

CONSERVATIVES OF BRANDON ORGANIZE

Express Regret That Efforts to Form Union Government Have Not Succeeded.

Brandon, Man., Aug. 17.—At the Conservative re-organization meeting tonight in the city hall, at which E. R. Chapman, director of National Service for M.D. No. 10, spoke, about 150 people were present, fully half being women.

The chair was occupied by William Bourke, who in his opening address, said that the chief business of the meeting was the re-organization of the Conservatives in this constituency along win-the-war lines as had been decided at their convention in Winnipeg. He said that the Winnipeg Conservative convention had adopted the policy of letting all party issues of a controversial nature stand to one side with the view of assisting the two parties to get together and avoid an election, that they had offered the open hand to the Liberals, but this had been rejected. He said that they must organize not for the purpose of a party fight, but rather with the idea of avoiding it, but at the same time they must be in a position that if an election must come that they are ready for it.

Continuing Mr. Bourke said that there was not a word in the resolutions passed by the women's mass meeting on Wednesday but that the Conservative party can endorse. He strongly advocated the disenfranchisement of alien enemies, saying that if the control of the western provinces had not been in the hands of those of alien birth, that the decision at the Liberal convention would have been of a very different nature.

Officers Elected

Officers were elected as follows: Patron, Right Hon. R. L. Borden; honorary president, Lt.-Col. Charles P. Templeton; president, William Bourke; vice-president, A. E. Bullock and Mrs. Jos. Cornell; secretary, J. A. Wilson, treasurer, H. D. Ball.

An executive of fifty, half men and half women, was also chosen.

Three resolutions were passed, the first expressed confidence in the premier, commending his efforts to form a union government, and regretted that Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not accept his patriotic offer.

The second advocated the immediate enforcement of the military service act of 1917. The third was as follows: "That we trust arrangements may yet be made so as to provide for the extension of the life of parliament by which a general election with its disturbing effects, may at this time, when all persons should be joined in the one great issue, before the empire, be avoided. In the event of a general election, however, we recommend that the present parliament pass a franchise act providing that the franchise be given to all persons, male and female, being British subjects, who were born in Canada or in the British empire or its possessions or of British parentage or in allied or neutral countries and to all Canadian soldiers."

E. R. Chapman then addressed the meeting. He said that he wanted it to be clearly understood that he did not appear in his official capacity as director of national service for this district. He said that at the present it looked inevitable that an election must come. This, he said, could not be blamed on the present government. He claimed that in 1915 when the government felt it should go to the people for a new mandate, the people then showed most clearly that they did not want an election and that it was the same now. He claimed that when the extension of government was granted last year for one year, there was a tacit understanding that should the war be still on at the end of that period, that it should be extended to the end of the war. He said that if an election should come it would be on two issues—conscription against anti-conscription—and they should do everything to unite the best in both parties into one united government. At the present time it was a crime to be divided over any party differences.