

UNEMPLOYED GATHER AROUND THE CITY HALL

A host of unemployed from all over the city, mostly foreigners, marched to the city hall yesterday morning under the delusion that once there, they would be given work. It is estimated that the crowd, at its height, numbered 2,000.

The aspect of the crowd was sullen and dogged. Out of work for months, in many cases with families depending on their efforts, the men had become sore and yesterday morning it needed but little, perhaps a hasty action on the part of a constable, an undue pushing or shoving by him, or the presence of a magnetic leader to have turned the sullen, brooding men into a mob of vandals, ready to go to any ends.

All of the constables on duty at the police station, and likewise the plain clothes men, were hurriedly called to the scene of the near-riot. Deputy Chief Newton, surrounded by sergeants and inspectors, was also on the scene.

Towards noon time there occurred several instances when different portions of the crowd showed fight. The constables in the vicinity, however, intimidated the pugnacious ones by simply drawing their batons but the actual use of the clubs was unnecessary.

Shortly before 1 o'clock, the crowd had thinned out and not more than one-fourth of the original assemblage still thronged around the city hall and market square. Constables patrolled both the front and rear entrances of the city hall.

Rosser Affected.

The city was not the only place where the demonstration was made, for Reeve Haddow, of Rosser, said that a large gang of men appeared at his residence yesterday asking for work. Like the city, the municipality had neither work nor money for them. Reeve Haddow suggested that the towns and municipalities should get together, but Mayor Waugh pointedly asked what result such deliberations could obtain. He said that as far as possible the city would look after its own citizens, but it could not go beyond that.

Who Was Responsible.

While no one seems to know just who was responsible for the big demonstration of the unemployed outside the city hall yesterday morning, there seems to be indications that the Social Democratic party had a hand in the matter and that the main instigators of the whole affair were English speaking people.

Residents of the foreign section in North Winnipeg are responsible for the statement that for Friday and Saturday of last week and also on Sunday, two English speaking men made it their business to instruct the foreigners to appear at the city hall at 9 a.m. on Monday morning; that there would be addresses and that the lieutenant-governor would address them.

The suggestion that the instructions were given in some of the foreign churches does not seem to be correct and in fact in one of the Polish churches, the priest warned the people to be circumspect in their behavior and to keep away from meetings which might lead to trouble.

That the demonstrators themselves were hoaxed seems beyond a doubt but just what objects the perpetrators of such a hoax could have in view is a matter of speculation.

Wanted Pamphlets Printed.

While the demonstration was actually in progress some men entered a printing office in the north end whose work is mostly done in foreign languages, and asked the proprietor to print 2,000 pamphlets for them. They had no money to pay for the work and as the proprietor of the shop was not in the philanthropic business he refused to do the work. He, however, retained the manuscript, which to say the least is somewhat inflammatory. It is signed "The Ukrainian committee of the Social Democratic party," and calling on its "Brothers and Slaves." It first reviews the conditions prevailing since 1913. It claims that the people of the Ukraine in Canada are starving and that they are not enjoying the fruits of their labors of previous years. It calls upon the unemployed to band together in a life and death struggle against the government of Canada, of Manitoba and the municipalities. It concludes by saying that the government is composed of but a few while they themselves are many.