

VETERANS DEPLORE RECENT DISORDERS

Statement Handed Out Following Meeting of G.W.V. Executive Held Last Night

At the fortnightly meeting of the executive council of the Great War Veterans last night the recent events in the city developed some animated discussion, and the following statement was authorized by the chairman, Donald Sinclair.

Bolshevism, in any shape or form, is absolutely repugnant to the returned soldiers, and while the executive are in hearty sympathy with the effort to stamp out this unsavoury and evil influence, yet they strongly deplore the disorders which have occurred. They desire to place on record that they have no sympathy with the actions of several irresponsible individuals who have, in the name of returned soldiers, caused so much damage and disturbance in the city, and instructions were issued this evening that the association rooms would not be permitted to be used for the purpose of holding meetings there by others than by legitimate members of the association."

The action of employers of alien enemies were freely criticised, and it was said that not until the returned soldier showed his determination of getting a square deal did the employers of such labor climb down and make overtures to returned men, which should have been made long ago.

The executive council, by a unanimous resolution, repudiated the suggestion that the damage was done by their members.

A committee was appointed to cooperate with the Labor party in a conference with the mayor, in the hope that these disorders would cease.

Situation Normal Again.

Everything was normal on the streets last night. Chief McPherson stated that a number of charges had been laid by private individuals in connection with the riots, warrants had been sworn out, and these would probably be executed in the ordinary course today; there were nine or ten of these and they dealt principally with wilful damage to property. The officials of the Great War Veterans have assured the police of active support in case of further outbreak.

The developments of yesterday showed that organized labor was behind the returned soldier, and opposed to the ultra socialist element. The following statement was issued from Labor headquarters yesterday:

"Interviewing the mayor as to the status of the present trouble, he informs us that he is of the opinion that disputes and differences will be settled in an orderly and constitutional manner. The great number of men returning is overflowing the labor market, and the returned men will not submit to any unjust treatment, so far as employment is concerned. It, therefore, resolves itself into a labor problem. The question can be solved only by the forces of organized labor and the returned soldier movement getting together and working in harmony. We would welcome such a getting together, and believed that it would result in the best interests of all concerned. The symptoms of the past few days are only a reflex of what is occurring all over the world, and we strongly urge that the spirit of self-restraint by all be exercised."

Signed,
ERNEST ROBINSON.
W. B. SIMPSON.
A. A. HEAPS.

At a mass meeting at which more than 2,000 returned soldiers were present on Monday night, it was decided to offer to the authorities the required number of men to assist in the keeping of order; a system of picketing of all places where troubles likely to occur will be established to prevent hoodlumism. Arrangements have also been made by which representative public men will wait on employers of labor to urge the replacing of aliens by returned soldiers seeking employment, as quickly as circumstances will permit.

Meeting Tomorrow Evening.

A mass meeting of returned soldiers and those interested in their welfare will be held at the Industrial Bureau tomorrow evening. W. B. Moore, secretary of the board of trade, gave the men assurance yesterday that his body was working at full pressure in an effort to replace alien labor with returned men. The following statement was issued by the soldiers' committee yesterday:

This is to advise the citizens of Winnipeg that the undermentioned committee of returned soldiers wish to announce that the wishes of the returned soldiers are as follows:

1. That all alien enemy property be at once confiscated as provided for by law.

2. That employers of alien enemy labor at once dismiss them and replace by returned soldiers regardless of nationality.

3. That wherever possible employers assist returned soldiers to make them proficient to replace these alien enemies.

4. That employers at once arrange to notify committee their willingness to meet same and state what their intentions are regarding these questions and prevent further unrest.

Returned Soldiers' committee:
W. Jenkinson, C. W. Marshall,
A. J. Searle, G. W. Enefer, Wm. Hutchinson, J. A. Martin, J. O'Gorman, A. Loosley, chairman.

Employers wishing to get in touch with this committee at once will please notify chairman at 1033 Aberdeen avenue, Winnipeg.

(Signed) **CHARLES F. GRAY,**
Mayor.