

Ed. E. Spencer

The **MANITOBA VETERAN**

*Official Organ of and
Published by the*



*Manitoba Command
G-W-V-A*

Annual Convention Number

*Containing Summary of Reports of
Committees, Secretary's Report, Re-
solutions as Passed by the Fourth
Annual Convention of the G.W.V.A.,
Manitoba Command, held at Dauphin,
March 14th-15th, 1922*

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FOREWORD

The Publicity Committee of the Manitoba Veteran, in presenting the second Annual Convention Number, take the opportunity of thanking those firms and good friends whose practical appreciation of the work of the Great War Veterans' Association has made this issue possible.

The past year has been a most trying one for business generally, and the depression in industry, with the consequent lack of employment, has taxed the resources of the G.W.V.A. to the straining point.

In spite, however, of the enormous difficulties with which the organization has had to contend, it has accomplished in the past year, in service to ex-service men and dependents, more than in any previous year in its history.

It was during 1921 that the Clean Sweep Campaign was organized, with a view to obtaining settlement of outstanding and disputed claims. This added extensively to the work of the Manitoba Command, at a time when general conditions made reductions of staff imperative. The service policy of the organization had to be maintained, and the situation was met by a generous disregard of quitting time. And this in spite of the fact that 80% of the work undertaken, in many cases involving claims amounting to hundreds of dollars, was on behalf of non-members.

The reward to the Association lies in the satisfaction of having maintained and increased its service on behalf of those to whom it is pledged. We believe there is a brighter period before us, and that the stoniest mile on the road to a real peace has been passed.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE,

The Manitoba Veteran.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Great War Veterans' Association, Manitoba Command, desires to express its thanks to the advertisers who have taken space in this publication and also to the following for their kind and generous co-operation:

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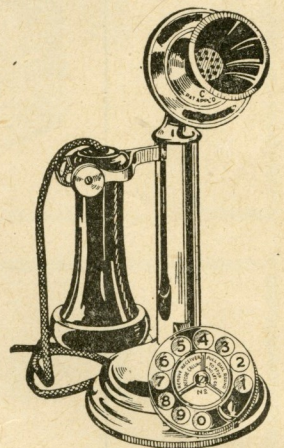
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Annual Convention Number

THE MANITOBA VETERAN

Official Organ of and Published by the Manitoba Command, G.W.V.A.

WINNIPEG, CANADA

April, 1922

Manitoba Provincial Convention

G.W.V.A. Hold Annual Session at Dauphin

TAKING into consideration the serious setback among the soldier settlers in the past year, not to mention the actual distress existing in many parts of the province, the attendance at the fourth annual convention of the G.W.V.A., Manitoba Command, was more than up to expectations. The reports submitted by the various committees were of a character indicating that the subjects concerned had received unhurried study, and the report of the secretary (published elsewhere in this issue) gave assurance of continued service to ex-service men and dependents.

The convention opened at Dauphin, March 14th, the sessions lasting two days. The splendid Memorial Hall, erected by the local branch, was inspected by the delegates, and doubtless the energetic and successful campaign of the Dauphin comrades will give strength of emulation to other centres. Certainly what Dauphin has done others can do, the only condition being enthusiasm, coupled with hard work.

After the address of welcome by Mayor H. V. Smith, the convention proceeded to business, receiving the president's report.

President Martinson, in a succinct review of general conditions, drew attention to the many serious and unsolved problems yet facing the returned citizen. The question of unemployment in urban centres and distress among our comrades on the land were particularly stressed. The re-establishment issue would again be to the fore with another parliamentary committee created this year, and he trusted this opportunity of laying our just claims before the country would not be marred by selfish interests. "As we served in time of war to secure justice and peace, let us continue to serve now to develop that justice and make more beneficial that peace."

The legislative committee report was reviewed with the greatest satis-

faction, and evinced a close attention by the committee to the legislative requirements of the returned citizen and the dependents. The following is a summary of the work of the committee, through representation to

the local legislature: War Relief Act. (1) Act extended until 31st May, 1922. (2) Statute of Limitations suspended as regard veteran creditors. (3) Provision made for the redemption by veterans of any interest in

any property, or in any security charged on property which, since August 1st, 1914, has been sold for taxes or proceeded against by way of foreclosure, or cancellation or forfeiture.

Further extension of the War Relief Act is dealt with in the following recommendation of the committee:

"The matter of the further extension of the War Relief Act has received considerable attention at the hands of your committee. It has been brought forcibly to our attention that the Act as at present constituted, while undoubtedly affording protection to the returned soldiers and dependents is in addition being utilized as a means of avoiding legitimate obligations to the great detriment of individuals whose actions are in good faith. This applies particularly to speculative property and to property in which a soldier has only a nominal or very slight interest, but by reason of which the real owners who may not be returned soldiers, receive the benefit of the Act.

"Your committee has been approached in the matter by a committee of the Law Society of Manitoba, and also by the Mortgage Loan Association and members of your committee have attended several meetings of these bodies. Your committee has taken the attitude that the association has no desire to protect any class of individual other than those for whose benefit the Act was designed. Your committee has also stated, however, that it will not approve any attempt to interfere with the legitimate purposes of the Act, at least until corresponding measures are taken in regard to the general moratorium. Your committee has further laid down the principle that under no circumstances shall the War Relief Act be amended at present so as to lessen in any way the rights of soldiers or dependents in regard to property used as a home or homestead.



MAJOR-GENERAL H. D. B. KETCHEN, C.B., C.M.G.,
Honorary President

"As a result of the negotiations above referred to a scheme is now in process of formation embodying in the main the following points:

"(1) That the home or homestead of the soldier, soldier's widow, or dependent, remain protected as at present.

"(2) That a tribunal be appointed, consisting of a travelling chairman, who shall be appointed by the provincial government, the district registrar in any land title district, and an accredited representative of a chartered veteran organization, before whom any person may appear with a view to deciding whether the War Relief Act shall or shall not apply to any soldier in respect of any property other than his home or homestead. The costs of the application to be paid by the applicant and if successful to be added to his claim. The decision of the tribunal in all cases, to be final.

"Your committee is of the opinion that this proposal, if found practicable, would work to the best interest of returned soldiers in general, and the community as a whole, and would respectfully ask for the concurrence of this convention therein."

Soldiers' Taxation Relief Act

(1) Time for filing applications extended to December 31st, 1921.

(2) Taxation exemption granted to widows of soldiers, and totally disabled prisoners, until death, or in case of the widow, until remarriage. Exemption is to the extent of \$75.00 per annum, and applies only to the home of the pensioner or widow.

(3) The \$300.00 limit on refund eliminated from the act.

The committee had drafted the following recommendations to extend the benefits of the act, and drew attention to the necessity of making the provisions of the act more widely known, past experience showing that very many beneficiaries were ignorant of its intent:

(a) Extension of the time for receiving applications until Dec. 31st, 1922.

(b) The exemption of the homes of widows and totally disabled pensioners to apply whether such home was purchased before or after discharge, or in the case of a widow after the death of her husband.

(c) The exemption to apply to the orphan child of any soldier and to the widowed mother of any deceased soldier, providing in the latter case that the condition of dependency exists.

(d) The exemption to apply also on the house of any soldier who, although in receipt of pension, is confined to any sanatorium or other similar institution as a result of war service, for the period of such confinement.

(e) The removal of the limitation on the amount recoverable under this act to be made retroactive to the 4th of August, 1914.

Municipal Assessment

(1) Prevent any municipality from issuing distress warrants for taxes against the chattels of soldier settlers for a period of four years from the time of his taking possession of the land.

(2) Prevent any municipality from charging percentages on unpaid taxes on soldier settler lands at a higher rate of interest than 8% per annum for a period of four years from the date of such settler taking possession of his lands.

(3) That such legislation be made retroactive.

Housing Act

An amendment had been secured to the act, which empowered municipalities to advance money to totally disabled pensioners, and widows of soldiers, for the purpose of clearing off encumbrances against the home of such pensioners or widows to the extent of 100%.

The committee recommended that the benefits of the Housing Act be extended to permit any municipality to advance loans to widows of soldiers for the purpose of building a home. Said loan to be to the full value of the home.

The committee paid tribute to the valuable assistance afforded by the legislative committee of the Army

were among the pressing problems dealt with in this committee's report. A questionnaire aiming to bring to light the actual conditions obtaining among soldier settlers had been drawn up and submitted to the Dominion Command for federal action. In addition the following resolution had been drawn up for submission to the Manitoba legislature:

"Whereas a large number of veterans of the late war have purchased land, stock, and equipment under the Soldier Settlement Act, and are now residing upon and cultivating the said lands, and

"Whereas in many cases the said land, stock and equipment was so purchased, at prices greatly in excess of the prices now prevailing, and in some cases at a price in excess of the

of the Dominion government, with the request that they should have an immediate and if necessary a complete revaluation made of all lands, stock and equipment, so purchased by veterans residing in the province of Manitoba with a view of relieving in some practical way those who have been induced to purchase at a price which makes it impossible that they will be able to make a success of their farming operations."

In closing, the committee expressed the opinion that, "while the fundamental principle of the Soldier Settlement Act is sound, a radical change in methods of operation and administration is long past due."

Membership Committee

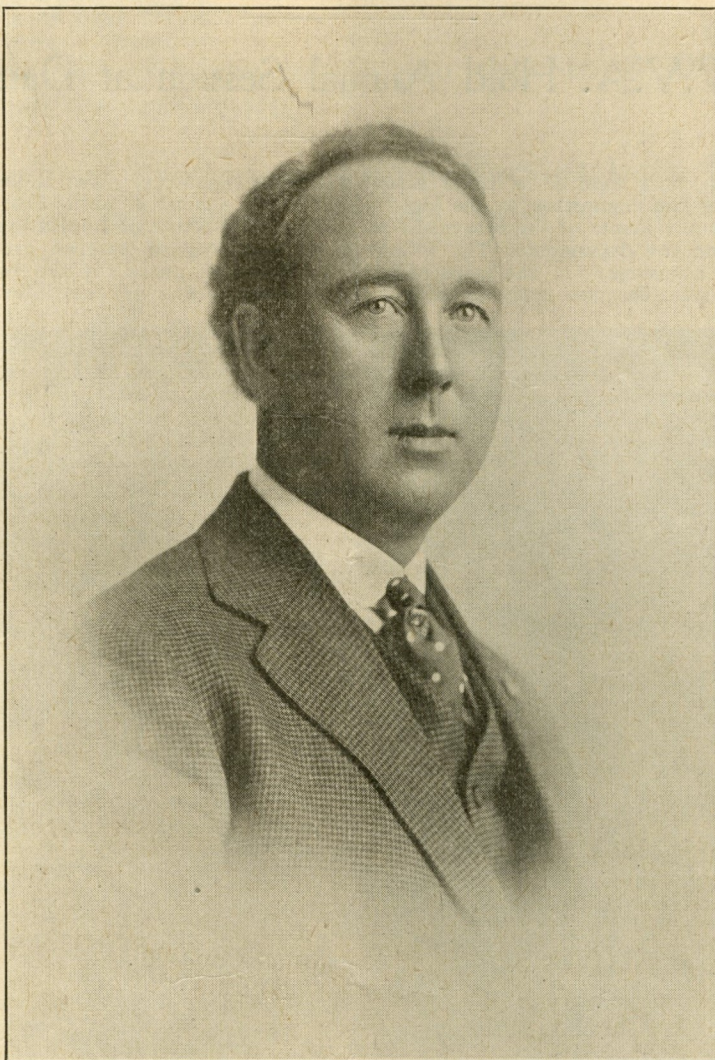
Considering the very adverse conditions prevailing in the country, it would not have been surprising had this committee been obliged to report a considerable falling off in membership. The more so when it is considered that 90% of the branches of the association are country ones. It would come as a surprise to many therefore to learn that the paid up membership of the G.W.V.A. in Manitoba is nearly double the number of last year. Many new friends, the committee point out, are obtained through the service end of the organization, which gives attention irrespective of whether the applicant is a member or not. Regarding the pending amalgamation proposals, the committee thought that many prospective members were holding back awaiting the outcome of the negotiations. Closing, the committee express confidence in the G.W.V.A., as the front rank organization of veterans, so long as we continue to maintain the unstinted service to comrades and dependents on which the sure foundation of the association was built.

Consideration of resolutions was the first order of business on the second day, the main subjects dealt with being the following: Amalgamation, canteen funds, declared deserters, duplication of executive positions, exchange rates, housing, immigration, returned soldiers' insurance, distraint for rent, medical attendance, resolutions on pensions, soldier settlement board and vocational training. These resolutions will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Among the defeated resolutions were those opposing the provincial income tax, favoring a tax on unearned increment, and supporting the petition of the Moderation League. These resolutions were defeated, or refused consideration, not on their merits, but on the stand that they were questions outside the scope of a veteran organization. This is a rather touchy matter, and resolutions to be submitted to the conventions, will always, in a large measure, be the product of local conditions, living conditions perhaps would express it better. This is especially true of urban centres; and in this regard the most important of the defeated resolutions were those adopted by the Winnipeg Branch, which may be said to be the only branch in the province at present actively representative of urban views.

Dominion President R. B. Maxwell was present at the convention and delivered an interesting address on the progress of the association. He reviewed the work of the Dominion Command, and pointed out that as a body the organization had obtained recognition as a strong stabilising force in the country.

Comrade David Loughlan, late editor of the "Veteran," was also pres-



A. IRWIN,
President, Manitoba Command, G.W.V.A.

and Navy Veterans and to the work of Comrade A. E. Moore and Major F. G. Taylor in steering the legislation through the provincial house.

Agricultural Committee

This committee had performed much useful work during the year, and had become a valuable medium for the discussion of individual cases, and in framing the grievances of settlers for submission to the S.S.B. Many cases of sickness and distress had been taken up and relief secured. In this connection the committee made grateful acknowledgment of the Red Cross, who had ever been ready to render assistance. The defects of the Soldier Settlement Act and the distress among many of the settlers, who through no fault of their own, were unable to make good,

then actual value thereof, and,

"Whereas some of such veterans have already deserted the land so purchased because of their inability to pay for the same at the price at which it was purchased, and others will be compelled to do likewise unless some redress is provided, and,

"Whereas agriculture is the basic industry of this province, and it is of the utmost importance that land settlers and particularly returned soldier veterans who have settled on the land should receive every possible encouragement, and all needful assistance to enable them to stay on the land, now,

"Therefore, be it resolved that in the opinion of this house the matters referred to in the preamble hereof should be drawn to the attention

ent and gave an outline of the functions of the Fouranex, a new and secret organization, designed in the main to bring the element of fun and sport, as an adjunct to the more serious

work of the association. Comrade Loughlan has had a wide experience of the more serious (too serious) side of our activities, and has an extensive attendance of long-faced, lengthy

meetings to his credit.

The election of officers brought the convention to a close, after a very businesslike two days' sitting. The selection of Winnipeg as the next

convention centre, was adopted with general approval, and that city will not be sluggish in its endeavors to make the fifth annual convention a memorable success.

Provincial Secretary's Report

President, Executive and Members,
Manitoba Command, G.W.V.A.

Comrades:

It is with a feeling of some diffidence that your Provincial Secretary attempts to lay before you the annual report on the work of the Manitoba Command for the year now ending. Since the date of the last convention

2nd Vice-President—Comrade A. Irwin.

Provincial Secretary—F. J. Leathers.

Executive—Comrades A. Cairns, Brandon; E. E. Spencer, Morden; F. Scrase, Dauphin; J. W. Baldock, Vir- den; J. O. Collede, French Reservoirs; C. H. Vincent, Carberry; W. A. Piper,

Resignations

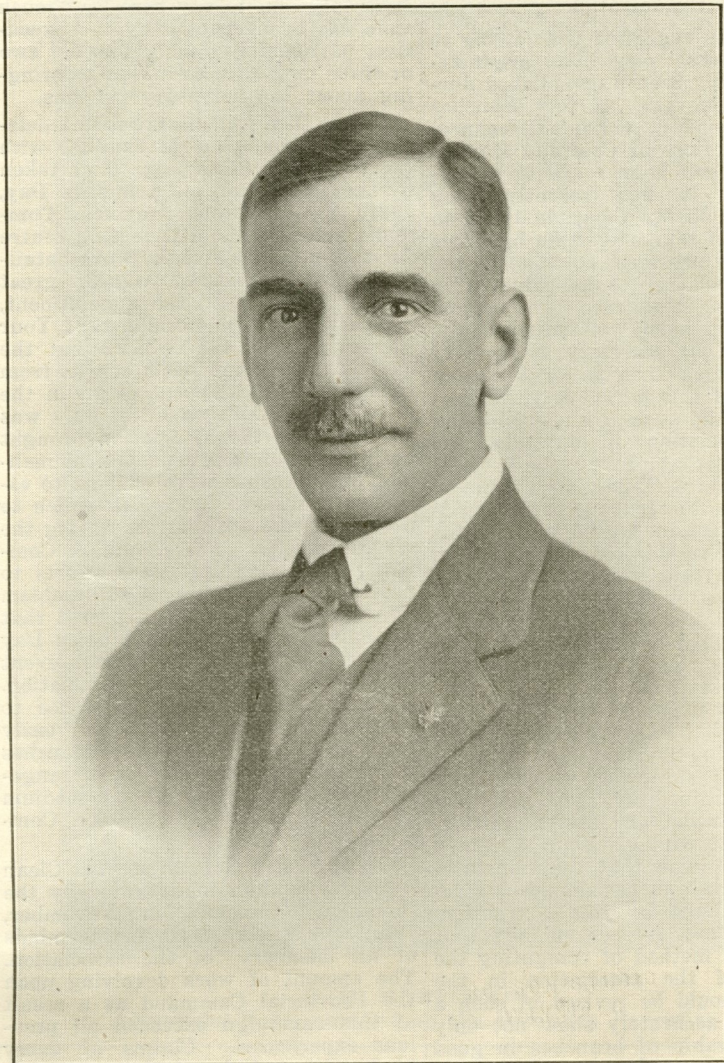
Shortly after the last Provincial Convention Comrade F. J. Leathers tendered his resignation as Provincial Secretary and the same was accepted.

On the first of April, 1921, the executive appointed your present secretary as honorary secretary on a part time basis. In October, 1921, your

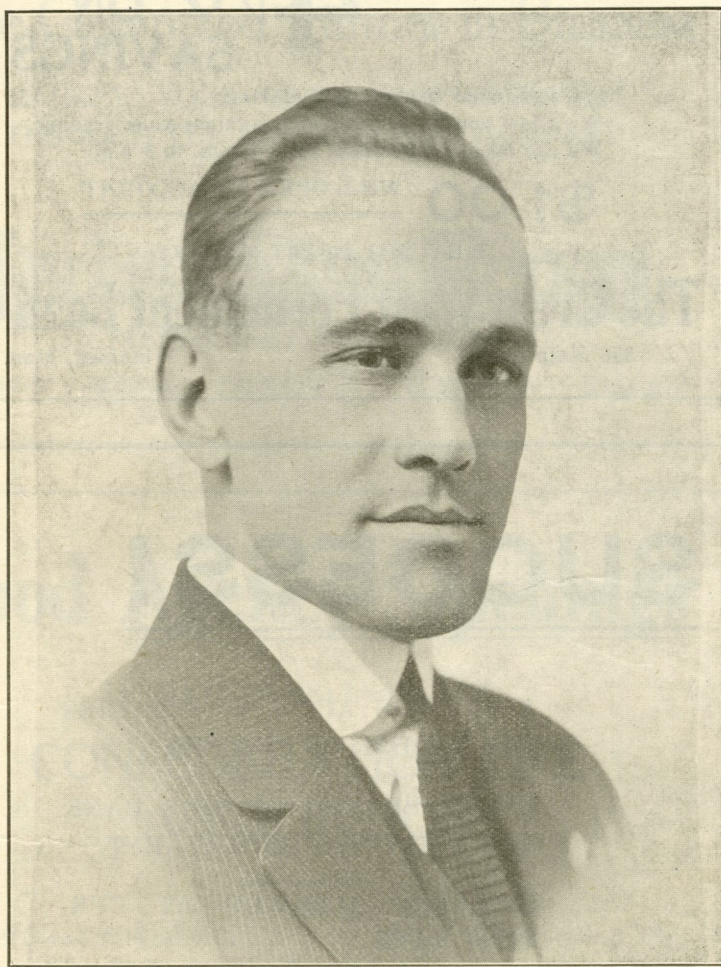
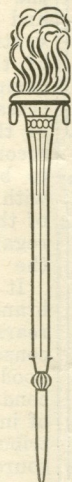
office of secretary, on a part time basis, and is so continuing at the present time.

Dominion Executive Representative

At the Dominion Convention, held in Port Arthur in the month of October, 1921, Comrade J. R. Bowler was appointed Manitoba delegate to the Dominion executive. In view of



P. G. RUMER
1st Vice-President, Manitoba Command G.W.V.A.



E. E. SPENCER
2nd Vice-President Manitoba Command G.W.V.A.

there have been so many changes affecting officials, staff and premises that the work has at times, been carried on under a severe handicap. If, therefore, this report should seem in any way incomplete or disjointed your secretary will beg your kind indulgence.

Personnel

The personnel of the Command as constituted at the last Provincial Convention is as follows:

President—Comrade J. H. Martinson.

1st Vice-President—Comrade P. G. Rumer.

Sprague; J. R. Bowler, Winnipeg.

From the above the following committees were duly appointed:

Agricultural Committee—Comrades A. Irwin, W. A. Piper, J. A. Bowler.

Finance Committee—Comrades E. E. Spencer, J. O. Collede, A. Irwin.

Publicity Committee—Comrades P. G. Rumer, C. H. Vincent, E. E. Spencer.

Membership Committee—Comrades A. Cairns, W. J. Baldock, F. Scrase.

Legislative Committee—Comrades E. E. Spencer, J. R. Bowler, W. J. Baldock.

secretary again resigned for the purpose of accepting nomination to the Dominion executive.

On the 13th November, 1921, Comrade J. M. Dunwoody was appointed to the position of full time Provincial Secretary. Comrade Dunwoody, however, did not take over the duties for reasons which will be more fully explained in reports of committees.

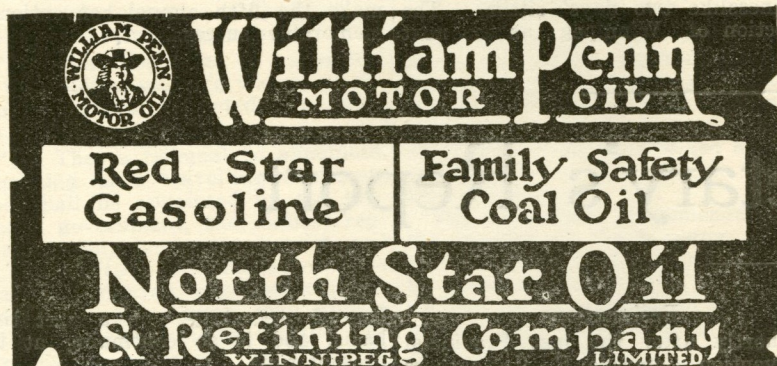
In December, 1921, your present secretary, in view of the heavy accumulation of work in connection with the Clean Sweep Campaign, and which was not being properly dealt with, again agreed to accept the of-

the events referred to above, however, his resignation was received and Comrade J. H. Martinson was elected to the Dominion executive on the 14th January, 1922.

Attendance at Executive Meetings

Six duly convened meetings of the provincial executive have been held since the last convention, on the following dates and at the following places:

March 11th, 1921, Brandon.
March 22nd, 1921, Winnipeg.
June 16th, 1921, Portage la Prairie.
Sept. 10th, 1921, Winnipeg.
Nov. 13th, 1921, Winnipeg.
Jan. 14th, 1922, Winnipeg.



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The attendance roll is as follows:

Name of Comrade	No. of Meetings Held	Attended
J. H. Martinson.....	7	7
A. Irwin.....	7	6
P. G. Rumer.....	7	7
A. Cairns.....	7	6
E. E. Spencer.....	7	7
F. Scrase.....	7	5
W. J. Baldock.....	7	6
J. O. Colledge.....	7	1
C. H. Vincent.....	7	7
W. A. Piper.....	7	6
J. R. Bowler.....	7	7

Committee Reports

Reports dealing with the work of the Finance, Publicity, Agricultural, Membership and Legislative Committees will be submitted by the respective chairmen, and no comment is necessary here. Your secretary would state that the labors of these committees have entailed a large amount of detail work, and wishes to pay tribute to the co-operation he has received from them at all times.

Organization

It is to be regretted that owing to financial stress very little organization work has been accomplished during the past year. A few branches have been visited, and in this connection the services of Comrade Martinson, Irwin and Rumer are to be appreciated. It has recently been found possible for Comrade Irwin to make a brief tour of certain branches in the northwestern portion of the province, and the results achieved in the form of awakened enthusiasm and interest have well justified the venture. Your secretary is strongly of the opinion that an organization campaign of this nature is vitally necessary to the success and well-being of the association in Manitoba, and recommends that pressure be brought to bear on the Dominion Command with a view to securing performance of the suggestion put forward in this regard by the Manitoba delegates to the Port Arthur convention.

It is a matter of regret that many branches in the province are in arrears in regard to per capita tax and consequently cannot be considered in good standing. In some cases this condition is undoubtedly due to lack of interest, but in many cases it is attributable to the fact that the resources of branches have been severely strained by the heavy demands for relief and assistance during the past winter. Your secretary is of the opinion that the reinstatement of such branches should be carefully considered by this convention. Your secretary further submits that the present method of computing the strength of the association in the province should be revised in such a way as to accurately show not only the membership of branches in good standing, in regard to per capita tax, but the total number of actual members who have paid dues.

General Work of the Command

Amalgamation—With a view to securing a greater degree of unity in the province of Manitoba the provincial executive hold a joint meeting with the Army and Navy Veterans' Association at Portage la Prairie on June 16th last. The results of this gathering demonstrated very forcibly that the differences between the two organizations were very few and very insignificant, and a greater degree of co-operation has since been in effect. The question of amalgamation has on subsequent occasions been thoroughly dealt with by the command, and its delegates to the Port Arthur convention put forward

their every effort in support of a practical scheme of union.

Re-establishment—Very little progress in this connection can be reported during the past year. The executive, however, have forcibly pressed the attitude of the Manitoba Command as laid down in convention on all occasions, and have also extended close support to the efforts of the Dominion Command in this connection.

Pensions, State Insurance, etc. — No developments of importance in connection with the above have occurred during the past year. The work of the Command in respect to these subjects has been largely confined to personal service. There are, however, certain reforms and amendments still desirable and necessary, and these will be brought before the convention in the form of resolutions.

Soldier Settlement—The work of the Command in regard to this subject will be demonstrated by the report of the Agricultural Committee. It is sufficient to say here that much time has been devoted by the executive, particularly during the last two or three months with a view to bringing about the necessary reforms.

Poppy Day—All branches and delegates will doubtless be familiar with the Poppy Day Campaign undertaken by the association on Armistice Day, 1921. The Manitoba Provincial Command acted as the distributing centre for this province and the work entailed in this connection was so great that it necessitated the appointment, temporarily, of additional staff. Your secretary is of the opinion that the association derived much benefit from the conduct of this campaign in the province of Manitoba. Not only was the name of the association brought before the public in a prominent manner, but branches were enabled to establish a reserve fund with which to deal with cases of distress during the winter months. The Dominion Command is making strenuous efforts to perpetuate the poppy as the emblem of the G.W.V.A. It is expected that the sale of poppies on Armistice Day will henceforth be an annual event conducted solely by this association. Further information in reference to this will be forthcoming at any early date, and in the meantime branches are urged to enter into no arrangement other than through the medium of the Provincial or Dominion Command.

Clean Sweep Campaign—The Clean Sweep Campaign inaugurated by the Dominion Command in November, 1921, will still be fresh in the minds of all members of the association. The amount of work devolving upon the Provincial Command as a result of this campaign exceeded all previous experiences. Claims of every kind, sort and description were advanced, and dealt with. So numerous were the applications received that the resources of the association both in the provinces and at headquarters were taxed to the utmost, and eventually the Dominion Command had to appoint a special staff to deal with the work. As a result of the congestion some delay occurred before these claims could be reported on, but it is pleasing to relate that these difficulties were met and overcome, and that the majority of claims have now received attention. The results of the association's efforts in this connection have already more than justified the campaign.

Personal Service—Statistics have unfortunately not been kept as to the number of personal cases dealt with by the Command during the past

year. During the summer months this phase of the work became somewhat disorganized owing to circumstances over which your secretary had no control. Since the removal of the Command to its new premises, however, the work has been much facilitated and personal service has been maintained in accordance with the standard hitherto set by the Command. It is somewhat surprising, but nevertheless true, that there is no appreciable decrease in the number of cases coming before the Command. In fact, it can be said that during the past three months there has been a pronounced increase in this work. Cases dealt with under personal service include pensions, vocational

the general policy of the association and of exerting every effort to render same effective. The Command has at all times endeavored faithfully to perform the duties so laid upon it, and it cannot be gainsaid that its efforts have met with more than a little success.

Your secretary deems it a matter of importance that the future activities of the Command receive careful consideration at the hands of this convention. From reports submitted to you, and in particular the report of the Finance Committee it will be easily gathered that the Command has had a difficult struggle during the past year to maintain its existence. In the light of present circumstances



J. H. MARTINSON
Manitoba Representative on the Dominion Executive

training, unemployment relief, relief from distress for rent, soldier taxation, and many other miscellaneous matters.

General Remarks—Your secretary feels that he would not be justified in closing this report without some reference to the future status of the Command. In the past the Command has been taken very much for granted. It has been called upon to play the part of benefactor to branches in distress; it has been required to send out capable speakers throughout the province and in the large majority of cases, bear the expense; it has also been required to maintain an efficient staff capable of dealing with complaints and grievances from all parts of the province, and in this respect it has proven a veritable clearing house for trouble. In addition it has been called upon to bear the responsibility of properly interpreting

its future must still be considered uncertain and unless it is accorded a greater measure of support than has been the case in the past the prospects of its successful continuance in its present capacity are necessarily diminished. This is in no sense to be construed as a criticism, but it cannot be denied that there is a prevailing tendency at the present time, among branches to become self centered and localized and in some instances even to regard the Provincial Command as superfluous. While the tendency referred to is easily comprehensible, particularly in view of the heavy demand upon branches during recent months, nevertheless it should be fairly evident that if the work of the association in its broad and national scope, and in its personal service, is to be carried on the Provincial Command must be maintained, and to be maintained effectively your secre-

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tary submits that practical and loyal support is essential. The Command is dependent primarily for its existence upon the membership which created it, and which it endeavors to serve. It must either be loyally supported or relinquished entirely.

Your secretary also begs to draw your attention to another phase of the Command work which merits consideration. The policy of the Command, and indeed of the association as a whole, has always been to provide free service to all returned men and dependents without regard to membership in the association. While it is true that by this means a tremendous amount of service has been performed it is nevertheless equally true that a large number of individuals have accepted this service as a matter of right, leaving the payment of dues and the support of the organization to others. It is not too much to say that there has been and still is a tendency on the part of many individuals to regard membership in the G.W.V.A. as an unnecessary expenditure. That this state of affairs continues today is evidenced by the fact that at least 80% of the services rendered by the association is for the benefit of non-members.

It may be taken as a fundamental fact that this association cannot be placed upon a self supporting basis so long as the present policy is continued whereby a small minority are

contributing dues for the benefit of a majority. For these reasons your secretary would submit that the time is now ripe for consideration of the question as to whether paid up membership in the G.W.V.A. shall be made a condition precedent to service, excepting in all cases service to dependents.

Ladies Auxiliary—Your secretary would take this opportunity of expressing his appreciation on behalf of the Command for the kind co-operation and assistance extended by the Ladies' Auxiliary throughout the province at all times.

In conclusion your secretary would again ask your consideration in regard to any deficiencies existing in this report, of which he is aware there are many. The past year has been exceedingly trying and it is only during the past two or three months that a condition of stability and continuity of work has again been achieved. Your secretary extends his appreciation and thanks to the officials and executive members of the Command, and to the officials of branches for their unfailing support and co-operation. The thanks of the Command are also due to the staff, both past and present, whose work has been most efficient and loyal.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Yours fraternally,
J. R. BOWLER.

Manitoba Provincial Convention

Main Resolutions Adopted at Dauphin Gathering,
March 14-15, 1922

This year has a vast importance to veterans and dependents, in respect to the many problems affecting their welfare, problems which are calling for long overdue adjustment.

It is important, inasmuch as the Prime Minister, speaking on behalf of his government, has announced the re-opening of the whole question of Re-establishment, Pensions, etc., and what is of great significance, has promised that the enquiry shall have wider scope than previously, and the committee unfettered by party or other influences.

This promise holds out great hopes to the many thousands of men, women and children, whose faith in the gratitude of their country, through the unfulfilled pledges of its spokesmen, has been severely shaken. Especially so in view of the disappointing results of last session's parliamentary committee report, which the late government intended should close the chapter of re-establishment and write finis to Canada's after-war responsibility.

The Manitoba Provincial Convention, G.W.V.A., held at Dauphin, March 14th and 15th, was well attended, and the delegates from all parts of the provinces were fully alive to their great responsibilities, and to the opportunity afforded by the Prime Minister's pledge. The representatives of the branches displayed an eager earnestness to tackle the problems before them, and to evolve recommendations which would remove the handicaps of the army at home, and of the dependents of the 60,000 who sleep overseas.

The following are the main resolu-

tions adopted; and are now in the hands of the Dominion Command for incorporation in their representations to the Parliamentary Committee:

1.—Amalgamation—Whereas the G.W.V.A. has already gone on record as supporting amalgamation,

Whereas, the recent conference held in Winnipeg laid the foundation of an alliance of great immediate value, and likely to lead to an early and complete amalgamation,

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the G.W.V.A. of Manitoba, in annual convention assembled this 15th day of March, 1922, call upon the Dominion Command, G.W.V.A., to use its influence to hasten and further the work begun at the Winnipeg Conference, Feb., 1922, and be it further resolved that this Convention proceed to elect representation to the Provincial Council called for at the Conference.

5.—Canteen Funds—Whereas in the opinion of the G.W.V.A. the plebiscite on the Canteen Funds is so worded as to use the money for purposes which, in our opinion, are government responsibilities.

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the G.W.V.A., of Manitoba, in annual convention assembled this 15th day of March, 1922, go on record that disposition of the funds be held in abeyance until the Parliamentary Committee on re-establishment of ex-service men is appointed and has had time to consider the whole question of re-establishment,

And be it further resolved that we urge upon the Provincial and Dominion Commands the creation of an Old Age Pension Fund for veterans of the

Great War, from the proceeds of the Canteen Funds; and that a board composed of returned men be appointed by the government to administer the fund, such board to be composed of representatives from all returned soldier organizations in Canada,

And further, that this scheme if concurred in, shall be outside any other old age pension act that may be put forward by the government and shall be in addition to such.

3.—Declared Deserters — Whereas much hardship has fallen to the lot of dependents of men who were declared deserters and since failed to re-appear, and,

Whereas, we are of the opinion that, considering the unequalled conditions prevailing during the Great War the onus of proof of desertion should be with the government, and,

Whereas the Parliamentary Committee, 1921, reported favorably on the proposal,

Therefore, be it resolved, that we, the Great War Veterans' Association of Manitoba, in annual convention assembled this 15th day of March, 1922, petition the government to amend the Pension Act to provide for the payment of pensions to widows and other recognized dependents under the "Pensions Act," of all men declared deserters and who have since failed to re-appear.

5.—Exchange — Whereas in our opinion there being certain funds which we believe are due ex-members of the C.E.F., these funds being the difference in exchange rates on money paid said ex-members overseas, and, whereas we believe said funds to be approximately eight or nine million dollars,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the G.W.V.A. of Manitoba, in annual convention assembled, go on record requesting a government inquiry to determine the exact amount; this money to be paid to whom it rightly belongs.

4.—Housing—Whereas the Dominion Convention, 1921, adopted a resolution calling for a Federal Housing Scheme to be financed on lines similar to the Soldier Settlement Act,

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the G.W.V.A., of Manitoba, in annual convention assembled, this 15th day of March, 1922; do strongly endorse the said resolution and calls upon the Government to make every possible haste to meet the requirements as set out in said resolution.

5.—Immigration—Whereas the continued influx of immigration only aggravates the present serious state of unemployment, and,

Whereas a great number of new arrivals have become a public charge, and,

Whereas, the present policy is steadily developing a nation of casual laborers, mainly of foreign extraction,

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the G.W.V.A., of Manitoba, in annual convention assembled, this 15th day of March, 1922, call upon the Dominion Government to suspend immigration from foreign countries until such time as adequate provision has been made for the proper selection overseas of those seeking entrance to Canada, and the suitable colonization of immigrants upon admittance, and,

Be it further resolved that first place in future schemes to populate this country preference should be accorded, and direct assistance given to those ex-Canadian soldiers not now domiciled in Canada, who took their discharge abroad, and who, in the main are now destitute.

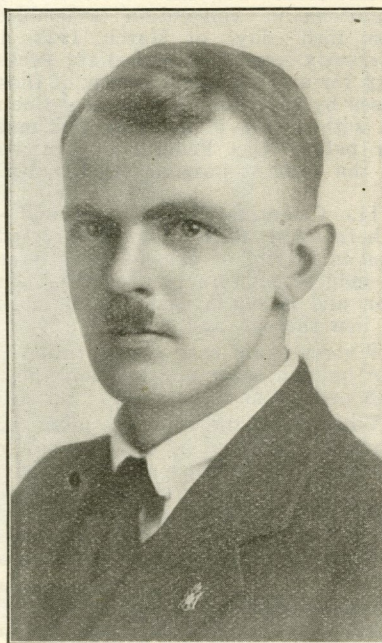
7.—Insurance—Whereas the period for receiving applications under the Returned Soldiers' Insurance Act expires on Sept. 31st, 1922, and

Whereas the scarcity of employment during the past year has prevented many from taking advantage of the Act,

Therefore be it resolved that the Federal Government be petitioned to extend the time during which applications may be received to Sept. 31st, 1923, and that an amendment be made to the Act to cover men who have no dependents, in the form of endowment or paid up life insurance.

7.—Distraint for Rent—Whereas it is known that "distress warrants" have been executed against the chattels of ex-members of the C.E.F., and their dependents, and,

Whereas an Act is in force which protects the goods and chattels of ex-members of the C.E.F. who were residents of the Province of Manitoba



J. R. BOWLER
Provincial Secretary

prior to enlistment, from seizure through distress warrant, and,

Whereas the provisions of this Act seem to be misunderstood or ignored,

Therefore be it resolved that the G.W.V.A. of Manitoba, in annual convention assembled, this 15th day of March, 1922, call upon the Attorney-General's Department for a clear statement regarding the position of ex-members of the C.E.F., who, owing to ill-health or unemployment, are unable to pay their rent.

8.—Medical Attendance — Whereas no provision has been made for medical attendance upon widows and dependents of deceased soldiers and dependents of full disability pensionists, and,

Whereas much hardship has arisen where these dependents are unable to provide medical attendance and necessary medicine, forcing them to become the objects of public charity,

Therefore be it resolved that the G.W.V.A., of Manitoba in annual convention assembled, this 15th day of March, 1922, petition the Federal Government to amend the Pension Act making provision for free medical attendance and medicine to all such widows and dependents.

9.—Pensions—Whereas upon the death of the wife of a disabled soldier drawing pension the additional allow-

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WINNIPEG, MAN.

ance awarded are deducted from the total pension received,

Therefore we, the G.W.V.A., of Manitoba, in annual convention assembled, this 15th day of March, 1922, do hereby resolve that upon the death of the wife of a disabled soldier leaving children, that no reduction be made in the pension or allowance in order that the husband may provide proper guardianship for the care and education of his children.

10.—Pensions — Whereas it has been brought to the notice of the G.W.V.A., that many ex-service men are dying as a result of stomach and intestinal trouble due to the result of war service, the hardships of camp life, and the cumulative effect of exposure to enemy gas attacks, and,

Whereas many of the ex-service men were discharged from the C.E.F. after superficial examination as medically fit as Class A1, and are therefore not eligible for treatment under the D.S.C.R.,

Therefore we, the G.W.V.A., of Manitoba, in convention assembled, this 15th day of March, 1922, do earnestly urge the immediate necessity for an exhaustive review of these cases by the Dominion Medical Council with a view of bringing this matter before the Federal Government at the earliest possible opportunity.

11.—Commutation of Pensions — Whereas in recent months certain men in receipt of pension were offered inducement to surrender their pension and accept a cash consideration in lieu thereof, and,

Whereas said cash consideration in our opinion was unfair, inadequate and unjust, and,

Whereas at the time the offer was made and accepted by the men so surrendering their pension there existed in Canada a financial and economic depression that in many cases rendered the acceptance of the cash offer imperative to avoid dire distress to the men in question, and,

Whereas we do not believe that the Government desires to take advantage of the distress of its returned men,

Therefore be it resolved that the G.W.V.A. of Manitoba, in annual convention assembled, this 15th day of March, 1922, do petition the Government to pass legislation as to nullify all agreements made between the pensioner and the Pension Commissioners in regard to the matter and instead, to

1. In the event of any further compensation or gratuity being granted to returned men the amount received in lieu of pension be deducted therefrom wherever such sum may reach the amount thereof and thereafter pensions continued.

2. In the event of no further allowance being made then the Government place the amount such pensioner would have received under original award to his credit until it shall have been reimbursed for the amount awarded under cash settlement, after which the pensioner shall be entitled to a resumption of pension.

12.—Pensions—Whereas by Sec. 34, sub-Sec. 6, of the Pensions Act it is provided that where a parent or person in place of a parent is in receipt of financial support from one or more unmarried sons, a proportional deduction shall be made from such widowed mother's pension, and

Whereas it has come specifically to our notice that such provision of the

Act has been construed to include support by "unmarried daughters," now,

Therefore we, the G.W.V.A. of Manitoba in annual convention assembled this 15th day of March, 1922, do go on record as protesting against such construction as aforesaid in respect to unmarried daughters as being an unwarrantable interpretation of the Act, not supported by the text thereof,

And further, that Sec. 34, Sub-Sec. 6, Chapter 62, as amended, 10-11 George V., be repealed and the following substituted therefor:

"Where a parent or person in the place of a parent has unmarried sons residing with him or her, who are earning an amount sufficient to permit them to contribute to the support of such parent or person, each such employed unmarried son shall be deemed to be contributing not more than \$10.00 per month towards such support."

13.—Soldier Settlement Board — In view of the serious hardships and distress existing amongst soldier settlers throughout the Dominion at the present time,

Be it resolved that we, the G.W.V.A., of Manitoba, in annual convention assembled, do petition the Dominion Parliament to enact such legislation as will provide for a thorough investigation into the S.S.A., the administration thereof under the present system and the conditions of settlers generally with a view to bringing about such amendments, alterations and adjustments as may be found necessary to insure to soldier settlers the greatest possible opportunity for improvement and ultimate permanent success.

14.—Soldier Settlement Board — Whereas we find under present conditions it is impossible to get threshed and market our grain in time to meet Soldier Settlement Board repayments by October 1st, as now required, and

Whereas we believe the most benefit would accrue to settlers and board by doing the fall plowing in its proper season, and leaving the transportation of grain until it can be done on sleighs,

Therefore be it resolved that the G.W.V.A., of Manitoba, in annual convention assembled, this 15th day of March, 1922, do hereby request the Soldier Settlement Board to have repayments made payable Jan. 1st.

15.—Vocational Training—Whereas it is known that disabled members of the C.E.F. received in a vocational course a measure of re-establishment, and,

Whereas specific evidence has been gathered showing that large numbers did not receive sufficient training to enable them to earn a livelihood at the vocation for which they were trained, and,

Whereas many have been constantly unemployed and forced to seek relief and,

Whereas, owing to their long period of unemployment the measure of training received is likely to become of little practical value,

Therefore be it resolved that the G.W.V.A. of Manitoba, in annual convention assembled, call upon the Dominion Government to continue the measure of re-establishment by making provision for the employment of ex-vocational students in industrial works or businesses, railway service, civil service, etc., thereby enabling

them to qualify for permanent positions.

16.—Pensions—We, the members of the G.W.V.A., of Manitoba, in annual convention assembled, this 15th day of March, 1922, reaffirm our endorsement and approval of the following petition, submitted to the Federal Government by the Dominion Executive:

(a) That the pension rates be revised and fixed, granting the widow and widowed mother pension at the rate of \$75.00 per month, the widows with children \$100.00 per month, plus allowances for children, and all disabled men \$100.00 per month per one hundred per cent. of disability,

(b) That pensions be awarded under suitable regulations to widows whose marriage was contracted subsequent to the appearance of the war disability causing death.

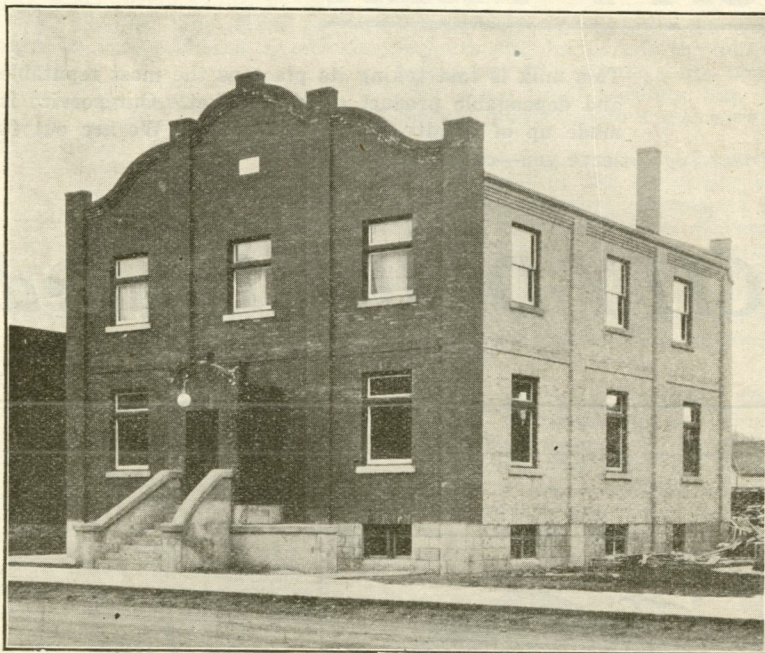
(c) That the regulations be amended enabling more just consideration of the pension claims of ex-

it may deem necessary to have the first repayment of Soldier Settlement Board Loans due six years from date of loan.

19.—Investigation of Certain Civilian Homestead Claims—Whereas we have found cases where civilians have filed on Dominion lands as far back as 1914 and have not fulfilled the requirements of the Dominion Lands Act as to residence and cultivation duties sufficient to enable them to apply for patent in five years as required by the Dominion Land Act, and,

Whereas this condition is working unfairness to returned men in that they are unable to obtain cancellation proceedings against the parties concerned, and

Whereas, due to the above, returned men have been compelled to take up their soldier grants miles from their previous homestead (which is some cases were proved up before enlistment), while quarters next to them are being held for civilians who are not complying with the homestead



G.W.V.A. Hall, Dauphin

service men in cases where doubt exists as to the attributability to service.

17.—Re Sale of Lands by Settlers to Civilians—Whereas in our opinion it would be to the mutual benefit of the settler and to the board that settlers be permitted to effect a sale of their holdings direct to purchasers,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Soldier Settlement Act be amended so as to permit a settler selling his holdings to a purchaser direct, upon approval of the consideration by the board, and the purchaser to assume the obligations of the settler as the terms of payment to the board and an adjustment of payment of the settler's equity to be arranged between the settler and the purchaser.

18.—Settlers' Loan Repayments Extension—Whereas we believe it to be impossible under present pioneering conditions for soldier settlers to bring their holdings located on homestead and soldier grants in Manitoba to a revenue producing basis under six years, and,

Whereas we believe that the morale of the settlers would be strengthened by the enactment of the following:

Be it resolved that we, the G.W.V.A., of Manitoba, in convention assembled, do hereby request the Federal Government to take such steps as

regulations, giving us a suspicion that hidden strings are being pulled,

Therefore be it resolved that we, the G.W.V.A., of Manitoba, in annual convention assembled, do ask for immediate investigation of such cases, and where it is found that a homesteader has not fulfilled the regulations properly, his entry be immediately cancelled, even though he has since gone into residence.

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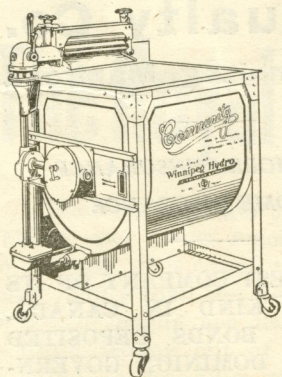
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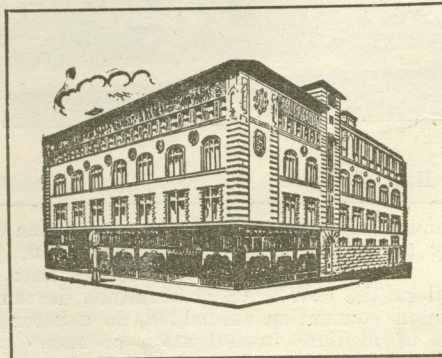
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Great War Veterans' Association of Canada

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

The Great War Veterans' Association of Canada, in Convention assembled, realizing that the people of this Dominion expect from them a full declaration of the principles for which the Association stands, and that they are justified in this expectation, hereby declare:

1. That the foundation principle upon which this our Association rests is national service, and that we unreservedly commit ourselves to a standard of service for Canada and the British Empire in the work of national development as full, as self-sacrificing, and as free from personal motives as that rendered by our army overseas.

2. That we pledge ourselves to the common service of our country, acknowledging no pre-eminence in our Association except devotion in the building up of our national life.

3. That we reject for our Association and ourselves any claim to special or peculiar favours, based on our military services, simply demanding our just right as returned citizens of this country to be placed on an equality with our fellow-citizens, who were not privileged to serve.

4. We hold it to be inherently just and only worthy of this Great Nation that the dependents of our deceased comrades, who willingly gave their lives that this land should be free, and our disabled comrades should be given by the government of our country such pensions and allowances as will enable them to live according to the accepted standard of our people.

5. We desire to reaffirm our unswerving loyalty to King and Country, and, while we deplore the existence of many conditions—political, religious, racial and social—which are harmful and pernicious, we also realize that lasting betterment can only be obtained by the free expression of the people's will, given in a constitutional way. Therefore, while we dedicate ourselves to the elimination of such unjust conditions and pledge ourselves to lawful and orderly procedure;

6. While, as an Association, we recognize no political affiliations of any kind, we yet urge upon our membership an intelligent interest in all political matters and commend to their support such of our comrades as may from time to time present themselves for political honours, provided always that such candidate pledge himself or herself to the support to which he or she may be attached.

7. The Great War Veterans' Association by the complexion of its membership feels itself in happy and harmonious touch with the representatives of both Capital and Labour. Members of each class fought together and died together in France and Flanders. In that common sacrifice, all distinctions of mere wealth were blotted out, and the lesson taught us was that devotion to a common cause makes all men brethren. In our earnest desire for a

greater, freer and happier Canada, we offer our services as mediator. We recognize that greed on the part of the employer or the employed has a large share in the production of industrial unrest, and we further recognize that much of such unrest is caused by misunderstandings, sometimes deliberately fomented, which are capable of amicable adjustment. We stand for the recognition of the principle of humanity in industry and labour, for a fair wage, for a fair day's work, for a return on capital, which shall be just and equitable, and for such a shortening of the hours of labour as will permit the working man to play his part in the duties and pleasures of a citizen's life while, at the same time, enabling him to increase production to a maximum rate.

8. Believing that the national life is a reflection of the home life of the nation's individual citizens, it is essential that the Federal Government inaugurate a broad and comprehensive housing scheme which will enable every citizen to own a home, thus giving that healthy, comfortable, secure satisfaction so essential to good citizenship.

9. We affirm our conviction that the natural resources of our Dominion should be developed to the advantage of Canada, and not for the private benefit of the speculator or the financial opportunist who has not assumed the responsibilities of our citizenship. We believe that a vigorous policy should be embarked upon to promote the development of those resources, a policy not influenced by consideration for a favored few, but guided for the good of the toiling many and the greater prosperity of Canada. We believe such development should be a comprehensive national undertaking not dictated or compelled by sectionalism, party or political pressure or personal ambition, but solely inspired and completely regulated with a view to adding to the wealth, safety and prosperity of our Dominion.

10. Realizing that education is a basic principle in the prosperity, stability, development and happiness of a country, we believe that adequate educational facilities should be provided for Canadian children and that the ordinary education required to prepare the Canadian boy or girl for life's work should be provided free by the State, so that all may have equal educational privileges. To this end we believe that where necessary special provision should be made for the education of the orphans of our dead and disabled comrades.

We believe further in the development of a greater patriotic spirit by emphasizing in our schools the great history and literature of our country and empire, and by inculcating in our youth a greater respect for our flag, and a greater understanding of the ideals it presents.

11. We view with alarm the increasing love of luxury which permeates all classes of our community and the

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riotous extravagance everywhere shown in gratifying this mania, thus courting as a nation, final disaster. Our army fought and our men died to establish forever among us the ideals of sacrifice, unselfishness and brotherhood. We, therefore, protest with all our energy against the extravagance shown in dress and manner of living, against the spending of money on unnecessary social affairs and against costly public functions which are of no real value. At this time of national stress, when as a nation we are faced with enormous financial responsibility, we call upon our fellow citizens for plain and economical habits of life. We summon our country to a return to Spartan simplicity.

OFFICERS ELECTED TO PROVINCIAL COMMAND

Officers and executive committee of Manitoba Provincial Command were elected at Dauphin, Man., March 15th, 1922, as follows:

President, Comrade A. Irwin.
First Vice-President, Comrade P. G. Rumer.
Second Vice-President, Comrade E. E. Spencer.
Executive—Comrade J. R. Bowler, Winnipeg; Comrade R. J. Shore, Win-

ipeg; Comrade J. H. Martinson, Douglas; Comrade W. J. Baldock, Brandon; Comrade F. Scrase, Dauphin.

Supernumeraries — Comrade Colledge, French Reservists: Comrade A. Cairns, Brandon; Comrade, W. A. Piper, Sprague.

Dominion Executive Members — J. H. Martinson; W. J. Baldock, alternative.

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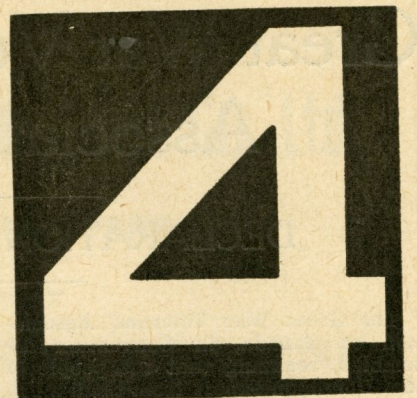
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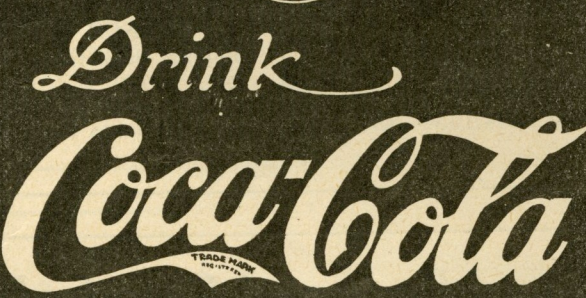
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Unemployment

Among the matters referred to the resident members of the Executive at the September meeting was that of unemployment, which, at that time, was evidently imminent. The task was mainly one of arousing the public conscience to such a pitch that Municipal and Provincial Governments could not refuse to take action to relieve the distress resulting from unemployment. After the Dominion Government announced that it would bear one-third of the expense in connection with the granting of relief, the Provincial Command was the chief agent in bringing the Provincial and Municipal authorities to accept and put into operation the Federal plan. Comrades R. J. Shore and P. G. Rumer, both of the G.W.V.A., represented Returned Soldiers on the Unemployment and Relief Committee. That the agitation for relief had been fully warranted was borne out by the volume of registration and the amount of relief granted. The need for Re-establishment was further demonstrated in this connection by the fact that 90 per cent. of the applicants for relief were Returned Soldiers. It is reasonably claimed, though difficult to support by statistics, that the agitation carried on by the G.W.V.A. in connection with the unemployment situation was the cause of a considerable number of firms making an effort to retain employees, and where absolutely necessary, to economize, reducing the amount of unemployment by retaining on part time the full staff rather than the dismissal of a certain number of employees.

Rentals.

In the month of September the high rentals question came to the notice of the Provincial Executive. Steps were taken at once to accumulate facts which were forcibly brought to the notice of the Provincial Government, and a thorough investigation demanded. The Command acted in this connection in conjunction with the Joint Council of Veteran Associations, and it may be said without hesitation that the combined efforts thus brought to bear were largely responsible for the investigation eventually carried out by the Joint Council of Industry.

Riding Mountain Reserve.

Your Secretary would respectfully draw the attention of this Convention to the fact that arable lands in the Riding Mountain Forest Reserve have not yet been thrown open for Soldier Settlement. You will recollect that the Association was officially notified, some twelve months ago, that the Federal Government had favorably considered the proposal, and that the opening date would soon be announced. Subsequent announcements of a similar nature have been received, but to date nothing further has been done, with the result that many Comrades intending to settle in that area have been greatly inconvenienced, financially and otherwise, by reason of the delay. Your Secretary would recommend that energetic action in this matter be taken by this Convention.

Mental Hospitals.

It is to be regretted that no further progress has been made towards securing a separate place for mentally deranged ex-soldiers. This matter has been urgently pressed by your Executive.

Fraternal Basis.

It is with regret that your Secretary is obliged to report that no steps have been officially taken with a view to introducing the Fraternal Basis idea into the Association. Experiments conducted by local Branches on their own initiative have been highly successful, and have secured a greatly increased measure of interest from the membership. Your Secretary is of the opinion that the introduction of the Fraternal Basis idea, based upon a suitable ritual, is a necessary factor in providing for the permanency of the Association, and respectfully recommends that action be taken accordingly.

Badges.

In pursuance of the resolution passed at the last Provincial Convention of this Command, and later endorsed by the Dominion Command, your secretary begs to report that suitable backgrounds for the membership badges, denoting the year for which dues are paid, have been obtained and placed in the hands of all Branch Secretaries, and are proving highly satisfactory.

Ladies' Auxiliaries.

Your Secretary would acknowledge the assistance received by the Command and Branches from the Ladies' Auxiliaries. From correspondence on file in this office it is evident that in many Branches the Ladies' Auxiliaries have been an important factor in the progress of the Association. Your Secretary would respectfully suggest that the task of forming a Provincial Command of the Ladies' Auxiliary and defining the policy of the Auxiliaries and their relations to the Provincial Command should not be further delayed. As indicated in the Convention programme, ample time has been allowed for this phase of the work.

Mulvihill and Stewart Lake Fires.

During the month of September several parts of the Province were devastated by fire, the worst areas being those in the Mulvihill and Stewart Lake districts, northwest of Teulon. The Winnipeg Branch and the Winnipeg District Command were agents in sending relief to the Settlers, and the Provincial Command strongly urged the Soldier Settlement Board to grant Settlers on land which had been badly devastated by fire the privilege of transferring to land in new districts. To date this privilege has not been granted.

Civil Service Examinations.

During the year the Provincial Command has co-operated with the Dominion Command in supervising Civil Service Examinations, with a view to guarding the interests of Returned Men. The Association has been represented at all oral examinations for the Civil Service held in this Province, and written examinations are, of course, supervised by the Dominion Command in Ottawa.

Personal Service.

An outstanding feature of the year's work has been the development of the Provincial Command as a Service Organization. Files were opened and correspondence conducted on 1,850 cases, approximately 1,550 of which are now closed, while 300 are in progress of adjustment. Approximately 3,000 cases have been dealt with on which correspondence has not been conducted and a number of cases of the greatest merit have been those dealt with personally, and on which there has been no correspondence.

The classification of cases on which correspondence has been conducted is as follows:—

Pay and Allowance	187
Pensions	125
Land Settlement	163
Miscellaneous	1,325

The following list will give some idea of the variety of cases handled under the heading of miscellaneous:—

Adjustment of Rentals.
Claims under Soldiers' Taxation Relief Act.
Search for Missing Relatives.
Forwarding to Next-of-Kin of personal effects of Deceased Soldiers.
Patriotic Fund Cases.
Adjustments between Employers and Employees.
Concessions from and adjustment of grievances with railway companies.
Adjustment of exchange on pay and allowance.
Advice and assistance in erection and dedication of memorials.

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LETHBRIDGE
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