

# KEEP PICKET ON STREETS

## Mayer Has Withdrawn Requisition Issued for Military Aid

### RECEIVES COMMITTEE

## And Asks Them to Prepare Petition to Call Public Meeting

"The requisition for military aid to quell prospective riots has been withdrawn," said Mayor Church late yesterday afternoon. "Col. Blackford will keep a military picket on the streets as he did during the winter."

The Mayor has received a number of complaints against members of the Police Force, who are alleged to have exceeded their duties in handling the crowds during the recent disorder, and stated that they would be thoroughly investigated at the next meeting of the Police Commission.

"Will the police guilty of brutality be dismissed?" he was asked.

"We will hear all complaints and subsequent action will be a matter for the Commission of which I am only one to decide," he replied.

### Feel Trouble is Over.

Members of the Grievance Committee and the Mayor were sure yesterday afternoon that there would be no further disorders. The Committee received petitions from the Mayor, which they hurried to get signed so that the Mayor might summon a meeting a week to-night to consider the alien question. This, they said, he had promised to do if they brought the petitions in, signed by twenty-five or more citizens.

Prior to the noon meeting the Mayor met the Grievance Committee, and an amicable conference was held in which the sentiments expressed were moderate and both parties seemed anxious to avoid further disorders.

The resolutions adopted by the Queen's Park meeting were presented to the Mayor by the following committee: Messrs. G. H. Smith, 12 Davenport road; R. S. Cook, 84 Muir avenue; J. L. R. Bacon, 277 Huron street; Henry E. Crockford, 14 St. Clair avenue; John Galbraith, 91 Cronyn avenue; Hedley E. Burrell, 418 Ontario street, and E. Coupland, 231 Wallace avenue.

### Matters For Britain.

"Some of these are matters for the British Government," said the Mayor. "No one had done more than the city in regard to alien enemies. We have tried for three years to get something done.

"I will do as much as I can, but I am not the Prime Minister of Canada."

"I am a civilian and was asked to act as Chairman of the meeting," said Mr. G. H. Smith, who headed the deputation.

"I am only one of three Police Commissioners," explained Mayor Church. "When I went down town on Saturday night and saw the whips flying I thought it should not be done. I think they went a little too far."

In asking the cancellation of business licenses issued to aliens the Mayor said the deputation were asking something that the city could not grant.

### Not to be Molested.

"The Government," he said, "issued an order in Council that aliens were not to be molested."

"According to the British law and constitution they have no right to pass such an order," retorted Mr. Smith.

"You have got to go to the courts to settle that," said the Mayor. "I do not think clause two should be sent to the Dominion Government. It stipulates that all aliens should be returned to their own country or join the C.E.F. You can well afford to leave the matter to the British Mission. By aliens you include American citizens.

"I want to say as Mayor that these riots on the streets have done more to help the alien enemy than anything you could have done. You ask that all single men of the police force should be drafted. That is a matter for the police. The police are only one-third strength to-day, and the citizens must be protected. It is an intolerable state of affairs for the

police force owing to the war. The policemen should not have to stand on the streets and have bricks thrown at them. By that I do not mean to justify what occurred on the streets."

The Mayor said that he would send some of the resolutions to the Dominion Government, submit others to the military authorities and those concerning the police to the Police Commission.

Mr. Smith then thanked the Mayor for the way he had received the deputation.

### Going to Continue Meetings.

"If you keep the police away from our meetings there will be no trouble. We are going to keep up these meetings," said Mr. Smith, and his remarks were greeted with applause from the ladies present.

"So far these meetings have caused disorder and we are going to put it down," said the Mayor.

"We don't object to that if anyone oversteps the mark," said the spokesman. "We deny that these riots were the result of the meetings."

Mayor Church—The police have a right to be present at all meetings, and there is nobody that has voted more for these very resolutions than the police themselves. There are claims for \$75,000 damages as the results of the meetings. The taxpayer may have to pay them.

### No Evidence Against Soldiers.

Mr. Smith said that there was no evidence that any damage had been done by returned soldiers; all that was known was that returned soldiers entered one place looking for a man.

Mayor Church—We are going to stop all these meetings where the riots are. If you want to have a meeting have twenty-five citizens call the meeting, and I shall preside as Chief Magistrate of the city. We will hold a proper meeting to discuss those questions. I assure you returned soldiers the police have no quarrel with you. Let us get together. I am sorry some women were attacked. The women have done much and encouraged the men to enlist.

The Mayor said he would not read the Riot Act unless there was further trouble. It was stated that the G.W.V.A. had taken no part in the trouble as yet, but official action might be expected.

Mr. W. Baker of Earls Court said he had attended a meeting at Massey Hall in the spring, at which resolutions were drafted and sent to Ottawa, where they were rejected.