

# PRUSSIANIZING CANADA

A meeting by Local No. 5, S.D.P., of Guelph, Ontario, was broken up by a company of soldiers about seventy-five in number. The Dominion Secretary, on receiving the news, journeyed to Guelph to investigate.

It appears that immediately after the announcement of the meeting the local soldiers organized a general attack. No civilians participated in the riot of language and abuse that followed.

The promoters of the meeting appealed to the city police for protection, and upon the request of the Mayor the police were in attendance. It may be stated in passing that there are fourteen members of this local. The meeting had scarcely commenced before it became apparent that there were troublous times ahead. Notwithstanding this fact the noble fourteen plugged ahead amidst a volley of abuse and lurid language.

Albert Farley opened with a direct appeal to the audience to keep order, stating that it needed a great deal more moral courage and manliness to take the stand they took at the present time than the average man in khaki gave warrant for. He dealt with the lawful aspect of the assemblage, and gave very prompt replies to the frothy bellowing of the interrupters.

Lorne Cunningham was the first speaker to take the spotlight. He waded through the historical problem of patriotism and proceeded to deliberate upon the capitalistic nature of war in general. This was where the trouble began—the soldier boys would not have it that capitalism caused the war, and certainly did not lop off the hands of innocent children. Cunningham pointed out that these acts of brutality were not the cause of war, but incidental to all war, which would continue until the fall of the system.

Comrade Mervyn Smith, of Kitchener, was then demanded by the uniformed vassals, to which Smith replied "Present!" and immediately proceeded to state his case against bearing arms. His medicine was too strong for the hostile audience, and he had a rough passage from then on. There was no retreat for Mervyn; he went right on to the accompaniment of oaths, hisses, and yells, and under threats of violence compelled to sing the National Anthem.

The police stood by like lobsters and saw the men hauled from the platform and punched and bruised—one man was thrown downstairs. The victims were then lined up outside the building and dragged into the ranks like prisoners of war with the victorious heroes on each side. An interesting incident occurred when the march began. Ed. Hill, a valiant comrade, and crippled by rheumatism, was being left out in the cold and not permitted to share the public disgrace of his comrades. Not to be denied such laurels, he hobbled into the ranks and demanded to suffer the persecution with his colleagues. This was too much for the fighters for liberty; they kicked him out, saying "We don't want cripples."

The gorgeous array proceeded to the strains of martial music and the accompaniment of oaths and curses. Jim Smith, the champion pamphleteer and rip-saw peddler, was threatened with drowning, and later had to quit his profession as barber, the soldiers threatening to destroy his domicile of clean shaves. Jim has since gone back to the land to associate with more congenial companions, deeming it more fitting to live by raising pigs than to die at the hands of things unfit even for the association of that lowly domestic animal.

Pardon the interruption, gentle reader. Jim is worth a whole issue.

The glorious carnival then proceeded, the noble trio were then hustled, hustled, jammed, jiggled, and to conclude, the dignity of the whole proceedings, they were then blanketed.

The stodgy little town of Guelph has never seen such a glorious spectacle until this day. The proceedings were fittingly concluded by singing the doxology—and "God Save the King."

## SOLDIERS MOB SOCIALIST CROWD.

Break Up Meeting Called to Oppose Conscription.

Uses Crutches as Weapons.

Thrilling Scene in Labor Temple Sunday Evening as Returned Men Invade Meeting and Chase Audience Over Stairs and Roofs.

Wild Scene in Hall.

The scene inside was the wildest witnessed here for many a day. The crutches and sticks of disabled veterans of Ypres and the Somme were flying about; men who returned from Courcellette and Thiepval minus limbs were engaged in hand-to-hand fights with Socialists. Tables and chairs were upset and sent spinning across the room. Everybody seemed to be shouting; some were giving orders. A bugler sounded several calls. Persons offering resistance were knocked to the floor or thrown downstairs, and some who attempted to escape by the rear were chased through the windows, over roofs and down the fire-escapes.

Played "The Red Flag."

Harry Perkins, a stereotyper, was to be chairman of the meeting, while R. A. Rigg, M.P.P., of Winnipeg, was to have been the principal speaker. That is about as far as the meeting got. A Finnish orchestra started to play "The Red Flag," the "marching song" of the Socialists, when a veteran of Courcellette rose and demanded that the National Anthem be played. There were probably 300 or 400 war veterans present, in command of Sergt.-Major Lowery. The Socialists refused to sing "God Save the King." The war veterans cried: "We will make you sing it." And the Socialists sang "God Save the King" at the point of the bayonet, figuratively speaking.

"Get Out, Everybody."

The orchestra was compelled to play the National Anthem, and those who refused to doff their hats and sing were hustled out of the hall in double-quick time. The next command was, "Get out, everybody!" and those who thought discretion the better part of valor did not remain to argue the point. A number of plainclothesmen in charge of Police Inspector Geddes regulated the crowd on the stairway, and Inspector Geddes handled the whole situation with great tact, otherwise many persons would probably have been crushed in the wild rush for the exits.

"Pack Up Your Troubles."

After the room had been cleared of Socialists the soldiers again sang the National Anthem and marched out to the street, where a great throng had gathered. The crowd reached from Queen Street almost to Wilton Avenue, and the police regulated traffic with great difficulty. Out on the street the soldiers again sang, this time the National Anthem and "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag, and Smile, Smile, Smile."

Changed His Mood.

"They're looking for trouble and they'll get it," commented a foreigner who stood by as the war veterans commenced singing "God Save the King." He was as "meek as Moses" a minute later when a man in khaki stepped up to him and said, "Take your hat off." "All right, if you say so," he muttered as he removed his hat, and held it in his hand until the National Anthem was finished.

Interrupted Church Service.

The veterans then formed fours and marched off amid cheers, which disturbed divine worship in the Metropolitan Church across the street. En route to the City Hall they chased a man who is said to have displayed a German flag.

At the City Hall they held a recruiting meeting, which wound up with cheers for the King and hisses and boos for "Jimmy" Simpson.—Toronto Telegram.

Hamilton, Ont.

A meeting arranged by the Hamilton Socialist Federation to take place on June 3, 1917, was declared off by the police authorities. The following is an explanation offered by the Chief of Police and reported in the Hamilton papers:—

ON THE JOB.

Chief Whatley Confiscated Bundle of Foreign Literature.

Police officials last evening confiscated a quantity of pamphlets printed in various foreign languages which were being distributed at a meeting of Socialists held at a house on Murray street east. Just what subjects the circulars are concerned with the police do not know, as the report of the interpreter engaged in the work of translation has not yet been received.

"We have the matter in hand," said Chief Whatley, "and we will see that these foreigners do not go too far. The meetings last night seemed to be in the nature of organization meetings, but we will watch out that no large meetings are held. It has been suggested that these men are banding together to fight conscription, but whether this is true or not I can't tell until the circulars have been translated."

Later.—Chief Whatley stated that the rest of the handbill had been translated, but that there was nothing mentioned, but the meeting Sunday afternoon.

Gratified at Way in Which Socialists Obeyed Police.

Chief Whatley is well pleased with the orderly way in which the Socialists yesterday afternoon accepted the police degree that there should be no anti-conscription meeting.

"Did you hear about the trouble in Toronto?" asked the chief. "We were lucky to avoid that."

"Don't you think it would have been better to let the meeting go on and then arrest the ringleaders?" the chief was asked.

"No, I think we chose the wisest plan," the chief replied. "I don't think we could have arrested the men anyway."

"Under what authority did you stop the meeting?" was another query put to the chief.

"We can do almost anything we like these days under the Defense of the Realms Act," declared Chief Whatley.

We beg to draw our readers' attention to the statement in the last paragraph, "We can do almost anything we like in these days," etc. It is apparent they are doing anything they like these days (either legally or illegally). Let us hear some more about "British Freedom and the Democracy of British Institutions." It reminds us of the statement made by Dr. Johnson, "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel."

The Rights of British Citizens is to Shut Up or Be Beaten Up.

The leader of the English section of the Socialist party was asked what he thought about the police stopping the anti-conscription meeting.

"They just want to show their authority, that's all," declared the leader. "We have a perfect right to hold the meeting."

"What are you going to do now?" he was asked.

"We'll appeal to those higher up," was the reply. "We are almost sure to have a meeting next Sunday afternoon."

"Was James Simpson, the Toronto Labor leader, supposed to address the meeting?" asked the reporter.

"We sent a telegram to him, but I guess it didn't arrive in time," replied the Englishman. "He hasn't come up."

There was one young English-speaking individual who was specially indignant. He read a clipping from a Toronto paper in which a police official was quoted as saying that anti-conscription meetings could be held as well as pro-conscription as long as nothing seditious was said.

"That's what I say," the man was heard to declare. "If they can hold a pro-conscription meeting, why can't we hold an anti-conscription meeting?"

No one got a chance to answer this momentous question as the police told the group to move on.

The scarcity of English-speaking people amongst the crowd was much commented upon by the spectators of the scene, whose love for a "scrap" had drawn them to Gore street. They were disappointed, however, as the foreigners merely showed their disapproval in harsh grunts and vigorous gestures.

"They should arrest the whole gang of them," was one soldier's tense comment, when he saw the crowd. "They are all pro-Germans."

The meeting was to be held under the auspices of the Hamilton International Federation of the Social Democratic Party of Canada.

Speech is the articulate expression of the human mind. Deny this expression and the mind becomes a prison, bolted and barred, from which you can never emerge without a physical evolution.

## THE DOMINION SECRETARY INTERROGATES MILITIA DEPARTMENT.

"Having received no reply to my communication of May 30, I again beg to draw your attention to the fact that soldiers, acting under instruction of superior officers, are depriving citizens of Toronto and other places of the privileges granted by the statute law to discuss matters that are of public importance at the present time relating to the proposed compulsory military service act. In view of the brutal proceedings of Sunday evening, June 3, in the Labor Temple, Toronto, I am instructed to request that you will give this letter your serious consideration and endeavor to prevent as far as possible any interference by the soldiers in properly and lawfully organized meetings. Happily no serious injury has yet been done, but the continuation of these hooligan activities may result in very serious consequences. The civil authorities are quite competent to deal with any possible disturbances, which are extremely unlikely, so far as we are concerned. "Trusting you will see the necessity of taking immediate action, and that the usual courtesy extended by public officials will be fulfilled in replying to this request."

We presume that the Militia Department is too busy handing out contracts to take any notice of complaints similar to the above. By the way, it may be advisable to state that the Honorable Minister is personally interested in contracts of this nature, as many large orders have been received by his firm from the Imperial Munitions Board. Suffice to say in regard to the letters referred to, no reply has been received up to date. His silence is more profound than words, and bearing in mind the dignity of his position, the refusal to reply can only be construed as a recognition of the validity of our claim, i.e., that the acts of vandalism referred to are committed with the acquiescence and possibly the instructions of the Militia Department.

War is Hell,  
Those who want H—  
Can go to H—

Kirkpatrick.