

RUMBLINGS OF REVOLUTION

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was filed at the city hall to-day demanding that the council go on record as protesting against conscription without a referendum.

Montreal May 24.—Montreal's principal streets to-night and in the early hours of the morning witnessed demonstrations on a scale not known of in this city for many years past. There were at least a dozen processions marching about the streets from St. Lawrence street east each gathering reinforcements of young men at various central corners while one procession clashed with the other, and the confusion was considerable.

There was one big meeting scheduled for the evening, at the corner of Logan and Champlain streets. To this point congregated crowd after crowd, marching there with blare of trumpets, and loud yells against conscription, and condemnation of the Government.

Marsil Talks Revolution.

Tancrede Marsil was again prominent, and he told the audience again that before conscription was enforced by the present Government, there would be revolution, and that he was at the head

of the organization that would take the necessary means.

Emphasis on the growing disposition amongst a certain class of the younger men to cause trouble because of the pronouncement of Premier Borden on the conscription question was brought out this morning in connection with a parade of several thousand men that primarily was meant to be a protest from laboring men against the high cost of food, but which developed into an anti-conscription parade, and which was followed by a fight at Phillips Square between two soldiers and some civilians who had been parading. The parade itself was orderly.

LABOR MAN OPPOSES CONSCRIPTION AT UNITY CONVENTION IN MONTREAL.

Mr. J. Taylor, Victoria, "put the fat in the fire" when he opposed anything which he claimed would involve conscription of man power or of industry. He declared that if it did he would have to withdraw as the representative of organized labor. A long and at times heated discussion followed, in which twenty persons took part, urging Mr. Taylor to reconsider.

ONTARIO FALLS IN LINE

SOCIALISTS SAY NO CONSCRIPTION.

Pass An Emphatic Resolution Against Measure at Labor Temple Meeting.

Toronto, May 28.—Shouting, cheering, whistling, approximately 1,000 men and women, representing at least seven different nationalities, recorded by a standing vote their protest against military conscription and disfranchisement of alien enemies in Canada at the conclusion of an enthusiastic meeting in the assembly room of the Labor Temple, Church Street, last night under the auspices of the Social Democrat party of Canada.

The vote endorsed the resolutions which placed the meeting on record as being "emphatically opposed to the compulsory military proposals of the government." It also stated that "believing as we do that militarism is absolutely opposed to any form of democratic government, we cannot acquiesce in the idea that this country should force its citizens to perform service which can only tend to bind still more firmly the chains of a military autocracy upon themselves. We therefore pledge ourselves to oppose any attempt to force such service upon us."

Regarding disfranchisement, the resolution expressed disapproval of the action of the city council in petitioning Parliament to take away for the duration of the war the franchise of all citizens hailing from alien countries who have been naturalized Canadians less than twenty-five years. It condemned the action as totally out of harmony with the spirit of the age, as ill-advised, because it was likely to accentuate racial discord and contrary to the best interests of the country. Copies of the resolution will be sent to Premier Borden and administration officials.

Speeches were delivered in English by I. Bainbridge, who presided, James Simpson, and Mrs. Hector Rentor; in Ukrainian by James Stefanisky; in Polish by M. Rotshild; in Russian by G. Mak; in Finnish by J. W. Alquist; in Yiddish by J. Brown, and in Italian by C. Marbis.

Time and again the speakers were interrupted by cheers and applause which came from every corner of the hall. The meeting was scheduled to begin at 7.30 o'clock but for an un-

known cause it was delayed an hour. By the time the speeches were started every seat in the auditorium and balcony was occupied, while standing room was at a premium. People were even sitting upon the platform at the feet of the speakers before the meeting closed. About twenty-five women were present, but the great majority of the audience were apparently men of eligible age for service under the proposed selective draft.

Chairman Bainbridge, in explaining the purpose of the meeting, prefaced his remarks by characterizing as a "gross fabrication" a recent interview attributed to him by an afternoon newspaper, in which he was quoted as an advocate of conscription. He declared that militarism in all countries was the greatest enemy of the working man. In reference to Canada's proposed action, he suggested that the motive forces behind the organization for conscription were similar to those employed in other countries for the purpose of defeating the aims of those who were seeking to elevate the working class. He knew that it would have the same result in the Dominion. He predicted that its adoption would prevent the working people from achieving progress in industrial and social development.

In commenting upon the unanimous applause which marked the adoption of the resolution at the close of the meeting, Mr. Bainbridge said: "The spirit of unity of this demonstration bodes ill for any party which seeks to pass any form of conscription in Canada. Despite the capitalistic press, which supports conscription, the united strength of the working class will become known and whatever the politicians wanted, it would ultimately be the workers who would settle the question, and suggested that many other things would have to go into the melting pot before any such measure could be enacted.

James Simpson reviewed and explained the action of Toronto's city council in the adoption of the resolution favoring disfranchisement of alien enemies, construing that action as "a piece of political trickery designed to add political prestige to those in the city council and to those who did not know the underlying principles of British citizenship."

"This country has reached more or less of a crisis as it affects the government," Mr. Simpson said. "It is not as much in favor of conscription as Premier Borden anticipated, and in-

stead of the government thinking it can introduce such legislation the officials are realizing that they cannot carry on without precipitating a crisis in the country's affairs.

"Premier Borden has the choice of a referendum of a dissolution of parliament," said the speaker, "and going to the people to see whether he is upheld. He is realizing that the next way of escape is to call the Liberals to form a coalition administration. The desire of the government is to keep its feet in the treasury for the advantages of patronage and power, at least another year."

The speaker then recalled that the premier had promised him and associate labor officials that conscription would not be introduced unless the country was in absolute danger of being destroyed. Mr. Simpson reminded his audience that since that promise was given the United States had joined the allies.

"He is not justified now," Mr. Simpson exclaimed, "if the government had been more concerned with the conscription of wealth it would be in a stronger position to enforce conscription of man power of Canada, and would be more deserving of the confidence of labor."

He quoted statistics to show how comparatively small with the war tax on profits, and then, after condemning the war profiteers, he said: "Do the officials believe we will willingly and submissively bend to a government which is trying to take a man without his permission, while these gamblers of commerce revel in their luxury? Unless the premier and the government justify the action of the reversal of the proper order of things I will not support conscription, and even if they do conscript wealth they will have to prove that the country is in jeopardy." In closing he argued that labor had the right to insist upon a greater influence in managing the affairs of the country and predicted a new birth for Socialism as a direct result of the war.

Mrs. Prentor said that conscription of wealth would stop the war. She declared that the majority of women were opposed to compulsory military service and expected the labor party to prevent Canada from being a "slave nation." It was the women and the workers who paid for the war, she said, and that if the profits were taken out of the business of war, armed conflict would cease.

Provision is being made to hold another meeting, and it is anticipated that a much larger audience will be in attendance.

COPY OF RESOLUTION FORWARDED TO PREMIER BORDEN BY KITCHENER SOCIALISTS.

"The Socialists in the City of Kitchener have since the beginning of the war supported the attitude of Canadian Socialists and of all Socialist parties in the world which are in complete opposition to war.

"We are definitely opposed to any action by the Canadian Government which introduces conscription into Canada. The adoption of such measures for the avowed purpose of defeating militarism we regard as hypocritical. It is the task of the German people themselves to overthrow German militarism and no other people can do this for them. If the Canadian Government tied hand and foot to British Imperialism forces upon Canadian work men the same system it bids them go out and destroy then it becomes the duty of liberty-loving Canadians to fight militarism at home and to sweep from power the Government which imposes militarism upon us. The Canadian Government becomes as great a menace as the German Government.

"In view of our hostility to military service we demand that instead of the Premier and his associates forcing conscription measures through Parliament they shall ask the opinion of Canadians

of both sexes through referendum.

"In case the Canadian Government should seek to force this military measure upon us we the Socialists of Kitchener, declare that because of our principles of international working-class solidarity, we will not bow our heads to the yoke."

TRADES CONGRESS EXECUTIVE AGAINST CONSCRIPTION.

Ottawa, May 22.—J. C. Watters, President of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, made the following statement to-night on the result of the Congress Executive meeting on conscription:

"After giving full consideration to the statement the Prime Minister made to the Executive of the Congress, the Executive sees no reason to change its position on conscription. The Executive has considered the matter carefully, and nothing has transpired to alter its stand of a year ago. The Executive will meet again on Monday, after the debate on the measure, and a fuller statement, going into the details of its stand, will be issued on Tuesday."

AT THE MINES.

Strike Outlook Improves.

Cobalt, May 19.—It is the consensus of opinion among mining men that the selective conscription measure just announced will serve to mitigate to a very considerable extent the labor agitation throughout the mining camps of the district. It is believed and perhaps rightly so, that idle men are more likely to be called upon than are steady working men. The union officials recognize this fact and will probably be content to forego the pressing of any demands to the point of striking, in that to do so would place all the strikers in a more or less conspicuous position and thus make them subject to perhaps the first call. Whereas for some little time the precipitation of a strike has by many mining men been considered almost inevitable, the tables are now changed, and a strike would now appear to be a rather remote possibility.

EFFECTS OF CONSCRIPTION IN ENGLAND

IMMUNE FROM ATTACK.

"So long as the British Navy is intact Britain is immune from attack; therefore there is no need for conscription in the British Isles."—Encyclopaedia Britannica.

A VOTARY OF PEACE.

Albert Taylor, "Peace negotiations candidate" for the Rossendale division of Lancashire, England, has been arrested. From the whole-hearted support he has been receiving from all sections of the community, irrespective of party political affiliations, it seems at the time of writing that the only thing that could prevent the defeat of the Government candidate was the intervention of the military service law. This, happily for the Government, has matured in Taylor's case. Another voice is lost to the cause of humanity, but the spirit of this undaunted comrade will speak for generations to come.

"WHERE ARE WE AT?"

From a Member of the Lords:

"Tell us for what we are fighting; tell us if we are victorious what will be the results of victory; tell us what recompense we may expect, except barren wreaths of glory, for a sacrifice of uncounted treasure and for mourning and misery in a hundred thousand English homes."—Lord Stanley, on the Crimean War.

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