

JUSTICE IN CANADA.

It is stated by Mr. J. G. O'Donoghue, Dr. Salem Bland, the Rev. Father Minehan, and Mr. Arthur Hawkes, in a letter to The Globe, that it is the duty of this paper to deal with cases of arbitrary conduct on the part of officers of the law and Magistrates on the facts as reported at the recent Massey Hall meeting, "and not to cry Bolshevism at those who are trying to vindicate its own daily golden text."

The cases to which these gentlemen direct attention are thus stated in their own words:

"In this city a woman has been in prison several months against whom no charge has been preferred by ordinary processes of justice, who has been before no court, and who may, under the arbitrary and un-British measure denounced by The Globe, be held indefinitely, with habeas corpus practically destroyed and, therefore, the very ark of the constitution desecrated by those who are sworn to preserve it inviolate. What is The Globe's punishment for the disloyal men who perpetrate such arbitrary and un-British conduct?"

"In this city and Province men are in jail, under the authority of what The Globe calls arbitrary measures, and serving sentences passed by single Magistrates—sentences such as no Judge in Great Britain is permitted to pass without the verdict of a jury. To those who understand what British justice really is, it is scandalous that under orders in Council, and for specially created offenses, single Magistrates are permitted, under any circumstances, to send men to prison for terms of years without the check of a jury trial. The spectacle of Canadian 'justice' is enough to make Junius turn in his grave. It appears only to make The Globe turn upon those who protest against it."

The Globe would be false to all its traditions were it to condone the arbitrary measures said to have been practised in these cases. No man or woman, native-born or alien, should be "held indefinitely" by the act of any officer of the law or by the authority of any Magistrate. There must be opportunity for a fair trial in open court so that the guilt or innocence of the accused shall be established. If, a year after the close of hostilities, orders in Council are still in force under which the things charged are possible, the people of Canada will assuredly demand that such orders shall be set aside at once and that all persons charged with crime shall be tried in open court, and in cases where the Criminal Code gives the option of a trial by jury, shall be accorded that right.

So far The Globe and all right-thinking citizens will range themselves on the side of the gentlemen who protest against un-British treatment of any person resident in Canada, whether the person accused of crime be Canadian-born, British-born, or an unnaturalized alien. The fact remains that many unnaturalized aliens in Toronto and in other parts of Canada who, according to Mr. O'Donoghue, have not been found guilty of any "overt act" of sedition are unquestionably in favor of the subversion of constitutional government in this country and the setting up of the minority rule which Lenin and his followers maintain in Russia by terrorism. A representative of The Globe was present in the body of the hall at the Massey Hall meeting, and states that in the section of the hall in which he sat there were many of these Red revolutionaries, and that the only occasions upon which they applauded vigorously were when Dr. Bland told of a meeting recently held in London in which people expressed the wish that a Soviet Government might be established in England, and when another speaker—an open and notorious enemy of the British Empire as at present constituted—declared that Canadians could not have either "economic freedom or national independence so long as the monarchical idea exists on this side of the Atlantic."

Father Minehan made a protest against this amazing assertion, but The Globe understands Dr. Bland to take the ground that, as he spoke before this anti-British outburst and had no opportunity afterwards of addressing the audience, his presence on the platform while the statement was made cannot be regarded as establishing any responsibility on his part for or sympathy with the sentiments expressed. One can imagine what would have happened in 1911, when Mr. Hawkes was leading the cohorts of the British-born against the reciprocity agreement, had anyone suggested at a public meeting attended by Mr. Hawkes that the "economic freedom" of Canada is impossible so long as Canada remains a part of the British Empire.

While these gentlemen are philosophically debating the question as to when liberty of speech becomes license, what do they suppose the Reds, who form a large part of their audience, are doing? These people, unaccustomed to the liberty that broadens down from precedent to precedent, the liberty that enables every man to speak the thing he will, even if that thing consists of the arrant nonsense that Canada's economic freedom is impossible unless and until Canada cuts the painter, are wondering if Mr. O'Donoghue and Dr. Bland and Father Minehan and Mr. Hawkes

can not be trusted to go a little farther in the direction of "economic freedom." There were men on the platform beside these gentlemen who had tried to engineer a general sympathetic strike in Toronto at the time of the Winnipeg strike, and had failed because the citizens of Toronto recognize that such a strike is in very truth a form of civil war waged by a small minority against the bulk of the citizenship. In the audience there were beyond all question men who during these labor disturbances strewed upon the streets of Toronto and the doorsteps of the citizens leaflets containing incitements to armed rebellion, such as this: "You machinists, who made so many splendid machine guns, rifles, and small arms for your masters to sell, why did you neglect to provide yourselves with them before you strike? . . . This is no question of unionism, but a question of the seizure of power; the establishment of the dictatorship of the working class, the crushing of all resistance from the capitalists and their followers, leading to the introduction of Communism. Workers! face the facts of your position and the necessity of revolutionary action. Long live the workers' revolution against the capitalists!"

The Globe has not the remotest doubt that in Petrograd and Moscow while Lenin and Trotsky were getting ready for their throat-slitting campaign there were good citizens addressing public meetings held to protest against the arbitrary conduct of Kerensky and the Moderate Revolutionists. The good citizens were unconscious stalking-horses for Red Revolution and terrorism. The Globe will join in a protest against the conduct of Col. Denison, Mr. Kingsford, or any other Magistrate or officer of the law who can be shown to have denied justice to the humblest alien in Toronto. The Globe believes that every effort should be made to right any wrongs that have been done under statute law or orders in Council. But The Globe must also declare its conviction that by many persons in the Massey Hall audience gentlemen who sat silent while Canada was pictured as the economic serf of Britain and a land under the domination of autocracy will inevitably be regarded as sympathizers whose support may be hoped for in that day when Communism is to take the place of "economic slavery," and the dictatorship of the proletariat will end the reign of "autocracy."