

TWELVE THOUSAND IN HUGE PARADE

Social Democrats Deliver Fiery Speeches in Many Languages, Asking Support for Party.

Six abreast, thousands of working men, with a sprinkling of women, marched through the city on Saturday afternoon, breaking ranks in the market square, where they listened to fiery speeches from members of the Social-Democratic party. It is customary for the Socialists to make a special demonstration of their attitude on social questions on May 1; and this May day celebration, according to Ald. Rigg, one of the speakers, eclipsed in magnitude any demonstration ever held in Winnipeg for a similar purpose.

Starting at Pritchard avenue, the parade passed along Main street to Portage avenue, thence west to Carlton street and then down Carlton street to the Market square. They were headed by the Trades and Labor band. Those responsible for the demonstration said there were at least 12,000 paraders. Possibly that estimate overshoot the mark, but in any event the crowd in the square must have been well over that figure. The usual banners were carried, bearing such legends as, "Socialism will solve the unemployment problem," "We dig the coal and freeze all winter," "Workers unite to fight the demoralizing capitalist system," "We want work, not charity," "Study Socialism, the hope of the world."

J. Wilson presided over the meeting, at which the speakers spoke in English, and those who mounted the platform were F. G. Tipping, A. Beach, Harry Wilson, and Ald. Rigg.

Explained Socialist Creed.

The address of the last-named speaker epitomized the general argument of the others. He expounded the elementary principles of the Socialist creed, and then urged the working men to forsake their allegiance to the Liberal and Conservative parties.

"If all the people here," he said, "were definitely associated with the socialist movement, the old parties would have to combine in order to beat the Socialists at the polls. In every place where the Socialist party has registered a victory, there has been a consolidation of the old parties for the purpose of beating their common enemy. That was the case in the city of Milwaukee. There is no fundamental difference between the old parties, despite the seeming bitterness with which they assail each other. If you want to find out whether the traditions of Liberalism in Canada are cleaner than those of the Conservative party, examine the record of the Laurier government. As a matter of fact, there creeps into every party, after a year or so of office, the grabbing of the hirelings and the dishing out of spoils to those who have helped the successful ones into power. The Socialists want to make a direct attack on the old parties, who simply strengthen the great bulwark of capitalism."

City Doing All It Can.

Speaking of the efforts of the city council to mitigate the sufferings of the unemployed, Mr. Rigg said he believed every alderman and controller would willingly do what he could to help. But the council was as completely dominated by the principle of capitalism as any private business man. More than half the citizens had not paid their last year's taxes, and that was considered bad business by the great banking corporations. So if the city tried to borrow money for the relief of unemployment, it could not do so.

A. Beach laid stress on the need of education and organization. He asserted the function of the Socialists was to organize the workers into an orderly and thus effective bunch. Mob action, rioting and disorder had no permanent effect. F. G. Tipping declared the present system, impelled by tremendous social forces, was moving toward the social ownership of instruments of production socially used. But he said the conscious effort of the people was needed as a part of the process, and he advised his hearers to make a deep study of Socialism.

In Foreign Languages.

Speakers in another part of the square spoke in Jewish, Rutenian,

German and Swedish. There was more excitement around the foreign speakers than around those that put their case in English, and occasionally the crowds broke into cheers. Everything, however, was conducted in an orderly manner.