation is not sufficiently stringent or well-defined, the Great War Veterans' Association of Canada, in annual convention assembled, hereby urge the Federal authorities to introduce amending legislation embodying the following principles:

(a) That outside of the portions of the British Empire populated by the white race, the only immigrants allowed should be from the northern and western countries of Europe (exclusive for the present, at least, of ex-**alien enemy** countries), where natural features and natural characteristics are more similar to our own, and, thereby, more apt to assimilate and present a higher standard of character and health.

(b) That a stricter supervision be exercised over immigration literature so as to eliminate deception and disappointment.

(c) That the medical examination of immigrants be made more stringent and severe in order to safeguard the health of the community.

(d) That Section 4 of the Immigration Act, which gives the Minister of Immigration the power to permit immigrants to enter Canada without being subject to the provisions of the act, be struck out, as it encourages favoritism and is a great source of abuse and is contrary to the very fundamental principles of democracy.

(e) That in all policies of immigration to be adopted encouragement should be given to get the best type of immigrants, such as the practical farmer and experienced mechanic, with particular preference to our comrades in arms in the Imperial forces.

(f) That the Immigration Act should be amended so as to debar from entry into Canada for fifteen years any subjects of those countries with which we were at war during 1914-1919, and that a physical and mental educational test be instituted at the close of this period.