

# SOCIALISTS EJECTED FROM LABOR TEMPLE

## Arrests Follow Sunday Attempt to Hold Meeting on Street Corner.

Following the turbulent meeting in the Labor Temple on Saturday night, a number of Toronto Socialists attempted to hold another open-air gathering at the corner of Shuter and Church streets last night. The police, however, who had been notified that the meeting was to be held, were on the scene early, and as a result two of the members of the organization, John Goodman, 89 1/2 Hlawatha road, and Thos. Wiltsey, Bloor street west, were taken into custody, charged with stealing a sandbox belonging to the city. The box was to have been used as a platform for the speakers.

Saturday's meeting was one of the most exciting ever held in the history of Socialism in Toronto. It was called by the Trades and Labor Council, for the purpose of protesting against the order-in-Council prohibiting strikes, but as the Government, towards the end of the week, withdrew that order, there was some talk among the officers of the council of cancelling the meeting, but as it had been well-advertised, it was decided not to change the plans, and President Conn and other officers were on hand at the hour set for the gathering.

### Was Socialist Gathering.

So were the Socialists. Hundreds were present, long before eight o'clock. They filled the big hall to capacity. They climbed up and sat on the beams and supports of the roof. They filled the body of the hall and galleries, and crowded on the steps of the platform. It was one of the biggest crowds that has ever packed the Labor Temple auditorium.

After opening the meeting, President Conn attempted to avoid trouble by announcing that as the order-in-Council had been cancelled, the protest meeting was unnecessary, and an adjournment would therefore be in order. That started the uproar.

"Traitor! Fakir!" came from all parts of the hall, while a regular howl of derision went up from the crowd.

"We'll elect another chairman," called a "comrade," and an outburst of applause greeted the suggestion.

"If the meeting continues, the president of the Trades Council will remain in the chair," retorted Secretary Tom Stevenson, and President Conn stuck to his post.

Delegate Lewis, of the Machinists' Union, then secured the floor, and proceeded to read the following resolution:

### Resolution of Protest.

"That the meeting register a vigorous protest against government by order-in-Council, which prohibited free speech, the holding of public meetings, and the unfettered use of the press; that the Cabinet was simply a committee of Parliament, and that it had illegally usurped the functions that belonged to the elected representatives of the people."

A cheer greeted the reading of this resolution, and it would probably have carried without any opposition or trouble, had not Lewis proceeded to deliver a fiery address in support of it. He demanded that all persons imprisoned for violating the order-in-Council be at once liberated; that all aliens who had been interned during the war be at once given their freedom, and concluded by declaring that the war had been won by the workmen of Germany, and not by Great Britain and her allies. That was going a step too far for President Conn and the officers of the Trades and Labor Council.

### Reflection on Organized Labor.

"I refuse to put that resolution," declared President Conn, emphatically. "I am not going to allow any man to make such deliberate falsehoods and get away with them. They are a gross reflection upon the thousands of trades unionists who volunteered for active service, and the hundreds who have given their lives in the interests and defence of freedom."

A fresh outbreak occurred, President Conn's words being drowned in the uproar.

"The meeting is adjourned," he declared, when he could make himself heard for a moment. "It was called for trade unionists only."

"Stand up all who are trade unionists!" shouted Lewis, and the entire audience rose en masse.

"We have a real Russian autocracy right here in Canada!" called some one in the audience, and the others cheered.

"If you ask my opinion, there's too much Russian in this audience," retorted President Conn.

### Turned Out Lights.

President Conn again declared the meeting adjourned, and left the chair. This was followed by a rush for the platform, and there were cries for the selection of another chairman. Caretaker W. Fordham, however, acting on instructions from the Labor Temple directors, began to turn out the lights, and threatened to call the police if the crowd did not at once leave. This threat had the desired effect, and the audience poured out in the street, where they proceeded to hold an open-air meeting.

For over two hours and a half speakers unburdened their minds on the question of governments in general and the Canadian Government in particular. It was denounced as the foe to human liberty. Every one in authority came in for a round of abuse, and the working classes were called upon to "show that they had fighting blood in their veins" by vigorously protesting against autocracy in Canada.

"It was just the revolutionary element in Toronto having their fling for twenty minutes or so," said Mr. Stevenson, to-day. "They have been waiting for an opportunity to express themselves freely, and saw such an opportunity in Saturday's meeting. I refused to act as secretary, when I saw how things were going. There is too much British blood in me for that."