

KITCHENER RIOT BROKE UP PREMIER BORDEN'S MEETING SATURDAY NIGHT

Organized Demonstration Prevented Sir Robert From Addressing Gathering

Kitchener, Nov. 26.—A crowd of youths and young men, many of them of German descent and military age, jammed the galleries of Kitchener's biggest auditorium, the skating rink, Saturday night and refused to give the Prime Minister of Canada a hearing. More disgraceful conduct has probably never been witnessed at any public gathering in history of Ontario. It was a climax to rumors in circulation for some days, prior to meeting, that a warm time was in preparation for Sir Robert and others who might attempt to speak with him.

The appeal of Mayor Gross for fair play was greeted with mocking cries of "We want Laurier" and "Down with Conscription" and when his Worship, driven to extremes threatened "arrest or something worse," he was met with yells of defiance.

Mr. H. M. Mowat, K. C., the Unionist candidate in Parkdale, Toronto, was unable to speak for the uproar of the crowd, shouting "Shut up" and "Sit down" and "Boo." Sir Robert himself fared no better. The Prime minister upon rising was hailed with loud cheers for Laurier and Euler, the anti-conscription candidate in North Waterloo, and counter cheers "for Borden." He made an effort to proceed, but could not be heard for the din. Finally he gave it up.

Mayor Gross again appealed in vain for order.

"I feel ashamed," he said, "and I shall certainly feel Kitchener's reputation has been lowered if news is flashed broadcast throughout the Dominion that you refuse to give the premier a hearing."

It was evident for some time before the meeting that an organized attempt was to be made to prevent the Premier and his followers from speaking. As early as 7 o'clock a mob of anti-conscriptionists, including scores of youth who will be in the first draft provided for by the Military Service Act, mobilized at a pre-arranged meeting and paraded through the main streets carrying Laurier and Euler banners. "Laurier will save us and democracy" was the wording of one banner, which was torn to shreds by a handful of returned soldiers in a clash in the busiest part of the city. Another banner read "Vote for Euler, the common people's candidate." This remained intact until the meeting place was reached. Several returned soldiers climbed into the galleries and tore down the banner urging the people to vote for Euler, and one or two were thrown out or arrested by the police, including a Pole named Sam Oraszeck, who had a loaded revolver and a bottle of whiskey in his pockets when searched at the police station.

"This has always been called a good sporty town, it was always given everybody a chance," declared W. G. Weichel, the Unionist candidate. "Why not give me a chance? The news will go from the Atlantic to the Pacific that you have insulted the Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada."

Weichel finally got a hearing. He said he had been criticized for supporting the soldiers' bill.

"Are they your friends?" asked a voice from the gallery.

"Yes, and I tell you if the soldiers in France were not your friends you would not be here to ask questions," he retorted. "I have always said the people of this riding are as patriotic as any in Canada," said Mr. Weichel.

"We are to Canada," came back from the gallery.

"The Militia Act as amended by Laurier in 1904," he said, "recognized compulsory service."

"Not to go overseas though," was shouted by hecklers.

"What prompted the United States to go into the war?" he asked.

"To save Morgan's millions" came from the gallery.

Sir Robert Borden did not make another attempt to speak but held a reception on the platform after the meeting which dispersed in an orderly manner. Afterwards he told the mennonite delegation that they were exempted from combatant service. He returned to Toronto Sunday morning.