

TRANS GIVE HURT SHRIEF TO POLITICAL LEAGUE

Proposed League is Described as
Tool of "Bob" Rogers and
Col. A. G. Fonseca

Also That "Protective"
Organization Was Scheme to
Break Up Great War Veterans

Secretary Law Tells of Influence
Used to Try and Get Certain
Officer President of G.W.V.

The Soldiers' and Sailors'
Parliamentary Protective League
Canada came to the end of its
career, so far as Winnipeg
concerned, at an emergency
meeting of the Great War
Veterans on Saturday night.

Some 600 veterans assembled
in their hall listened to state-
ments with regard to the origin-
al nature of the "league" by
President J. O. Newton,
Secy. F. W. Law, A. Loosley, and
other comrades, and finally pass-
ed a resolution declaring that:

"Whereas, it is proven to the
satisfaction of this meeting that
the Soldiers' and Sailors' Parlia-
mentary Protective League is a
tool of Hon. Robert Rogers and
Lieut.-Col. A. G. Fonseca, there-
fore be it unanimously resolved
that we kill it."

Comrade Loosley declared his
intention of resigning forthwith
the secretariat of the league, of
returning to each member their
subscriptions and of destroying
the membership roll. A novel
incident in the meeting was an
address by Lieut. John Hayes,
the newly elected president of
the Army and Navy Veterans, in
which he warned the G.W.V.A.
members not to associate them-
selves with any political organ-
ization.

A resolution unanimously en-
forcing the stand taken by the
Army and Navy Veterans in hav-
ing neither truck nor talk with
the new league was unanimously
passed.

Officials Were Warned.
In opening the meeting, Mr. New-
ton pointed out that the G.W.V.A.
had notified the police, mayor and
military that if action were not taken
to suppress the Socialist meetings the
association would not be responsible
for what might happen. Later, when
the rioting started, certain members
of the association felt that there was
a special emergency, and so the Re-
turned Soldiers' committee was formed
by Comrade Loosley and others for
the time being. He did not judge
their action, but he wished to com-
mend their good work. A few days
later some members of the sub-com-
mittee voiced their suspicions that
it was not open and above-board.
These suspicions culminated last
Thursday, when the majority of the
members came back, after a pow-
wow, into the association, promising
to work in harmony with the execu-
tive.

The acting-president then called
on the meeting to start discussion.
In a flash, Lieut.-Col. A. G. Fonseca
strode to the front from among the
crowd around the door and declared
himself to be "the organizer for
Manitoba of the new league." He
asked for permission to read the by-
laws and constitution of the league.
"Throw him out," yelled a dozen
voices from among the returned men.
The chair called for, and obtained,
order, and then, addressing Colonel
Fonseca, Mr. Newton queried:
"Are you a member of this asso-
ciation?"
"Yes, an associate member."
"Have you your card of member-
ship on you?"

The colonel admitted that he had
not, and despite his protests, he was
ordered to leave the room, which he
at length did, followed by the jeers
and threats of the members, who de-
clared that he was responsible for all
efforts to break up the G.W.V.A.

Comrade A. Martin introduced the
subject in hand, and told of hints
thrown out by Comrade Loosley that
there was a \$1,000 cheque in it for
him if he succeeded in floating the
league.

Bunch of Political Crooks.
Comrade Sergt. A. E. Moore felt no
terrors over the names of certain
politicians. He didn't admire crooked
politicians on principle. Manitoba
had the name of being crooked politi-
cally and he thought the province had
earned the name. Some things in the
political history of the province left
the rottenness of the system thor-
oughly exposed.

A certain politician had promised
to help the returned men. He ad-
vised them to look up his reputation.
The name of a gallant colonel (laugh-
ter) had been mentioned. He did not
wish to be in the same boat with that
man. Returned men did not need to
go to any bunch of political crooks
for help. If they held together they
could demand and obtain everything
they wanted. He hoped to see one of
them in the rank and file elected to parlia-
ment to represent the returned men.
(Loud applause.)

Continuing, the sergeant declared
that returned men could direct the
political life of this province into
right channels by their own unaided
efforts. They should demand what
they wanted, and, if they didn't get
it, they should throw the politicians
out.

"I'll not listen to any crook," de-
clared Sergt. Moore. "I'll, so far as

an, squash every crook who raises his head in my path. Let the returned men, every one of them, put their feet on this party serpent and kill it. Don't get mixed up with a bunch of crooks who are out for your harm. Stick together and you will get all you want, your full rights. Moath your 'grousings' here at home. I like a fighter, only don't sell yourselves to a bunch of politicians who have bad records." He told that the league propaganda was well camouflaged. He had himself joined it and been a member for one hour, after which time he had resigned.

He told of having been asked to leave the league's office when a certain brewer from Flinwood entered one day. He understood that certain members of the league had promised to get them beer, and he declared that the G.W.V.A. was just as able to get them that as any crooked political organization.

Committee Got "Action."

H. J. Mansfield recounted the good work done by the Returned Soldiers' committee while it lasted. It had got speedier and better results than any other organization in Canada. He assailed the statements recently made that to deport all aliens would halt the wheels of Canadian industry, declaring that such a statement was a slur on every returned man. He also had joined the Soldiers and Sailors' Parliamentary league. He only left it when he saw a definite split in sight in the ranks of the G.W.V.A. After Comrade Loosley left the committee he accepted the chairmanship on condition that he be empowered to "pow-wow" with the G.W.V.A. with a view to returning to the parent fold. He had been appointed to the civic committee together with Comrade Loosley. The Returned Men's committee was now dissolved and it was never out to break up the G.W.V.A.

Comrade E. Davis declared that he would not join the league. He had been a member of the Returned Soldiers' committee and he had always felt that the league, or any similar organization, should be approached with extreme care and caution. He told of the good work done by the committee by getting aliens removed and returned men started at a good living wage.

Undercurrent of Mystery.

Comrade R. Radcliffe admitted that the soldiers' committee had done good work, though he always felt that there was an undercurrent of mystery connected with it. What the returned soldiers needed was unified action under a unified command, such as won the battles of the war. Comrade Radcliffe came right out and charged that a comrade (Smith of the 25th battalion) had declared that Hon. Robert Rogers had offered a cheque for \$1,000 to the man who succeeded in starting the league. He asserted that they needed no such league, but common, united effort for the common good.

Comrade W. Bath: opened his plea for no split in the veterans with a charge that a certain gentleman should be called "Bob Dodgers." That man was throwing out his secret service hooks. One of these hooks had landed at the feet of the returned soldiers. He warned them that if they got entangled with it it would tear them asunder. When the G.W.V.A. started everybody laughed at them. Now they were a fact and powerful the politicians were out after them. If a politician were clean they should fight him clean, but if he were crooked they should treat him rough and so break him of his crookedness.

The speaker execrated the name of Colonel Fonseca, declaring that he had been the active agent in the organization of the league as he had given himself the title of organizer for Manitoba. He warned the mem-

bers that attempts had been made to undermine the president and secretary of the G.W.V. They would try it again. All the efforts came from "Bob" Rogers and his menials, who were plotting to destroy the association. They had to break up that movement or be broken up.

Murray After Presidency.

Comrade F. W. Law, paid secretary of the association, and one of the fifteen "charter members," told of three visits paid to him in his office by Hon. Robert Rogers. The first time he needed a chauffeur, and subsequently he affectionately informed Mr. Law that anything he or the boys wanted he would get for them.

Mr. Law told of how Mayor Gray, just after he was elected mayor last November, invited him to go to the Telegram building and meet some gentlemen. When he got there Knox McGee met him with these words:

"Mr. Law, I want you to meet Lieut.-Col. Murray, who would like to be president of the Great War Veterans' association. Not that Maxwell is not a good man, but Murray would have a better influence."

"I just said to Mr. McGee," Mr. Law explained to the veterans last night, "'Let him go to h——.' Then, turning to Mayor Gray, I said:

First Ounce of Flesh.

"Mr. Gray, this is the first ounce of the pound of flesh they mean to exact from you for their support in your mayoral campaign."

"You surely don't think that," said the mayor-elect.

"I made inquiries," continued Mr. Law, "and found that Murray was a political colonel elected to his job by Rogers at Ottawa."

Comrade Loosley, the president and secretary of the league that had created such bitterness in controversy, got up to speak and, though a large number of the returned men didn't want to give him the floor, fair play counsels prevailed, and he, at last, with constant interruptions, got a hearing. He had never had any intention, he declared, of breaking up the existing soldiers' organizations. Since he saw the temper of that meeting he would, on the spot, resign from the political league. He did not wish to leave the Great War Veterans. Lieut.-Col. Fonseca had got him the job and he was just a salaried official.

Andrews on Aliens.

Major G. W. Andrews, D.S.O., M.P., sympathized with the soldiers in their demands, but did not condone some of "the rough stuff" that had been pulled off. It was a big problem. The alien was everywhere. There were men, loyal to the cause of the allies, who had given sons to the allied cause, and some of them were unnaturalized aliens. It was hoped that the new Aliens' court would give these cards to protect them, even while the disloyal found no sympathy or employment. They needed organized efforts, not riots. They should go after what they wanted, declared the major, "and, by George, we can get it, too," he concluded, amid applause.

A new precedent was established when President John Hayes, of the Army and Navy Veterans' association, was called to the platform. He gave more light on the workings and objects of the proposed league. Col. Fonseca himself had approached him with a suggestion that the Army and Navy association support the league, and the chief argument put forward by him was that this league was "sure to break up the Great War Veterans."

"I have seen Bob Rogers behind some promotions, in the front line trenches," declared Mr. Hayes, in warning the association "to have nothing to do with party politics, especially with men like Rogers and Fonseca."

At this stage a select committee, consisting of Comrades A. E. Moore, R. Radcliffe, H. J. Mansfield, C. V. Combe, and (ex-officio) J. O. Newton, to draft ways and means "to forewarn, and therefore to forearm soldiers who were yet to return from overseas."

The meeting closed with the National Anthem.