

OVER 1,500 RUSSIANS UNDER BAN IN TORONTO

Some of These Will Meet in Secret Despite Risk of Arrest, Says One.

"There are about 1,500 members of the various Russian organizations who have been meeting in the city, that come under the order-in-Council, banning such meetings as unlawful and a criminal offence," declared a prominent Russian to The Star to-day. "Some of these are Social Revolutionists, Social Democrats, Social Democrats of the Bolsheviks, and other sects. These societies are more or less one, but a difference of opinion exists among the members, even as it does in Russia to-day."

"Will they attempt to meet in view of the order?" "There is no doubt but that they will meet in secret, despite the risk of arrest." Meetings have hitherto been held at Broadway Hall and the Council of Russian Workmen and Peasants of Toronto have held almost weekly sessions at 553 Queen west, but, of course, it will now be unwise to hold meetings in public."

The penalty for belonging or attending any of these meetings is a fine of \$5,000 or five years' imprisonment. In addition any association which advocates political or socialistic changes by means of force, is subject to the same ban. No meetings, but church meetings, in any enemy language, or in Russian, Finnish, or Ukrainian, shall be held in any part of Canada.

"We are prepared to act under the new order-in-Council, and will enforce it to the limit," declared Detective Maurer. "Several of these societies have been holding unlawful meetings and arrests have been made, with subsequent convictions. The new order is much more sweeping, and owing to the fact that there are a large number of members of societies in the city, it will be much easier to keep in touch with their activities."

Officials at the Labor Temple stated that no meetings in foreign tongue have been held there on Sundays, but said that Russians belonging to Labor organizations have held dances and social evenings at various times. The meetings, they believed, were held in halls rented by the various societies for the purpose.

In regard to the ban applying to the Chinese National League, and the Chinese Labor Association, police officials are of the opinion that there are members of the latter organization in the city, but they have not been meeting in public. Steps will also be taken to watch their activities,