

# SAYS PERSONAL ATTACKS TAKE UP VALUABLE TIME

**Chairman Purney Appeals to  
War Veterans to Get Down  
to Business.**

**OTTAWA DELEGATE IS  
WELCOMED ON RETURN**

**Report Urges the Internment of  
All Alien Enemies in  
Canada.**

*Special to The Journal.*

TORONTO, Aug. 2.—Chairman Purney, before proceeding with the regular order of business, at the Great War Veterans' convention this morning, made an appeal for the elimination of personal attacks from discussions and for the general speeding up of business.

"This gathering," he declared, "has been in convention for several days and while we have discussed matters of vital importance, we have disposed of none of the very big questions before us. In future let us confine ourselves to remedies, and let us not take up the time of the convention with past mistakes. Let us show the public we are business men, capable of handling these questions. By so doing, we can regain whatever public confidence we have lost through recent regrettable events."

**Echo of the Split.**

In opening the convention, Chairman Purney announced his pleasure of seeing Comrade K. C. McPherson, of Ottawa, a member of the Dominion executive, in attendance at the convention. The announcement was greeted with cheers.

"I have not gone to such lengths to welcome any other late arrival," said the chairman, "but I think you will agree with me that this occasion demands extraordinary mention, in view of the recent regrettable events."

Comrade Wm. Richards, Fredericton, N.B., asked the president to read the following statement:

"With your permission I just want to say a few words relative to the disagreement of delegates from Ottawa and Winnipeg as to voting at this convention. Had they taken the wise counsel of the president, such a course would never have happened, and it is due to the patient and impartial judgment of the president that a crisis was avoided. Mayor Church, the champion of every returned soldier, Halifax to Vancouver, has again asked us to stick together and be united as comrades of the great war. Therefore I ask the comrades here assembled to not break the chain, but be united for the benefit of returned soldiers."

**Intern All Aliens.**

With practically no discussion the convention unanimously adopted the report of the special committee on the alien enemy question. The report urges the internment of all enemy aliens not engaged in work of national importance, the conscription of enemy alien labor, the appointment of a custodian of enemy alien property, and the cutting in half the minimum incomes on which alien enemies may be taxed.

The clause urging the abolition of



the publication of alien newspapers, books and periodicals was strongly endorsed by Comrade McNeil, of Saskatchewan.

#### Most Regrettable.

"I am only too sorry," said Comrade MacPherson, "that I was not here when the fireworks were on. I am indeed deeply sorry that such an incident has taken place, and that the Ottawa and Winnipeg delegates have withdrawn. I am not in a position to judge their action because I am in possession of only hearsay evidence regarding the withdrawal and the events leading up to it. I think, however, that it is most regrettable that Ottawa and Winnipeg have withdrawn."

President Purney read to the convention the statement given out by the Winnipeg and Ottawa delegates as to why they had retired from the convention. "I move, seconded by Comrade Jenkins, of Ottawa, that this statement be laid on the table without further discussion," said Comrade Creelman, Montreal.

#### Moved an Amendment.

"I would move an amendment that a small committee of three be appointed to meet the delegates and see if they cannot return to this convention" said Comrade MacPherson of Ottawa. "These are two of the largest branches in Canada and I think that some effort should be made to have the breach closed. We do want to be united and we do not want disorganization springing up all over Canada."

"I would second the amendment because I want the impression to go out that every effort has been made by the convention to reach an agreement," said Comrade Dryson, Calgary.

On the motion being put to the convention, there was an overwhelming vote in favor of a sub-committee being appointed by the chair.

President Purney appointed Comrade Hendrie, Hamilton; Creelman, Montreal and Dryson, Calgary, to meet the Winnipeg and Ottawa delegates.

"I would like to rise to a question of privilege," said Comrade Power, Quebec. "I have seen my photo in the paper with the statement that I am an insurgent. I am not an insurgent of any kind. I refuse to insurg against anything. I want to keep the G.W.V.A. alive, no matter what compromise may have to be reached." (Applause.)

When the convention opened, Capt. Powers, M.P., Quebec, said that he wished to introduce a non-contentious resolution providing that the headquarters staff and depot battalion in Canada should be filled by men who have seen service at the front.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

#### Papers Published in German.

Comrade McNeil, of Saskatchewan, said a serious situation obtained in the West where newspapers were published in the German language. "The situation is intolerable," he stated, "and we have for a long, long time been asking for, but getting no action by the Government. We in Saskatchewan realize that we must look at the problem unprejudicially, for we must assimilate the aliens. We have three groups—Those actually disloyal, those neutral, but ready to go whichever way they are pushed, and those loyal."

"In Saskatchewan papers are published in German. One of these is Der Courier of Regina. Its articles are extremely dangerous."

"The Germans in Saskatchewan are isolating and segregating themselves and in every way are striving to maintain their old traditions apart from the Canadians. We have protested to the Government, but have received evasive answers. We have asked that papers be used to circulate pro-Ally propaganda, but the Government has not seen fit to do so."

#### Amendment Carried.

An amendment carried, providing that any branches in a province where there is a Provincial Association should have to obtain a charter from the Provincial Association before being given a Dominion charter.

Comrade Goodwin moved a resolution that the Provincial and Municipal Governments be requested to issue no further licenses to allied aliens to conduct ice cream stores, shoe shine parlors, pool rooms, etc., and that such licenses where possible should be given to returned soldiers and that if such legislation is not already in effect it should be put into effect.

Comrade Turner, M.P.P., Regina, suggested that the resolution should be referred back to the Resolution Committee. It was finally decided to refer the matter back.

#### Provincial Control.

The discussion on Provincial control was one which occasioned long debate. Strong objection was taken by delegates Peart and Jenkins as to the position taken by the Ottawa branch of the G. W. V. A. "They have always refused to co-operate with the Provincial organization and have taken out a private charter under the name of the Returned Soldiers' Association."

Capt. MacPherson (Ottawa)—"The name has been changed to that of the Great War Veterans' Association of Ottawa."

"As this constitution comes from Ottawa, we naturally look for the nigger in the woodpile," stated Comrade Taylor, Kingston.

"Ottawa had nothing to do with this," said President Purney.

"O, Canada" will be sung before the national anthem at all sessions of the convention. Comrade Davidson, Peterboro, returned Chaplain, made an impassioned plea today that this should be done. "We are both Britons and Canadians," he said, "while we have an outlet of our British feeling, but we have no outlet as Canadians. As returned veterans we should show that we stand for Canada, first, last and always, and in doing so stand for the best interests of the Empire." (Applause.)

Comrade Davidson withdrew that part of his resolution which would make the singing of 'O Canada' binding in the local branches. It will be recommended to the branches, however, that such should be done.