

# MAYOR IS TO READ RIOT ACT ON CITY HALL STEPS TO-DAY

## Decides Drastic Action is Necessary After Disturbances on Streets of Toronto Last Night —Police Compelled to Charge Crowds Which Seemed to Threaten Trouble

"To-morrow at noon I will read the Riot Act from the City Hall steps," said Mayor Church at midnight last night. "I will also issue a proclamation declaring all persons taking part in parades, meetings in parks, discussions on the streets, etc., as committing an indictable offence under the Act and liable to penalties up to life imprisonment.

"We are going to have law and order at all costs."

The reading of the Riot Act means that the military can be called upon without further preliminaries to aid the civil forces.

Disorder, during which a number of returned soldiers, civilians and women felt the force of the policemen's batons, occurred last night on Court street and Yonge street, following the conclusion of a meeting in Queen's Park, at which drastic resolutions were passed regarding aliens, and also constables who struck returned soldiers and women on Saturday night.

The strains of "God Save the King" had not died away before a fight started near the stand, several men jumping on a young man in a panama hat who had not removed it during the singing of the National Anthem. Members of the R. A. F. interceded, stating that the man was probably an American, who had not recognized the anthem, but had mistaken it for the American national song, which has the same tune.

Led by a motor car containing a number of amputation cases, several thousand people, including returned men in uniform, returned men in civies, civilians and women, paraded down town, coming around the east side of the crescent, down University avenue to Christopher to Elizabeth, then along Gerrard to Yonge.

### Through The Ward.

Through The Ward spread the news that the soldiers were coming and the residents for blocks on each side of the line of march gathered in their numerous children and took in furniture, handcars, etc., from in front of their premises.

Down Yonge street the crowd passed, singing "We'll Never Let the Old Flag Fall" and other songs. Policemen were not numerous at this time, and those met were booed and hissed but not molested. Turning west on Queen street the men went down Bay street and were met by the first large party of police, where a newspaper office was booed and a trolley pole pulled off a passing car. At this point stones were thrown and several windows in the car broken.

Ordered to move on by the police, the parade proceeded along King street and the motor car containing the amputation cases disappeared up Toronto street. The first section of the parade went up Church street and turned along Court street in front of No. 1 Station.

### Packed Into Court Street.

Those in the rear of the procession seemed to come in on Court street from Toronto street, and a seething mass soon packed the narrow thoroughfare.

From No. 1 Police Station was seen to issue a single file of blue-coats with drawn batons. Straight across the street they forced a path, and then started to work in both directions. From both ends of the little street the men and women rushed back, and inside of two minutes the street was clear, the police swinging right and left with their

sticks. At 9.30 several straw hats were all that was left of the crowd.

### Marched Up Yonge.

Remnants of the crowd marched along Adelaide street and up Yonge, and were kept on the move by the squads of police. Other squads went in front of the main crowd, and told women and motorists to get off the street. Throughout the whole of the disorders it has been surprising to many the way the women, in some cases accompanied by young children, have remained on the streets during the trouble.

Clashes between the police and the crowd occurred at Shuter, Wilton avenue and College street, and, following some of the rushes by the police, large sticks were dropped on the sidewalk, and stones were thrown on several occasions.

Several men, some of them returned soldiers, were beaten on Yonge street during these rushes. Near College and Yonge streets, during one rush, Pte. Shulman, who gave his address as the Y.M.C.A., was struck on the arm and head, and another returned soldier who was reported to have been badly beaten was taken to the Spadina Military Hospital in Capt. Lou Scholes' motor.

Pte. Shulman said that he was struck on the arm by a constable whose number he has, and turned around and thrown to the pavement. After falling to the sidewalk he alleges that the constable again hit him on the head with his baton. After recovering somewhat on the benches at College and Yonge he was removed in a motor car.

### Ran After Constable.

The crowd was kept moving up and down Yonge street by police, who advised all women to go home. Around 10.30, catching sight of a single constable at Wood and Yonge streets, a crowd of thirty or forty rushed along Wood street and jumped aboard a passing Church street car which they thought the policeman had taken. The car was packed by the crowd, but the officer had eluded them, and they returned to Yonge street a few blocks north.

With the exception of the corner of College and Yonge streets, the crowds were very small around the downtown corners, but instances were witnessed of lads shying bricks at passing policemen from the security of dark doorways along side streets adjacent to Yonge.

### Inspector Tipton Hurt.

Shortly after 11 o'clock a number of the reserves were called back to No. 2, and at 11.30 it was reported that Inspector Richard Tipton of No. 7, Ossington Station, was badly beaten by a returned soldier, who, with another, had lengths of lead pipe.

At midnight Mayor Church announced that he would read the Riot Act in front of the City Hall at noon to-day, and call upon the Dominion Government to co-operate to a greater extent with the police. The mil-

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# RIOT ACT IS TO BE READ

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tary, he said, had expressed a willingness to co-operate, but allowed returned soldiers and men from the hospitals to address and take part in the meeting at Queen's Park, and had taken no action. The Mayor stated that Acting Police Chief Dickson had asked the military to assist at the corner of College and Yonge streets, but they had not done so.

## Special Constables To-day.

"Their efforts are entirely wasted on the desert air," said the Mayor. He telegraphed to Ottawa last night and said that a number of special constables would be sworn in to-day.

## Crowd Asked to Disperse.

When the crowd reached Shuter and Yonge streets the rioters were asked by a squadron of policemen to break up. They refused to, and milk bottles and stones were hurled at the officers. It was the worst outbreak of the evening, and when several of the policemen were struck over the heads they drew their batons.

Pte. A. M. Bennett, was beaten over the head by policemen when they charged the crowd. He was dazed and picked up and carried to the Spadina Hospital. It was learned from the hospital last night that his condition is not serious.

## At Carlton and College Streets.

From Shuter street the crowd was driven north to Carlton and College streets. Here they remained until after midnight. At certain periods small groups of the rioters would move away in different directions, and, fearing that they were moving away to slip the police, motorcycle policemen from Dundas street west station acted as scouts and kept a close watch on them.

At 11.30 last night acting Inspector Snider walked over to a number of young soldiers at Carlton and Yonge streets and quietly asked them to move on. While doing so it is alleged a young soldier named Frederick McCheney walked up behind him and struck him over the head with a piece of lead pipe. The pipe, it was said, was taken from him by the police and was nearly three feet in length.

## Lead Pipe Taken.

Detective Guthrie witnessed the affair and immediately took McCheney into custody and he was rushed to Dundas street west station in a motor car. Two other pieces of pipe several feet long were taken away from rioters by the police.

Pte. Frank Elward, charged with being disorderly, is alleged to have attempted to incite the crowd to come down to the station and demand the release of McCheney. He was arrested by Acting Detective Koster and also taken to Dundas street station. Joseph Position, 82 Grange avenue, was in the crowd, and was arrested by one of the motorcycle policemen. He is being held for not carrying his registration papers.

## Quiet After Midnight.

Policeman Peacock was also struck over the head, but was able to remain on duty. Policemen and mounted men maintained order from midnight on, and by 12.30 the crowd had practically dwindled away and order was maintained, although the police reserves were held down town in readiness.

## Claims Greeks Always Loyal.

That the trouble has international complications is illustrated by a long telegram which the Mayor received last night from Mr. P. Patanis Greek Consul-General to the United States, in which he calls upon the Mayor as Chief Magistrate of the city to make a thorough investigation. The Consul calls attention to the strong ties existing between his country and Great Britain and the stronger bonds through common alliance against the common enemy.

Greeks in Canada, he states, have always been loyal to Great Britain have answered the call to arms and have been generous subscribers to the Victory loans. He hopes for an assurance that the Greek riots have been the result of a misinformed populace assisted by Bulgarian propaganda.

## Others Injured.

Mr. Robert Bushley of Vancouver B.C., a visitor staying at the Y.M.C.A., College street, suffering from a scalp wound, was admitted to the General Hospital.

Two others admitted were:

Rex Crawford, 627 St. Claren avenue, a discharged fitter, scalp wound, and Charles O'Brien, 8 Brock avenue, a discharged soldier injured to head.

Thomas Woodrow, College Convalescent Home, had four stitches inserted to close a scalp wound, at St. Michael's Hospital.

Three other persons were taken to the General Hospital, but after having their injuries dressed they left for their homes.