

# CHAIRMAN AT MEET OF UNEMPLOYED WAS ARRESTED

**Taken By Registrar of Enemy  
Aliens on Suspicion of  
Being Austrian**

**WAS NO RESISTANCE**

**Isidore Boltuck Said Hungry  
Should Enter Restaurants  
and If Not Served Should  
Help Themselves**

The leader of the Provisional Unemployed Committee was arrested last night at a public meeting in the Alexandra Rooms, on St. Catherine street, opposite Christ Church Cathedral, after he had delivered a speech which was considered as inciting to violence. Capt. J. N. Carter, registrar of enemy aliens, descended upon the meeting and, with the assistance of Capt. Kavanagh, who had with him eight men from the West St. Catherine street station, effected the arrest. When the police entered the meeting, a man named Rosenberg was speaking. The police officer spoke to Isidore Boltuck, who was presiding over the gathering, and informed him that he was wanted. Thereupon he interrupted the speaker and announced this fact. At first the crowd was a little inclined to put up resistance. Someone shouted, "The police are union men and won't try to stop us." "My men are union men," answered Capt. Kavanagh, and at the same time Boltuck announced that he was ready to go with the police and meet any charge they had to make. With this the police made a way in the crowd and quietly and quickly took their man away on foot down University street to the internment station on St. Antoine street. The arrest was made by Capt. Carter on the suspicion that Boltuck is an Austrian, and if he is of that nationality, he is still amenable to the requirements that aliens shall behave themselves or be subject to internment. His antecedents and present position will be investigated today. He has a printing business at 951 St. Urbain street, and lives on Esplanade avenue, though he told the police last night that he was moving yesterday.

## ATTACK ON LABOR.

The meeting which was held last night was really a demonstration by the section of malcontents who had attended the meeting of unemployed organized by the Trades and Labor Council the previous evening. The hall used last night in the Alexandra Rooms was small and was therefore crowded looking, but there were only about four hundred people present, as compared with the attendance of Thursday night. Most of the men were well clothed and looked well-fed also, and the women who were present looked equally prosperous. It was a come-as-you-like meeting. Names were not announced and speakers came forward as they desired.

The meeting was opened by Isidore Boltuck, who began by explaining that most of those present were not satisfied with John T. Foster's and the Trades and Labor Council methods. "We do not mean to organize, as some of the trade unions, are organizing, by electing leaders and secretaries; what we mean by organization is that we are going to get together and see that the work shall be done by you and for you. From my knowledge of labor, all that these big mugs in the labor movement will do for you is to call a meeting and tell you not to get excited. When we resolve to do something for ourselves they tell us not to get excited. If working for emancipation is Bolshevism, then we are Bolshevists. (Applause). We are not interested whether the Government knows that there is unemployment or not. We are not calling meetings to let other people know there is a problem of unemployment, but to decide on some action. When we realize that these people are ready to see us starve, it is no more use to go to them; we must come to ourselves and ask what is to be done.

## HELP YOURSELVES.

"My suggestions," said the speaker, "are based on one principle: that human rights are greater than the rights of property. It is no longer a question of to whom property belongs, but whether human beings have the right to feed their children. It is no longer a question as to whom houses belong, but are the working classes entitled to shelter. If the workingman cannot pay his rent, shall we respect the landlord's property rights and live under that roof even if we have no money to pay rent?"

The speaker sneered at the proposals that public works should be started to relieve unemployment, declaring that in any case the Government would not move for months

and that some of them would be pretty hungry in the meantime. "We cannot wait. If any of you are hungry and are passing a restaurant and see people inside, it is my opinion we must take this action—that we are going to sit down in these restaurants and wait to be served, and if they don't serve us, we will serve ourselves. We are going to the policemen's union to ask them whether they intend to use their clubs on our heads if we sit down in these restaurants. We are going to the conductors of street cars to ask if they will let us travel whether we can pay or not. Whether the police and the conductors are with us or not, I assure you that we will all go together and take our seats; we will take any clothes we need for our wives and children. If any workman is threatened to be put out of his house, one hundred strong shall stand and see whether they will pitch him out."

"Is this the programme you want?"

Loud cries of "Yes" and cheers greeted the query.

Someone in the audience enquired if it was a fact that the unemployed could not register as citizens. Boltuck replied that he was not bothering about that, but "Whether we, the unemployed, are to be able to live for the next month or not."

After Boltuck had reiterated his demand of the previous evening that trades unions should support them by asking for a five-day week and a six-hour day, he sat down, and his place was taken by a man named Etienne who, speaking in French, used the same sort of argument, insisting on the right of the people to live.

The next speaker was a man named Rosenberg, and it was while he was on his feet that Capt. Carter, Capt. Kavanagh and the police put in an appearance. For five minutes the small hall and corridors were the scenes of some jostling. Several women left the hall, evidently fearing a free fight, but the police kept the corridor open and got their man out, quietly, and he walked down with them in perfect order to the internment station.

After this the meeting proceeded, but the speeches were more subdued, and finally, despite what had been said about organizations with chairmen and secretaries, an unemployment committee was appointed, with the usual officers.