

UKRAINIANS PROTEST THE EUROPEAN WAR

Heated Scenes as ex-Austrian Officer is Hooted Down by Crowd.

Striking scenes were witnessed at a big mass meeting of Ukrainians held last night on Rochester street to protest against the war now in progress in Europe. The meeting was under the auspices of the local Ukrainian Social Democratic party, about 1,000 men being present.

Several speakers had addressed the gathering when the climax was reached. In strong terms the war and the war-makers had been denounced and the Austrian subjects had been urged to refrain from participating in the strife, when one of the erstwhile "leaders" of the men, Mr. A. Piaga, ascended the platform and in a loud voice appealed, as a Nationalist, to the Ukrainians to join the Austrian army and fight for their flag. Immediately there was an uproar. From the dense crowd came cries of "traitor," "spy," "murderer," and "autocrat," while the other speakers of the evening got onto the platform and denounced the sentiments of Piaga in round terms, and the latter was hooted down. Later in the evening, Piaga was expelled from the party.

The meeting had been called by the Ukrainian S.D.P., for the purpose of joining in the protests of their comrades, over 10,000,000 in number, in all parts of the world against the war in Europe. A large portion of the audience were against "going in the war, but a few present exhibited a keen nationalist spirit.

PROTESTS THE WAR.

Mr. Michael Chopowik opened the meeting with an enthusiastic speech protesting against the European turmoil, and advising all present to stop at home and not go to Austria for no other purpose than buying food for guns. He was followed by Mr. John Kanduk, who with great vigor urged those present to remain out of the bloodshed. The next speaker was Mr. Piaga. He began by an appeal to the men to rally around the flag, and to return to the ranks of the Austrian army. "Let us grasp the guns and swords," he said, "and fight against France, Russia and England." It was at this point the uproar commenced.

After comparative calm had been restored, Mr. R. Wojewski and Mr. Chopowik, again addressed the crowd, pointing out that Piaga had proved himself a traitor to the party. He was a paid agent of the Austrian government, and it was found out that he had received communications from the Austrian consul in Montreal. It was also explained that in fighting with Austria, the men would be against England, whose citizens they were at present. A stirring appeal was also made by Mr. F. Swiederek, who said it was a shame to ask these men to return home to be slaughtered. He said they should use, not bombs and revolvers, but the bomb of enlightenment and education. Mr. J. Wojewski explained to the men the action of Piaga, and told them that he had found him to be an agent of the Austrian government.

Piaga was one of the men chosen to go to Europe as a revolutionary, and is an ex-officer of the Austrian army.

A resolution protesting against the war was passed, and attention called to the suppression by the press of the reports of mammoth demonstrations carried on by their comrades in every part of the world over ten million strong. Sympathy was also expressed at the assassination of Jean Jaures, the French socialist leader.