

Socialist Meetings Broken Up and
Property Damaged Throughout City

ATTACK ON "REDS" Lis

STARTED DISORDERS

Attempt of Socialists to Hold Meeting on Market Square Has Far Reaching Effect

CROWD IS WORKED UP

Display of Antagonism to Foreigners Suspected of Having Alien Enemy Sympathy

Thousands of dollars damage represented in wrecked business houses and smashed windows marks the trail of rioting in Winnipeg yesterday from the afternoon until late at night following the breaking up of a revolutionary socialist meeting in Market square by returned soldiers and crowds of sympathizers. The outbreak which started with an attack upon the "Reds" developed into a general display of feeling against foreigners, who were supposed to be alien enemy sympathizers and about a score of buildings, principally stores in the central and northern parts of the city, suffered at the hands of mobs, which were composed of returned soldiers and youths. In the attack upon the meeting in the square there was much hand to hand fighting, and although a number of people of foreign nationality were somewhat severely mauled, no hospital cases were reported to the police as having arisen out of the fracas, although rumors circulated during the evening of people being killed. The serious damaging of property is the worst feature of the ebullition of feeling which the police fear is only the start of an anti-alien enemy campaign in the city. In view of this steps are being taken to provide protection for concerns in Winnipeg where large numbers of foreigners are employed.

Placards Started Trouble.

Public attention was called to the proposed meeting of the revolutionary socialists by the placarding of the bill boards of the city announcing it. It had originally been called for the Majestic theatre, but the proprietors evidently fearing a riot cancelled the engagement. The promoters then had resort to the venue at Market square, which has become notorious by the conflicts between the Reds and citizens who object to the propagation of the doctrines of Bolshevism in the metropolis of the west.

The ire of the returned soldiers who mustered several hundreds at this period of the proceedings—the crowd reached the dimensions of some thousands — was especially aroused against the meeting as it had been called to honor a German, Karl Liebknecht. "Fritzies are all the same to us," they shouted when the socialists started to say that Liebknecht was always against the war. That was the last attempt made by the local Red leaders to speak. The soldiers made a rush, the socialists fled and some of them seeking shelter in places in the vicinity, and this led to the attack on these places. All those who tried to speak were foreigners except one, and he claimed he had been hired to speak in English.

The crowd then headed for the socialists' headquarters on Smith street. It is located on the second floor of the A.O.U.W. building, on Smith street, over Jimmy's restaurant. With a rush the soldiers and their friends were up the stairs and furniture and bundles of literature were thrown into the street to be made a bonfire of as soon as they reached there. Among the captures was a red flag and this was borne down in triumph and added to the funeral pyre.

Visit the North End.

After a visit to Elmuwood where some more damage was done the next move was towards the north end of the city, where among the buildings attacked was that used by the Austro-Hungarian club. It was completely wrecked, the windows smashed and the piano and furniture flung into the street.

So it continued until late at night, one of the last places to be reported being the store of the Michael Ert company at the corner of King and Bannatyne. Not a whole pane of glass was left in the establishment; the seven plate glass windows were smashed into bits by bricks and other weapons of destruction the crowd got ready to hand. Here, as in the case of the places attacked during the rioting, the crowds were made up of a few returned men and youths. Spectators state that goods were thrown out of the Ert store and picked up as soon as it appeared on the street and carried off.