

RUTHENIANS ASSERT LOYALTY TO CANADA

Three Thousand Citizens of Austrian Birth Declare Britain's Claims Come First.

Three thousand Canadian Ruthenians attended the patriotic mass meeting held last night in the convention hall of the Industrial bureau, and unanimously passed the following resolution:

"Whereas, the welfare of the British empire is at stake, we, the Ruthenian citizens of Winnipeg, here assembled, hereby express our loyalty to the British flag and declare our readiness to follow the Union Jack when called upon."

Vociferous applause followed the reading of the resolution, when it was presented to the meeting by J. W. Arsenych, and its passage was followed by loud applause. The meeting was an orderly one, the only excitement being occasioned soon after the meeting opened. While J. Petrushevich was speaking, when about 200 Jewish Socialists rose and left the hall. Their exit was orderly, however, and failed to cause anything like a stampede.

May Form Regiment.

A proposal to form a Ruthenian regiment in Winnipeg was received with great enthusiasm and the attitude of the military authorities with regard to this proposal will be ascertained. It is stated that over 60 Ruthenian volunteers have already joined the 106th Light Infantry.

There were five speakers, J. W. Arsenych, Ivan Petrushevich, Rev. Dr. Retkewich, T. D. Ferley and Theo. Stefanik. All excepting the first speaker, addressed the audience in the Ruthenian language.

After the chairman, John Negrych had explained that the purpose of the meeting was to make clear to the public the attitude of Canadian Ruthenians in the present war, he declared that their duty as citizens of Canada is to sympathize with the British empire, and, if needed, to help that empire in its time of trouble.

J. W. Arsenych asserted that the Canadian Ruthenians numbered 700,000. They had established themselves here as useful citizens, he said, and had already given proof of their usefulness. "Our homes and our fortunes," he said, "are now at stake. Great Britain is at war and the welfare of the British empire is at stake. Whatever friction might have existed among foreigners in this country in the past, should be forgotten at this time and all should stand together in one common purpose."

The meeting closed with the singing of the national anthem.