

DISAGREE ON ALIEN POLICY

British Columbia Delegates to G.W.V.A. Convention Oppos- ed to Granting of Fran- chise to Asiatics.

MONTREAL, March 23.—The delegates attending the annual convention of the Great War Veterans' Association in the Windsor Hotel here, had their first disagreement yesterday afternoon when the executive sought to introduce its declaration of principles to the organization. The declaration included a clause which proposed to extend the franchise, among other classes, "to "all persons of foreign birth of like age, who have properly declared their desire for citizenship and who, after due probation, have been naturalized and who have assumed the full responsibilities of Canadian citizenship."

The British Columbia representatives objected to the clause on the ground of the Oriental question. A debate followed in which Chairman Maxwell, who had taken the chair on account of the illness of President Purney, had difficulty in preserving order and finally the clause was withdrawn temporarily.

The rest of the clauses in the policy of the association were adopted without much discussion.

Want Adequate Pensions

The declaration pledges the members to common service of their country; rejects any claim to special favors for war services; declares for adequate pensions for dependents of dead soldiers and disabled veterans; deploras the existence of racial, social, political and religious conditions which are harmful and pernicious; declares for free expression of the people's will in a constitutional way, urges the franchise for all persons of Canadian or British birth over 21 years old, and to all persons of foreign birth, who have fulfilled the necessary probation and conditions.

Committees were appointed including one of procedure, which is to formulate a policy for governing the action of delegates. The business accomplished by the convention during its opening day included the adoption of a resolution containing greetings to the King and Prince of Wales and others, the secretary-treasurer's report and the bulk of the declaration of principles.

Greetings were sent to His Majesty King George, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Sir Douglas, Marshal Foch and Sir Arthur Currie.

Branches Total 770.

The report of the secretary, C. G. McNeil, stated that the branches of the association now established throughout Canada totaled 770, as compared with 540 at last year's convention.

The whole of the Dominion was now represented and international affiliation with the British Great War Veterans of America had tentative been arranged. Total membership of the association was 250,000, approximately.

After reiterating steps taken to secure a more adequate measure of re-establishment on behalf of soldiers and dependents from the government, the secretary's report says:

"It devolves upon this convention to decide what further demands shall be made on the government on behalf of returned soldiers and dependents."

The report was adopted.