

J. H. M'VETY IS ONCE MORE ELECTED PRESIDENT

Trades and Labor Council Receives Kavanagh's Resignation

Proposal to Withdraw From Labor Congress Is Laid Over

President J. Kavanagh of the Trades and Labor council sprung a big surprise at the meeting last night by tendering his resignation and insisting upon its acceptance. He gave as his reason that he could not longer preside over a gathering which had voted down the motion that a delegate of the council, J. H. McVety, resign from the conscription exemption tribunal. Vice-president Hubble thereupon took the chair and the election of a new president was proceeded with. J. H. McVety and George Hardy were nominated, the former being elected by 44 votes against 37, Del. Thomas of the Longshoremen signifying he was not voting. This is the tenth time President McVety has been elected to the office.

A letter from Sir R. L. Borden, prime minister of Canada, defending his War Times Elections act disfranchising all women except those having relatives at the front, was strongly criticized, the act being recognized as of political inspiration.

Mrs. Sutton, secretary of the Women Munition Workers' union of Victoria was accorded the privilege of addressing the council, and she asked that a petition be signed asking that the munitions board do not withdraw its shell contracts from the west, for the women needed work, especially the war widows who could not exist on their pensions which amounted to only \$32 a month.

A resolution of condolence with the family of the late Alfred England, who was a very active worker in the council. Bro. England died suddenly on Tuesday morning, this week.

Del. Kavanagh moved that in view of the action of the Dominion Trades council and the words of President Watters in accepting a blood-stained bayonet, that the council withdraw its affiliation. Del. Kavanagh drew attention to the fact that the congress had passed a resolution in effect, that Labor do nothing to embarrass the government in the war, and entirely overlooked the fact that the government was taking away from the working class the last vestige of liberty.

Del. Trotter, who was a delegate to the congress, said the press had printed only what it wanted to and reports of what happened had been badly garbled. Del. Trotter said there had been confusion by so many amendments that the officers' resolution carried by elimination of the amendments, and afterwards, when a vote was taken for and against conscription, there had been but eleven votes for it. The delegate from Great Britain had presented the bayonet as a reminder that workers should strive to avoid war and it was to stand for a "horrible example." The reply of President Watters had been inapt and anybody who knew Watters knew he needed time to prepare any address. Del. Trotter said garbled accounts should not be relied upon. As to the people of Quebec, he said their position had been badly misrepresented.

The matter was laid over pending receipt of the official proceedings of the congress.

Del. Cottrell said that some of the congress delegates set the western delegates down as pro-German. Del. Hardy

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also discussed the subject. What had killed the motion that the conscription bill be withdrawn, was a statement by Secretary Draper that any delegate opposing the conscription act would be liable, and in view of the fact that parliament was closed the act could not be repealed anyway.

Del. Trotter moved that the city council adopt proportional representation in future civic elections. Del. Tree said if this was of benefit to workers, it was obvious the city would not do it. The motion carried.

Del. Trotter accused the Brewster government of getting out from under its own proposition for proportional representation by giving certain municipalities the right to hold their elections under this system.

Del. McVety replied to a motion that the officers of the council be given permission to take legal advise as to the shares in the Labor Temple building. He said the council was in no more danger of losing its shares in the building than any other organization. There was danger of the building being foreclosed if more money was not forthcoming. Del. Benson thereupon withdrew the motion.

Del. Benson moved that the secretary be instructed to write to the Ministerial Association to find out what was being done to provide places for men to congregate now that bars had been closed. Del. Thomas said the Ministerial Association would do the same as the Salvation Army—make places for "scab-hunting." The motion lost.

The executive committee report was received and adopted.

A convention call from the American Federation of Labor was filed.

A letter was read from Sir R. L. Borden "explaining" the new Franchise Act, defending the government's position in disfranchising all women who are not related to soldiers at the front.

Del. Helena Gutteridge said the whole letter was a feeble evasion of the suffrage act. Women of Britain had been naturalized, she pointed out, but the whole thing in Canada was just "piffle." The letter was filed.

A mass-meeting of women workers is to be called, the council adopting a recommendation of the executive to this effect.

Business Agent Midgley reported that a matter of butchers wages with P. Burns had been straightened out.

Civic Employees' had asked for a minimum wage of 45 cents an hour and the council was in an amiable frame of mind.

Sawmill men and loggers association was making progress slowly.

One or two meetings of the drug clerks had been held. Black of the Owl Drug Co. had discharged a man because he belonged to the union. The matter was being locked into.

Conditions of the Teamsters' was good; the new butchers' organization was going strong and P. Burns' packing plant was 100 per cent. organized. A deputation of men off the hydraulic dredge on False Creek had called on the business agent regarding the strike, which finally was settled in a fairly satisfactory manner. Those men who had not gone back to work had got jobs alongshore, with the assistance of the I. L. A.

A report of the committee on the Factories' act was presented by Del. Helena Gutteridge, who said it was found that all inspection was to be

under the Workmen's Compensation board. The committee recommended that it be empowered to take up phases of the act with the attorney-general. The recommendation was concurred in. Del. Benson pointed out that the Workmen's Compensation board was already complained against in not carrying out its work properly and asked why it should be given additional duties to perform. Del. McVety spoke in favor of the recommendation. He admitted the board had done nothing as to safety appliances and said it should be made to, for this was one of its duties. Another delegate said the Factory act was all right if it were only enforced. Del. Tree said both the Factory act and Compensation act were for the benefit of the employers. Labor should be organized and refuse to use defective machinery, he said. He would not expect anything would be accomplished by referring the matter to the Compensation Board. Del. Thomas supported Del. Tree and Del. McVety drew attention to what he said was the inconsistency of the Longshoremen's union which had not refused to work with defective gear.

President J. Kavanagh submitted his resignation, which was accepted, and Vice-president Hubble took the chair.

Under reports of unions several delegates reported the success of their organizations. Del. Wright for the Letter Carriers', reported general dissatisfaction at the government bonus of \$100, which nobody seemed to know anything about. Delegates were asked to demand that those who sold them meat should belong to the Butchers' union. The Teamsters' asked that all union men should demand that milk and bread be delivered by union drivers.

The council was notified that Nabob cigar was not union made.

Mrs. Sutton, secretary of the Women Munition Workers' union of Victoria addressed the council and made appeal for support to a petition asking that the munitions board shall not withdraw shell contracts from the west, as women, especially under-pensioned war widows, need the work.

A women's mass-meeting committee was elected as follows: Dels. Miss Gutteridge, Midgley and Crawford. The committee of Miss Gutteridge and Del. McVety was appointed re the Factories act.

The following new delegates were obligated: Painters', J. Downie; Bartenders', W. Mottishaw; City Firemen. E. Erratt, C. A. Weston; Shipyard Laborers', H. Winger, G. A. Kilpatrick; Cooks' and Waiters', W. Mackenzie; Butchers', H. Smith, T. Brown; Bricklayers', Fred Vord; Bootmakers', Sydney Helm.