

# WINNIPEG WAR VETERANS RAID SOCIALIST HALL

## Break up Meeting—Pummel Agitators, Giving Some of Them Black Eyes

WINNIPEG, Jan. 26.—The unusual spectacle was presented at about 3 o'clock this afternoon on Smith street, just off Portage avenue, of furniture coming out through the double glass windows of the second story of an office building. Following this came bundles of literature, presumably Bolsheviki propaganda, and finally a number of soldiers descended bearing a red flag they had captured which was set fire to amid plaudits of the crowd. The proceedings, which had been carried on with utmost good humor, terminated with the arrival of a military police patrol. No arrests were made.

The cause of the disturbance was the placarding of billboards with posters by Winnipeg Social Democrats, many of whom openly profess Bolsheviki doctrines, inviting fellow workmen to come into their meetings and protest against restrictions on free speech, held in the Majesty theatre. Fearing a riot, the proprietors locked the doors and adjournment was taken to the square, where some hundred, mainly the curious, gathered. But soldiers in uniform would have nothing of it and broke up the meeting, some of the agitators receiving black eyes and a pummelling. All but one of those who attempted to speak were foreigners, the exception claiming he had been hired to speak in English.

After the meeting had been disposed of, some soldiers proceeded to the hall at 328 Smith street, reported to be headquarters of the Social Democrats, where a large number of copies of the prohibited sheet, *The Red Flag*, were found and the contents wrecked as described.

### Austro-Hungarian Club Wrecked

The Austro-Hungarian club in the north end of the city, located at the corner of MacGregor street and Mountain avenue, was completely wrecked by the angered mob, which seemed determined on destroying everything Austrian and German and "beat up" all the aliens and Bolsheviki they could lay their hands on. All the windows in the club were smashed, while the furniture was sent flying out of the windows. The piano was sent crashing into the street from the second story and was then smashed. Billiard tables, card tables, etc., were demolished and many carried away trophies in the form of table and chair legs and parts of the ruined piano.

The crowd then moved to Elmwood, a suburb, and great excitement was caused in the streets as the Bolsheviki hunters, as they called themselves, searched for a German club. They did not locate the place, however, and finally returned to the city.

### Places Visited

Following is a list of the buildings and places on which the rioters committed more or less depredations:

German club, MacGregor street and Mountain avenue.

Social Democrat headquarters, 323 Smith street; German club, Talbot avenue, Elmwood; Eidelweiss brewery, Stadacona street, Elmwood.

The Ontario hotel, Savoy hotel, Exchange Cafe, Maple Leaf restaurant, Citizens' Cafe, all on Main street.

Jimmy's restaurant, Smith street.

Central Bakery and King Bros. Chinese restaurant, both on William avenue.

Michael Ert, Limited, automobile supplies, Travellers' building, King and Bane.

About a dozen eating houses on Henry avenue were visited and the damage done was more or less serious.