

P. F. C.

Honor Roll, and Alcohol Repatriation Committee Asked to 'Apologise'

A very largely attended meeting of the Patriotic Football Club was held in the Mechanics' Institute on Saturday night, the President, Mr P. Woolfe being in the chair.

The Secretary, Mr Mahon, stated that the object of the meeting was to consider three letters he had received from the Manilla Repatriation Committee. He suggested that each letter be dealt with separately.

The contents of the first letter was as follows:— That the Repatriation Committee strongly disapprove of the use of alcoholic liquors at entertainments given for welcoming returned soldiers.

Mr. Kremer moved: That the Repatriation Committee be informed that the Patriotic Football Club reserve the right to entertain and welcome their soldiers in whatever manner they may think fit. Seconded by Mr Miller.

Mr Boland moved as an amendment, that the wishes of the returned soldiers in every instance be respected in regard to the use of alcoholic liquors at welcoming entertainments, which was seconded by the President. The amendment was carried.

The second letter read—'I have been instructed to write you with reference to collecting money for Patriotic Football Club honor roll without first obtaining permission to do so, thereby flouting the authority of this committee. Trusting you will see your way clear to obtain permission in future before

ing you will see your way clear to obtain permission in future before collecting for anything referring to patriotic efforts.'

Mr Mahon stated that before any action had been taken regarding collecting funds for an honor roll he asked Mr Kennedy, who was a member of the Repatriation Committee, if permission from the local committee was necessary, and received a reply that such permission was not deemed necessary provided the donations were voluntary and there was no canvassing. The whole of the subscriptions had been voluntary. Personally he did not think the Repatriation Committee had any jurisdiction over the matter because of the fact that according to their constitution no permission was required for honor rolls where the total expenditure was under £25. The total cost of this honor roll was £24 5s 4d. The same position had recently arisen at Mosman where the councillors had defied the Repatriation Committee on these very

grounds. He could produce a copy of the press to show that the voluntary contributions had been published and thus show that the Repatriation Committee were well informed of the club's intentions.

Mr H. Boland moved that the secretary write to the Repatriation Committee informing them that the club ignored the insulting letter received from them, also that the P.F.C. considers an apology is due to its secretary, Mr Mahon, by the said committee.

The motion was seconded by Mr T. Ring, who said they should all stand by their secretary and demand an apology for such an insulting letter.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The third letter demanded the removal

The third letter demanded the removal from the honor roll the words "Patriotic Football Club," or else that all names of soldiers be expunged who did not actually play for the Patriotic Football Club.

In regard to this letter Mr Mahon made the following statement: Before the advent of the war there were three football clubs in Manila, viz., the Standards, Imperials, and the Country Party. When the war broke out it was recog-

nized that the call of country would exceedingly weaken the clubs, therefore it was agreed not to run teams independently and latter on at a meeting of the combined teams it was decided to amalgamate. Every name on the Honor Roll had at some time or other been members of either of these three teams before the amalgamation. He contended that the amalgamation had engrouped all members of these clubs who had already gone to the war. The P.F.C. executive was chosen from the leading members of these three clubs. No objection was taken to the name by the old war council when the club was formed. The Repatriation Committee had never before objected to the name "Patriotic" and had even accepted moneys raised by them which was the surest sign of recognition. It would be a crime to remove names such as E. Smith, F. Byrnes, W. Fitzgerald, Sprat Hall and many others who had given their lives for their country. Personally he would rather go to goal before he would allow these names to be moved from the Honor Roll.

Mr N. Gardner, President Returned Soldiers, said it appeared to him that the Repatriation Committee objected to the word Patriotic. Surely as the men had gone to the war, fought the country's battles they were patriotic and entitled to be called patriotic. Again the object of the club was to raise money for the assistance of soldiers on active service and war widows funds. Therefore the club was patriotic and the members had good cause to call it patriotic. He considered the Honor Roll as it stood now was right in order. He could assure them that the Returned Soldiers and Sailors League were going to stand behind the P.F.C. if they refused to remove a name off the roll.

Sergeant Major Fitzgerald thought it was an insult to ask the P.F.C. to remove the names of any soldier.

move the names of any soldier.

Mr B. Clarke suggested that a meeting of Returned Soldiers and Sailors League be called to consider their action in the matter.

Mr McKessar considered the whole thing mean and contemptible. He had heard of a man who had ordered the removal of a coffin that had been accidentally buried on his land and considered that action on a par with the present action of the Repatriation Committee in regard to this matter.

Mr V. J. Byrnes considered it a very mean attitude taken by the Repatriation Committee.

Mr E. V. Kremer said the whole matter was a dirty insult. When a boy challenged his name it was quite time to talk about taking it off and not before.

Mr Mahon said no name had been challenged so far.

Mr N. Gardner moved "That the Secretary be instructed to convey to the Secretary of Repatriation Committee an emphatic refusal to accede to their request."

A Voice:—And add the following words that we extend to them our sincere sympathy for their names not appearing on the roll. Mr G. Fife, A.I.C., seconded the motion, which was supported by Staff Surgeon Hamilton Fleming, Mr A. Miller, and Mr B. Healey, and carried unanimously amidst great enthusiasm.

Mr Woolfe (President) moved that the Patriotic Football Club is quite prepared to defend its actions in any matter that might crop up, seconded by Mr F. King, carried.