

# OPEN SEDITION WILL BE CURBED

## Mayor Gives Instructions to Chief of Police to Make Arrests

## MUST NOT ATTACK KING

## Ald. Blumenthal Charges That Anti-Recruiting Speakers Were Also Stirring Up Racial Feeling

Mayor Martin gave instructions yesterday to Chief Campeau to arrest anyone verbally attacking the King, and to break up meetings at which seditious speeches were made.

The matter came up at the meeting of the City Council yesterday afternoon, when Ald. Blumenthal drew the attention of the Council to speeches delivered yesterday on the Champ de Mars, when, he said, those joining the colors were vilified, and sedition was openly preached. Those speakers, said Ald. Blumenthal, not only called on the people not to join the colors, but they were trying to make racial trouble in Montreal. "I say, as a loyal citizen, that we should oppose these meetings, and that we should protect the public from such seditious speeches," said Ald. Blumenthal.

Ald. Blumenthal said that attacks were also made upon Italians, Syrians and Jews, and those at the meeting were urged not to have anything to do with these races, on the ground that they did not employ French-Canadians.

"This assertion is false," said Ald. Blumenthal, "and I say if this thing is allowed to go on, rioting will occur in Montreal. I therefore call upon the Mayor to see that this kind of free speech is stopped."

Ald. Blumenthal contended that in time of war no one should be allowed to discourage recruiting in support of the Mother Country. "This sort of thing should be stopped at once," concluded Ald. Blumenthal.

In reply, Mayor Martin said he had had the matter in mind. "I will give instructions this afternoon to Chief Campeau to arrest anyone who attacks the King, and to prevent the holding of such meetings, if we can do so," declared His Worship.

Ald. Lariviere remarked that in no other city of the Dominion would so much racial tolerance be found as existed in Montreal. All classes were employed, but he could not see why an American was given a foreman's job in the east end of the city, while taxpayers of Montreal were unemployed.

## MIGHT LEAD TO RIOTING.

Controllor Cote promised to inquire into the allegation.

Ald. Blumenthal assured Ald. Lariviere that he was well aware of the toleration found on all sides in this city. What he objected to was the way certain speakers were dealing with race questions in public, which might lead to rioting.

Ald. Menard asked whether Ald. Blumenthal intended writing to a certain reverend gentleman in Ottawa who recently made a bitter attack on Roman Catholics. "You might tell him that French-Canadians are not only loyal, but most loyal Canadians," said the alderman.

The danger of prohibiting free speech was emphasized by Ald. Macdonald, when Mayor Martin said that as racial matters were being introduced, he declared the debate closed.

Ald. Macdonald insisted on his right of speaking, and was allowed to continue. He referred to the open-air meetings in London, where all kinds of disloyalty was expressed, and little attention was paid to it. Ald. Macdonald thought it would be advisable to follow that example here rather than interfere with the right of free speech.

"If Ald. Macdonald will read his oath of office he will see," replied Mayor Martin, "that attacks on the Royal family cannot be permitted. Here is a meeting where the King was attacked. It is the duty of the Mayor to stop such assemblies, and I will do it."

Applause broke out in the galleries when His Worship concluded.

Ald. Ward reminded Ald. Macdonald that in war time greater precaution was required in the public interest, for which reason he supported the attitude of the Mayor.

His Worship then declared the debate closed.

During the sitting of the Council, Mayor Martin left the room to consult with Chief Campeau. When seen later, the Mayor said that he had instructed the head of the police force that, if the King were attacked at the meeting to be held in the evening, or if seditious remarks were made, those responsible should be taken into custody. The whole matter, the Mayor stated, was left in the hands of Chief Campeau.

## ORATOR WAS ARRESTED.

At the gathering on the Champ de Mars, which prompted Ald. Blumenthal to bring the matter to the Mayor's attention, Joseph Grignon, who made a reputation a few years ago as a strong man by winning a prize by carrying a bag of salt through the streets to Lafontaine Park, was taken into custody. He was talking to the crowd against enlisting for overseas service and against conscription, when he was grabbed by Sergeant Champagne, of the 65th Regiment, who heard the remarks, and was run across the Champ de Mars to police headquarters. There he was locked up on a charge of creating a disturbance, but a more serious charge, that of trying to incite a riot, may be lodged against him today. Bail was refused, although usually when a man is charged with creating a disturbance, a bond of five or ten dollars is sufficient to secure his liberty pending his appearance before the court to answer the charge.

Grignon, who described himself as a laborer, said he was forty-nine years of age, and that he resided in St. Lambert.

Previous to the arrest of Grignon, addresses had been delivered to the crowd by Page, one of the Socialists who delivered an address to the crowd Friday night, following the breaking-up of the recruiting meeting at Lafontaine Park. The trend of Page's speech was against recruiting, and he urged that no more men should be sent from this country as food for cannon, and that a bitter fight should be waged against any attempt to enforce conscription in Canada.