

# APPOINT PEACE COMM. TO PATCH UP THE SPLIT

Secession of Winnipeg and Ottawa Delegates Had No Disquieting Effect To-day.

DISCUSS FOE ALIENS  
G. W. V. A. Convention Also Agrees on Some Articles of Constitution.

The secession from the Dominion Great War Veterans' convention of the delegates from Ottawa and Winnipeg failed to have any disturbing effect on to-day's session of the convention.

As soon as President Purney read the statement signed by the presidents of the Ottawa and Winnipeg branches advancing their reasons for withdrawing from the convention, Col. J. J. Creelman, Acting Mayor of Montreal, seconded by President Jenkins of the Ontario association, moved that the statement be laid on the table.

President Purney put the motion to the convention, and there seemed to be a unanimous chorus of "yeas" to let the matter drop.

Capt. K. C. McPherson, of Ottawa, a member of the Dominion executive, who made his first appearance before the convention to-day, said that he was sorry that the Ottawa delegates had seen fit to leave the convention. He intervened to prevent Col. Creelman's motion being carried, and moved an amendment that a special committee should be appointed by the president with a view to reaching an agreement with the seceding delegations. His amendment carried without division.

**Regret Convention Split.**  
Chairman Purney, before proceeding with the regular order of business, made an appeal for the closing of the convention to-day, 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 take up the time of the convention with past mistakes. Let us show the public we business men, capable of handling these questions. By so doing we can retain whatever public confidence we have lost through recent regrettable events."

In opening the convention Chairman Purney announced his pleasure in having 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."

"I am only too sorry," said Comrade McPherson, "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:

**Lay It On Table.**  
"I move, seconded by Comrade Jenkins, of Ontario, that this statement be laid on the table without further discussion," said Comrade Creelman, Montreal.

"I 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 McPherson, of Ottawa. "These are two of the largest branches in Canada and I think that some effort should be made to head the split. We want organizations 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 Dyson, Calgary.

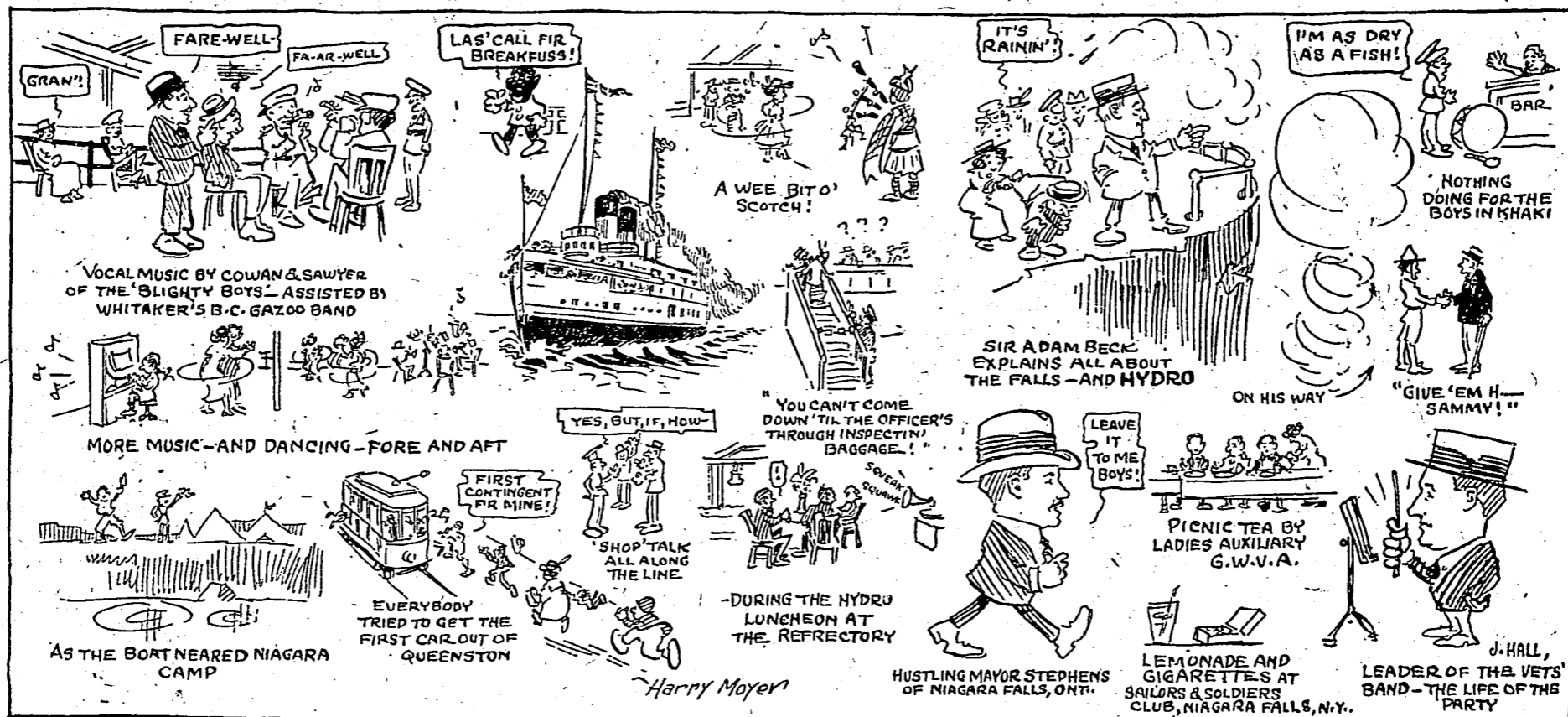
On the motion being put to the convention, there was an overwhelming vote in favor of a sub-committee being appointed by the chair.

**Appoint a Committee.**  
President Purney appointed Comrades Hendrie, Hamilton; Creelman, Montreal; and Dyson, 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 insure 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.

**Want Returned Men.**  
"I wish to move the following resolution," he said: "Whereas it has come to the knowledge of the G. W. V. A. that there are military headquarters staffs where there are officers who have not seen service at the front and whereas the G. W. V. A. is of the opinion that there are no positions on the headquarters staffs and depot battalions, except technical positions that cannot be filled with returned men and whereas this is sarcastic," said Capt. Powers, "this convention deputy appreciates the service that has been rendered by those who have trained men in Canada, but believes that such positions



Harry Meyer

could be better filled by officers who have trained men in France. Be it resolved, that the G. W. V. A. urgently requests the Minister of Militia to appoint to positions of military importance men who have seen service in France."

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Comrade William 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 averted. Mayor Church, the champion of every returned soldier from 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 to be united for the benefit of returned soldiers."

**Would Intern Alien Foes.**  
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 of the minimum incomes on which alien enemies may be taxed.

The clause urging the abolition of the publication of enemy alien newspapers, books, and periodicals was strongly endorsed by Comrade McNeil, of Saskatchewan.

"In Saskatchewan," he said, "the situation has been almost intolerable 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 unprefixed for we must assist 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 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 the papers be used to circulate pro-ally propaganda, but the Government has not seen fit to do so."

**The report on aliens recommends:**  
"All enemy aliens not engaged in work of national importance shall be immediately interned, said aliens to be employed in work of national importance, under military rule."

"No enemy alien shall be allowed to travel outside of a radius of five miles from his or her permanent abode without authorities."

"That a custodian be appointed at once for enemy alien property, with similar powers and duties in the United States and Australia."

"The present law governing the registration of enemy aliens shall be strictly enforced."

"The Dominion Income Tax Law shall be so amended as to reduce the exemption on married enemy aliens from \$3,000 to \$1,500, and in the case of single enemy aliens from \$1,500 to \$750. And further, that a super tax of 10 per cent. be added to the present income tax on enemy aliens."

"That the publication of enemy alien newspapers, books and periodicals in Canada be immediately abolished."

"All enemy aliens employed in Federal, Provincial and municipal governments shall be forthwith discharged."

**Would Rope in Allied Aliens.**  
"That measures be taken at once to make the Military Service Act applicable to all allied aliens in the same manner and to the same extent as to the citizens of Canada done by the Government of Canada of the United States, under the Alien Slacker bill, just passed by an overwhelming majority in the House of Representatives at Washington."

"I object to allied enemies being engaged in occupations not essential to the winning of the war," said Comrade Goodwin, Kingston. "I don't want these men to be engaged at shoe shining parlors, food stores, etc. If we can turn these men out of fruit stores, etc., we might be able

to get the returned soldiers in," said another comrade.

It is thought that there is a way to settle that difficulty by calling on the Provincial Governments to grant only such licenses to returned soldiers," said President Purney.

Comrade Goodwin withdrew his resolution to bring it up later.

**Adopt Aims and Objects.**  
The Constitutional Committee submitted its report. Article 4, relating to the aims and objects of the association, was adopted without discussion.

(a) To perpetuate the close and kindly ties of mutual service in the Great War, the recollections and association of that experience and to maintain proper standards of dignity and honor between all returned soldiers.

(b) To preserve the memory and records of those who suffered and died for the nation. To see to the erection of monuments to their valor, the provision of suitable burial places and the establishment of an annual memorial day.

(c) To ensure that proper provision is made for the due care of the sick, wounded and needy among those who have served, including reasonable pensions, employment for such as are capable, soldiers' homes, medical care and equitable provision for dependent families of enlisted men.

(d) To constantly inculcate loyalty to Canada and the Empire, and unstinted service in their interests.

(e) To guard carefully the good name, interests and the standing of our comrades still overseas, and to which they should be entitled upon their return.

(f) To impress upon its members that they are continuing in their services to Canada as citizens the same spirit of sacrifice and loyalty which they have shown to Canada and the Empire as soldiers, and to remain as members of the association, non-sectarian and non-partisan.

(g) To establish, maintain and operate clubs, club rooms, hospitals, employment and information bureaux, industrial and other schools and institutions, libraries and establishments for the benefit, promotion and advancement generally of the interests of soldiers, and to furnish, stock and equip the same in such manner as the association may determine.

(h) To establish, organize, and regulate Provincial and local bodies and commands and information centres throughout Canada.

(i) To raise funds for all purposes of the association by fees from members, by obtaining public and private grants and by various forms of amusement and entertainment, or instruction, and otherwise as the association may determine.

(j) To promote recruiting and enlistment and to assist forces on active service and in operating hospitals, convalescent homes, canteens, and other like institutions, either within, or without Canada.

(k) To do all such lawful acts and things relative or incidental to the said objects as may be found necessary or expedient.

(l) To take, purchase, hold, and acquire any real or personal property to be held, if desired, by any Provincial or local command or branch in said municipalities and subject to such rights and liabilities as are hereinafter more particularly set forth.

**Toronto Membership.**  
Comrade Finn, Prince Albert: "Why is it that Toronto has only 3,000 members, whereas a few months ago it had 6,000? I think that an enquiry should be made into the reason for the decline in the Toronto membership."

Comrade Meredith, Toronto: "I rise to a point of order."

President Purney: "You are quite right. That is a matter for the incoming Executive to deal with."

Comrade Meredith: "I take exception to the character of the remarks. Toronto never had more members than it has at the present time."

The Provincial associations were considerably strengthened by a number of amendments to the constitution. An amendment providing that the Provincial bodies should levy a per capita tax on every man within the Province instead of on every man within the Provincial body was carried.

Another 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 to Comrade Goodwin.

During the reading of the constitutional report Delegate Harris Turner, M.P.P., of Regina, took exception to the term "command" substituted for the term "branch." The clause was held in abeyance for further discussion.

**Discuss Per Capita Tax.**  
The per capita tax, as proposed in the constitution report, came in for some discussion. It was contended that by the clause, as worded in the initial report, the payment of the tax would fall heaviest on the smallest branches. The clause, as it concerned branches, being suspended for non-payment of the per capita tax after six months' arrears, was changed to three months.

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. "The branch always refused to co-operate with the Provincial organization and have taken out a private charter under the name of the Returned Soldiers' Association."

Captain MacPherson (Ottawa): "The name has been changed to that of the Great War Veterans Association of Ottawa."

"This constitution comes from Ottawa, we naturally look for the nigger in the wood pile," stated Comrade Taylor, Kingston.

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

**Loyalty of Quebec.**  
With no speech being given either before or after the moving of the motion, Major Lanolette, of Montreal, seconded by Delegate Georges Matte, of Quebec City, placed the following resolution before the convention, which was carried amidst a salvo of applause from all delegates:

"We, the Great War Veterans Association, is an organization of returned soldiers, who have actively served in the present war;

"Be it resolved, That the Great War Veterans' Association desire once more to affirm their unalterable conviction that the first duty of every Canadian is the winning of the war, and that each and every Canadian must be prepared to devote his or her time, energies, money, and even life, to the great cause, considering such service to be the privilege of citizenship in this our country."

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**To Sing "O, Canada."**  
"O, Canada" will be sung before the National Anthem at all sessions of the convention. Comrade Davidson, Peterboro, a returned chaplain, made an impassioned plea to-day that this should be done. "We are both Britons and Canadians," he said, "while we have an outlet for our British feeling 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.

The convention approved of the following article in the constitution dealing with organization.

"The organization shall consist of the Dominion command and subordinate to it the Provincial commands and local branches.

"The Dominion command shall be the supreme legislative and directing body of the association.

"The powers of the Dominion command shall be exercised in the first place by the Dominion convention, which shall meet annually at a place and time settled by vote of the next previous meeting.

"The powers of the convention shall be exercised by the Dominion Executive, which shall consist of the Dominion officers elected by the annual convention, to wit, the president and first and second vice-presidents and one representative from every Province, which representation shall be elected at the annual meeting of the convention by the vote of only the delegates from the Province that he is to represent.

"The Dominion Executive shall have power to perform and carry to completion work entrusted to it by the annual convention or this constitution, to fill all vacancies arising during the recess, to supply all omissions left undone by the convention and generally to enact rules and regulations governing the business of the association not inconsistent with this constitution or the expressed will of the convention. Provided such rules and regulations shall be faithfully reported to the next convention and shall cease to be operative after said convention unless confirmed thereby.

"The right to charter all subordinate commands and branches re-

mains in the Dominion Command.

"The work of organizing new commands or branches rests in the first place with the Dominion Executive, which may from time to time delegate any portion of this work to any subordinate command, and also resume the same, as to the Dominion Executive may seem in the interests of the association.

"Upon request of a majority of the branches in a Province a Provincial command may be chartered which shall operate under such Provincial constitution and laws as not inconsistent with this constitution shall be adopted by a Provincial convention, and its clauses confirmed by the Dominion Executive.

"Any clause of a Provincial constitution not confirmed by the Dominion Executive shall not be operative, but may be appealed by the Provincial Executive to the next Dominion convention for final settlement.

"Otherwise than by way of recommendation privately communicated to its immediately superior command, no other body than the Dominion command shall deal with matters of national import.

"In cases where there is a Provincial command, then otherwise than by way of recommendation privately communicated to a Provincial command, no other than a Provincial command shall deal with matters of Provincial import.

"Except as expressly limited by this constitution all commands and branches shall be deemed to have all necessary powers for the conduct of their affairs and forwarding the aims and objects of the association, but always within the confines of their respective spheres of action."

The following clause related to finance were adopted:

**Power To Levy Tax.**  
"For the support and maintenance of the Dominion Command there shall be levied a per capita tax on each and every member of the whole association through Canada, the amount of which shall be fixed annually by the annual convention. This tax shall be paid out of the general fund of every local branch and remitted in quarterly payments directly to the office of the Dominion Command, and shall be calculated on the number of members in the branch not more than six months in arrears.

"For the support and maintenance of the Provincial Command (when existent) there shall be levied a per capita tax on each and every member of the whole Provincial body, the amount of which shall be fixed by the Provincial convention. This tax shall be paid out of the general fund of every local branch in the Province and remitted in quarterly payments directly to the office of the Provincial Command and shall be calculated on the number of members in the branch not more than six months in arrears.

**Salaries and Remuneration.**  
"No salary or remuneration shall be paid to any member of the Dominion or any Provincial Executive, and no such member shall, outside of his authorized expenses, receive any money for his services."

"Salaried officers of all commands and branches, such as the secretary or secretary-treasurer, shall be appointed by, and be under the disciplinary control of, the Executive of the body for which they are working. The Executive may suspend or dismiss any such salaried officer and shall be responsible that any officer handling any funds of the association is properly bonded. In the absence of a written agreement, a salaried officer shall be deemed to be hired from month to month and shall be required to give one month's notice if he wishes to resign.

**Goes to British Columbia.**  
The 1919 convention of the association will be held in British Columbia, at a point to be decided by the British Columbia branches. Vancouver and Victoria both extended invitations, but Comrade Sharpe, of Brantford, suggested that the British Columbia

branches themselves decide the exact location. This suggestion was carried by a large vote.

"I think the east is perfectly willing to go to the far West next year. The Westerners can pick out the city."

"In inviting the association to convene in Vancouver next year," said Comrade Drinnan, president of the Vancouver branch, "I have in mind the difficulties we have had in organization. We feel that, to get proper recognition, we will have to show a bold front in the very near future. If you can come, the local branches will get a boost they can get in no other way. There are 25 branches in British Columbia, only seven of which are represented at this convention. Many of them are not affiliated with the Provincial body, but we hope to have them in before the end of the year."

By a majority of 62 to 22, the convention decided that the expenses of the delegates to this and future conventions be pooled and divided among the branches. The details regarding the division of expenses is to be left to the incoming executive.

A motion of Comrade Dawson, Hamilton, that the Federal Government should provide free transportation to those who had been sent home on furlough was unanimously carried. At the present time the furlough men have to pay their transportation themselves.

Comrade J. Horrocks assured the Star that Westboro branch, which he represents, which is a few miles outside Ottawa, is in no way connected with the Ottawa branch.

"We have 100 members," said he, "and four hundred and eighty residents are serving, or have served, in the great war."

**Wants "Equal Pensions."**  
Major H. B. Stephens, of Niagara Falls, Ont., was one of the first in Canada to espouse the privilege of equality of pensions for the returned men. He recently printed circulars and sent them out to every city and municipality. Favorable replies were received from a number of municipalities, and these were forwarded to the Government.

**Served in Three Wars.**  
Delegate A. J. Abbott, of Guelph, has served in India, South Africa, and the present war. He was awarded the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles, and was wounded at Zillebeke.

The whole 14 delegates from Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick attended the excursion to Niagara. "This is a real treat," said B. W. Russett, of the Dominion General Executive, "and the trip I am sure, was enjoyed to the full by all the attending delegates."

**Music By Returned Men.**  
The orchestra which discoursed music on the way to Niagara and on the return trip is composed of returned men. Their selections on both occasions were heartily applauded by the excursionists.

**B. C. Gazoo Band.**  
The "Gazoo" band selected from the British Columbia delegates made their presence heard on the cars from Queenston to Niagara Falls. Everything from "Brighty to 'Sussex by the Sea" was attempted and successfully negotiated.

**No Place For Reading.**  
A number of those taking the Niagara trip bought magazines, novels and other reading material with them. However, the music, congenial conversation, and convention discussion soon put all idea of reading far into the background.

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