

# GOVERNMENT URGED TO TAX PROFITEERS

## Veterans Would Tax All Victory Bonds in Excess of \$10,000.

Special to The Star.

Vancouver, July 7.—Enthusiastically supporting the resolution submitted by a special industrial committee the Dominion Convention of the G. W.V.A. launched a big drive against profiteers and expressed unalterable opposition to capitalists and combines which sought by economic, financial pressure, control of the governing bodies of Canada. The resolution also provided for the recovery by income or other taxes of excessive profits and the removal of exemption from taxation of victory bonds over \$10,000. More drastic measures if necessary and even for the conscription of wealth.

### No Doubt as to Stand.

Differences in opinion were expressed regarding the details of the resolution but there was no question as to the temper of the men who fought in France against profiteers. Delegate after delegate denounced in scathing terms practices rampant while the men were overseas. Every suggestion to adjourn or defer a vote on the resolution met with roars of disapproval. There was tremendous enthusiasm when it finally was endorsed.

The text of the resolution is as follows. "That this association is fully in sympathy with that portion of organized labor which is striving to better the condition of the workman through lawful, constitutional means and which is in no sympathy whatever with factions controlled by extremists, who strive by all means to overthrow British institutions and incessantly breed discord and advocate riot or revolution and that we are unalterably opposed to capitalistic combines which seek by economic or financial pressure to control to an unwarranted degree the governing bodies of this fair Dominion to detriment of the majority of the people of Canada.

"That whereas the expenditures of the country have risen to unprecedented level during the past five years, and whereas the common desire of all peoples in Canada that the revenues with which to meet these expenditures and expedite the payment of the national debt be derived by means of taxation levied upon those best able to bear the burden, and whereas there exists an inevitable tendency of the war bonds taken up by the people of Canada falling into the hands of few individuals, firms and corporations, the said bonds being exempt from taxation thereby forcing the people of Canada to pay tribute to a ring of financial magnates, be it therefore resolved that this body of Great War Veterans in national convention assembled urge that the Government of Canada be requested to introduce and firmly apply a steeply graduated income tax calculated to restore to the public treasury excess profits of all individuals, firms and corporations, and it is further resolved that the Government of Canada be called upon to introduce forthwith a measure providing that the income on all war bonds held by any individual, firm, or corporation exceeding face value \$10,000 constitute an assessable part of ordinary taxable income. And it is further resolved that should the Government consider the foregoing suggestions inadequate this association pledge its full support to any more drastic legislation deemed necessary."

### Aim To Reduce C. of L.

Here is the round-table clause of a resolution, which was the composite work of all the scores of resolutions brought in from all parts of Canada on the cost of living problem.

"Therefore, be it resolved that we, the Dominion Convention of the Great War Veterans' Association, do petition the Dominion Government to appoint a permanent commission composed of representative producers, manufacturers and wage earners, and such experts as may be necessary, to investigate and fix the cost of production, of manufacture, of transportation, and of sale of all essential commodities of life, and to prepare a schedule of all such costs, profits and wages for the sanction of Parliament, such schedule to be embodied in a statute with heavy penalties for the violation of same. This schedule to be revised by the commission from time to time as changing conditions may warrant."

### Would Make Loans Direct.

Among other recommendations to the Government in a report as passed, was that loans for building purposes be made direct by the Federal Government to ex-service applicants and that Provincial and municipal authorities take over cold storage plants; that all enemy aliens be immediately deported; that no child under sixteen years of age be permitted to engage in industry; that a longer period of vocational training be established; that a Canadian Air Service be established under national ownership and control and operation, with the workers sharing in the management, and that a permanent Cost of Living Commission be established.

During the closing session of the convention the inevitable rush of business occurred. Several resolutions, only partially considered, were referred to the incoming executive. This summary handling of important business drew fire from several delegates. Comrade Brockbank, Toronto Central, scored Chairman Dace, who acted in the absence of the president, for ruling out of order delegates who wished to speak. Rising to a point of order Comrade Brockbank said he had been sent by his branch at great expense to present the views of his comrades, and thought it a disgraceful manner in which important resolutions were being railroaded through.

### Refuse to Open Door.

A further effort to secure amendment to the constitution to admit associate members resulted in failure and the membership clause of the constitution stands as last year, excluding members who served in France's

vice will be eligible to membership. Toronto Branch delegates were in favor of admitting volunteers to membership, as were Central Branch, Riverdale and West Toronto. Against it were Parkdale and Earls court. When the result of the vote was known Comrade Brockbank, Toronto Central, demanded a per capita vote. He did not think it expressed the wishes of the great majority of the membership, who favored opening the door to volunteers. His motion calling for a per capita vote was not sustained.

A suggested amendment to the constitution providing for the establishment of a subsidiary organization within the association to be known as an amputation section was defeated, the opinion being that separate units were not advisable.

#### Would Give Gov't Funds.

A proposal that surplus funds in the hands of an organization that had raised them for war purposes be sequestered by the Government and used for the benefit of the dependents of the deceased and totally disabled soldiers was debated at some length. A motion that to the one exception, the Red Cross Society, should be added the Canadian Patriotic Fund became a subject of vigorous controversy, but carried by a small majority.

Clause five of the resolution on vocational training was amended to obtain for men who had enlisted as minors the same treatment as other men, which meant that the man who had married would receive a married man's, instead of a single man's, allowance.

Clause eight was expanded to include all veterans whatever the date of their return. The present regulations exclude those who came back in the early years of the war.

Comrade Watson, of Earls court, sought to have the question of juvenile organization discussed, but the convention referred it to the Dominion executive.

#### Change in Pensions.

At a late hour an important recommendation was made as to pensions. The resolution provides that in cases where there are small monthly payments they should be commuted to a long term of years and the pensioner given a lump sum which might help establish him in business, whereas the smaller monthly check could be of little substantial benefit. It was also recommended that where parents had lost one or more sons on whom they depended for support the pension be paid in proportion to the services that would have been rendered or might have been at some future time rendered by them.

This was referred to the Dominion executive.

#### Referred to Executive.

Just before the midnight adjournment a member called attention to the fact that while the delegates had adopted all sorts of resolutions to curb the alien enemy, no resolution had been adopted on the grave question of the early expiration of the War Time Elections Act, which means that those disenfranchised would in that case have a vote. This defect was remedied by referring it to the incoming executive to take vigorous action on. In that connection it was resolved that all alien enemy resolutions adopted be referred by the Dominion executive to the Dominion Parliament.

Resolutions were passed urging on the Government the provision of life insurance at cost for disabled soldiers, otherwise unable to obtain it, and requesting immediate adjustment of the pension claims of Imperial army veterans and their dependents.

Local and other branches of the G.W.V.A. were given power to place their property in the hands of trust companies for administration purposes.

A resolution asking for the general extension of the vote to women was presented by Comrade Barnard, but was referred to the executive. A similar fate befell a resolution asking that all excess profits made since the beginning of the war be confiscated and used for the benefit of widows and orphans of dead soldiers.

#### An Appeal From Quebec.

An address by Comrade R. A. Calder, of Montreal, on enlistment and drafting, and the general position of the French-Canadian in Quebec in the war provided a decidedly dramatic conclusion to the convention. It was given with intent to show that only harmony should exist among all classes of soldiers throughout the Dominion. It was one of the most eloquent addresses heard throughout the convention, and was continually punctuated with applause and its conclusion greeted with thunderous cheers of the whole assembly.

Comrade Calder, as he explained, came of a Scotch father and French-Canadian mother, and secured the right to address the convention on a question of privilege.

"I am," he said in explaining what he wished to talk about, "as completely free from prejudice in this matter as is possible to be, because I know both the qualities of Scotchmen and Frenchmen. We in Canada have the alternative of making Quebec either Scotland or Ireland. It can either be made the tremendous asset Scotland has been to Great Britain or a terrible drag that Ireland has been for the past years. It is possible to create the best feeling and harmony or continue the disaffection that has existed. We want to start the great body of public opinion in the direction of settlement and correction of the trouble. Disaffect."

takes have been made—mistakes that drove loyal people whole-heartedly with the allies in the war into a state of almost rebellion.

### **Mauled By Big Brother.**

Continuing, he said that the Province of Quebec was now in the position of the small boy who had been in a quarrel with a big brother, and was mourning a black eye and bruised shin, and while he and his brother were quarrelling, their mother had been set upon by a bully. The enthusiasm in Quebec for war in the beginning was as great, he continued, as was any Province in the whole Dominion and if that enthusiasm had not been kept up it was due entirely to mistakes by the Government in starting English units in Quebec and officering French units with English officers. There were only two units in the first stages to take in French-Canadians, and these were filled up almost immediately and the door then banged in the face of the recruits. French units were formed and not allowed to go overseas but were left to rot in Canada. Sir Sam Hughes had refused to open the door to French-Canadian recruiting and when conscription was brought into force was deliberately punched full of holes in Quebec so that those wanting to escape could do so without trouble. The whole affair had