

Winnipeg's Black Saturday; Redcoats Battle With Mob

Fifty-Five Troopers of Royal Northwest Mounted Police Engage Twenty Thousand Rioters.

ONE KILLED, FIFTY INJURED;
STREET CAR BURNT UP

Trouble Began With Attempt to Hold Parade Forbidden by Mayor.

WINNIPEG, June 23.—"Our sovereign, lord, the king, charges and commands all persons being assembled immediately to disperse and peaceably to depart to their habitations or to their lawful business, upon the pain of being guilty of an offense, on continuation of which they may be sentenced to imprisonment for life. God Save the King."

Thus was the riot act proclaimed by Mayor Gray not once, but several times, in the midst of Saturday afternoon's turmoil on Main street. For on Saturday afternoon Winnipeg was the scene of an engagement between a few score mounted police and a mob of twenty thousand persons who had just indulged in the orgy of burning a street car. As a result of the encounter one man was killed and fifty injured, and the city is now practically under martial law. Armoured cars with machine guns and troops at the "stand-to" are held in reserve at the principal strategic points of the city. Armored cars are also stationed at the city hall. The situation was brought under control less than two hours after the burning of the street car.

The casualty list follows:

Dead

Mike Sokolowski, shot through the heart.

Seriously Wounded

H. Rogers, 143 Evanson street, shot in head; condition fair.

W. Diamond, 325 Selkirk avenue, bullet wound in stomach; serious but not necessarily fatal.

Wounded

Walter Dykes, 607 Rosedale avenue, shot in left side of neck; not serious.

William Ramsay, 53 Charlotte street, shot through shoulder and breast; not serious.

Hugh Johnson, 312 Isabel street, shot in head, internal injuries; progressing favorably.

S. Schezbanowicz, East Selkirk, Man., shot in both legs.

H. F. Noel, 325 Vaughan street, shot in left leg.

Lester Minet, R.N.W.M.P., accidentally injured through explosion of shell at barracks.

R. M. Bell, R.N.W.M.P., hit in back of head by brick.

Frank Yockney, 156 Sutherland avenue, shot in left leg, right leg fractured.

Jack Barret, 364 Elgin avenue, shot through right leg.

David Crabb, 637 Toronto street, shot in right leg.

Leonard Overton, 25 Market street, shot in right leg.

Griffiths Owens, 656 Langside street, bullet wound in right foot.

W. H. Newbold, 261 Albany street, hit by stone in face.

J. Simpkin, 447 Agnes street, hit on head.

Sam Didur, 861 College street, leg injured by automobile.

Corpl. G. L. Hendrick, Melville, Sask., R.N.W.M.P., cut above eye and on neck.

Bruce Cowan, Stoughton, Sask., hit on shin and head.

G. Spiers, 501 Sherbrooke street, deep scalp wound.

In addition there are between 20 and 30 "walking wounded" cases.

Ninety-One Arrests Made.

Ninety-one arrests were made on Saturday afternoon and evening as the result of the rioting. Among those apprehended were six women. All will appear in police court tomorrow.

Several additional arrests were made today on information supplied by eyewitnesses.

Registered aliens in Winnipeg who break their paroles and take part in forbidden meetings and commit any acts of a disorderly nature are being arrested and placed in an internment camp in Ontario. So far more than 20 have been rounded up by Federal and city police, and other arrests are likely to be made, it was officially announced last night. In two days last week 13 were gathered in, a number that gives some idea of the active work that has been started by the authorities. All are charged with various offences against alien enemy regulations.

Mayor Charles F. Gray read the Riot Act more than once during Saturday afternoon's disturbance.

One time he got through the dense crowd at the corner of Market and Main streets in an automobile, and, stepping out of the car, he stood facing a circle of menacing faces, repeating the reading of the act. Hooting and jeering prevented his voice carrying more than a few yards and before he had finished six or seven men suddenly rushed forward and grabbed him with obvious intention of dragging him into the crowd.

Witnessing this attempt over the heads of the crowd from his seat on horseback, the officer in charge of the Royal North West Mounted Police dashed forward, drawing his revolver. Before he could reach the spot, however, another officer in the mayor's car leaned out and by threatening the mayor's assailants with a revolver effected his release.

Fired After Act Was Read.

Two facts stand out. The first is that R.N.W.M.P. did not fire on the mob until after the Riot Act had been read from the steps of the city hall by His Worship Mayor Gray; the second, that scattered shots, presumably from the crowd, followed immediately after the reading of the Riot Act.

To the onlooker at the street car there can be no doubt that the mounted police used the utmost patience and restraint. They did not draw their batons until many had been put out of action. They did not fire a volley until the Riot Act had been read and they received the word of command. Even then, as it looked to the onlooker, they fired only under the apprehension, mistaken as it turned out, that their unhorsed comrade was being manhandled. Whatever mistakes were made, there does not appear any question of an exceeding of authority, and perhaps life might have been saved and bloodshed would have been averted had they received the order to fire a blank volley after

Riot Act Remains in Force

WINNIPEG, Man., June 23.—The following proclamation was issued early this morning by Mayor Charles F. Gray:

PROCLAMATION

The Riot Act has been read and remains in full force and effect in Winnipeg.

Riotous assembly of crowds, riotous attack on persons or property, riotous damage to property are indictable offences and all persons guilty of same are liable to imprisonment.

Assembly in crowds, congregating and standing on the streets is dangerous, and you do so at your own risk.

The riots of Saturday were a direct challenge to constituted authority and were promptly and vigorously suppressed and my proclamation strictly enforced.

CITIZENS

All lawlessness and intimidation must cease.

Those of you who wish to return to your work can do so without fear of molestation, and if you are in the slightest way interfered with or intimidated, notify at once the mayor or chief of police and the offenders will be traced down by the Royal Northwest Mounted Police and city police, if it takes years to do so.

Any foreigners who make any threats of any kind or in any way intimidate or worry would-be workers in the slightest degree can expect immediate deportation to Russia or wherever they come from. We intend to purge the city of any lawless element and prosecute to the full rigor of the law. On the other hand, all law-abiding citizens can feel free to go about their business in the full realization that British law will protect them to the limit. No further open-air meetings, either in parks, streets or public places will be permitted until further notice.

God Save the King!

CHARLES F. GRAY, Mayor.

their second charge, instead of after the third, when the unhorsing of several of the men brought a new element into the situation and whetted the appetite for blood.

The troops of the Royal North West Mounted Police engaged numbered 55 men, and few of these escaped without wounds or contusions, the worst being a broke nankle. The horses suf-

fered in like degree, one of these being blinded by a lump of concrete. These lumps of concrete, considerably larger and heavier than a brick, were a favored missile, being obtained from a neighboring building in process of wreckage.

Contrary to earlier impressions, these mounted men were confined entirely to the R. N. W. M. P.

WHAT HAPPENED ON MAIN STREET

The following description of the rioting rewritten by Mr. J. F. B. Livesay, western manager of the Canadian Press:

Sharp at half-past two, the word passed along and the crowd gathered in the wide thoroughfare of Main Street on each side of the car tracks. "Fall in!"

At that very moment Portage Avenue Car No. 596 appeared from the north; about half full of passengers, mostly women and children. As it reached Market Street it was greeted by a rolling roar of boo-ing, its trolley was pulled off the line and some stones were thrown. Women and children got out of the car and dispersed among the crowd, so far as known unhurt. The conductor and motorman remained by their car, the trolley cord having been cut, it remaining a fixture at what immediately was to become a scene of battle.

Red Coats Arrive

Almost simultaneously with this stunt, the cry went out from the crowd, "Here comes the bloody soldiers!" and around the corner of Main Street from the south opposite the Union Bank, swept a single line of red-coated Northwest Mounted Police. They covered the wide street from gutter to gutter, passing around the street car.

Immediately an angry cry was heard from the mob and an occasional missile was thrown at the passing soldiers. A hundred yards behind this first rank came a second rank of khaki clad horsemen, said by the crowd to be members of the Strathcona Horse and the Fort Garry Horse, but afterwards stated by Mayor Gray to be R. N. W. M. P. men returned from the front to whom had not been issued the well-known scarlet tunic.

Many Horsemen Are Struck

The mob surged in on the flanks of the horsemen and a free throwing of

bricks, bottles and any other available missiles began, many of the horsemen being struck. They rode on, however, north several blocks, and then after short interval returned again with drawn truncheons, and, dividing up in two columns of four on each side of the street, sought to drive the mob back on to the sidewalks.

Except for the efforts of a lieutenant-colonel in uniform and on foot who mixed with the crowd and sought to deter them from violence, but was lost in the throng, it had now become a passionate mob, determined on teaching the military a lesson.

From alleyways bricks had been torn up and were being hurled at the back of the horsemen. The horsemen turned south again and were lost to view around the corner of Main St.

After a few minutes the crowd proceeded to wreak vengeance on the street car. The conductor and motorman fled, but not before every bit of glass had been broken. The doors were smashed open and a few minutes later the car was set on fire, this only after unavailing efforts on the part of the crowd to overturn it.

Horses Become Crazy

Hardly was the car demolished when the red coats appeared again from the south, this time at the charge. They rode down the crowd, which scattered to the sidewalk, but as they passed they received an even greater volume of missiles. Many of the horses were by this time crazed, and the troop seemed out of hand as it galloped north on Main Street and disappeared out of sight.

"That is the end of them," remarked a striker. "We will now get on with our silent parade."

"They thought they could stop us, but we will show them who are the masters of the streets of Winnipeg."

MOB ATTACKS UNHORSED MAN

After the street car was destroyed, the soldiers returned at the gallop, south on Main Street, but their lines were irregular and many of the horses out of control and some of their riders ducking to cover behind their saddles to escape the fusillade of bricks. As they divided to pass the street car the inevitable happened. One of the horses came down, his rider being thrown, being almost the last man in the file. A fierce yell arose from the crowd: "We'll get him." "We'll teach that traitor returned soldier a lesson."

The bulk of the crowd was on the west or city hall side of the street, and the soldier on getting to his feet, headed for the east side, where he dived into J. Thompson's undertaking parlors, 529 Main Street, with the crowd yelling at his heels.

The door slammed to, but in a minute the plate glass front was smashed to atoms and a part of the crowd surged east on Market street to cut him off if he tried to get through the back way.

For a minute the front of the store was comparatively empty, and the soldier rushed out again and crossed the 300-foot-wide Main St. to seek shelter at the corner of William Avenue. It was at first supposed that this young fellow in his scarlet uniform ran out again from the shelter back across Main Street and being seized there by the mob became the unwilling first cause of the shooting. The evidence, that appears unimpeachable, however, shows that is not correct. Comrade Parnell, chairman of that section of the returned soldiers, who has thrown in its lot with the strikers, on seeing him unhorsed and pursued, ran across to the undertaker's and, assisted by another returned soldier, conducted him safely across Main Street, telling the mob that this man must not be touched.

Mounties to the Rescue.

Almost immediately a party of the Northwest Mounted Police dashed to the rescue, the men with their revolvers drawn and in column of four. As soon as they were on Main Street they debouched into City Hall Park immediately in front of its steps. Shots were heard. "They are firing into the air," said one of the crowd. "They have only blank cartridges," said another.

One Man Was Seen to Fall

The effect was electrical. The dense throng in front of the city hall ran frantically across Main Street and buried themselves in lanes and alleyways, forcing a way into the small hotels that there abound. Men who no doubt had war experience threw themselves flat into the gutter.

The shooting took place exactly 15 minutes after the first appearance of the mounted police at a quarter to three by the city hall clock. In two or three minutes city hall square and

the wide expanse of Main street were deserted.

Across this waste of asphalt were brought the bodies of the casualties by men who had been with them when they fell. These were placed in Thompson's undertaking parlor.

By 3 o'clock in the afternoon several hundred special police with drawn truncheons were marching over the now empty scene of battle where yet the street car burned.

Onlooker Is a Casualty.

Passing into the undertaking parlor the first man seen was the young fellow, Jack Barret, who was being administered first aid by Rev. G. A. Dickson, Crescent church, who had volunteered for this service. Barret said that he was looking on when the soldiers swept into William Avenue, and he stated that one of them deliberately fired his revolver at him pointblank.

Robert C. Johnstone, the returned soldier, said that his only interest had been that of an on-looker and that he had been crossing the street when the soldiers appeared. Enlisting in Winnipeg with the 78th battalion, he left here in September, 1915, with its first draft and was later drafted into the 5th. battalion, at the front serving three and a half years with distinction.

At the back of the parlor Mike Sokolowski, the dead man, was lying. He might be 40 years old and had Slav or Polish characteristics. The bullet wound over the top of the head showed that he had been killed instantly.

Around him were his companions who had seen him fall and had picked him up, carrying him behind a building until the firing ceased. They complained bitterly that the soldiers fired without any kind of warning as they rode around the corner, and before, of course, martial law had been proclaimed.

Crowd Advised to Go Home.

At half past three a commissioned officer attacked to No. 10 military district addressed the crowd at the corner of Portage Avenue and Main Street, advising them that the Riot Act had been read and that the city is now under martial law, and therefore every one should go home.

Nevertheless, Main Street remained badly congested and the fire brigade was turning on their hose to clear the curious from the tops of surrounding buildings.

ENGLISH HORSE WINS.

PARIS, June 23.—The grand steeplechase at Auteuil yesterday for a stake of 100,000 francs, was won by the English horse, Troytown. A record breaking throng saw the race.

FRENCH ELECTIONS ON OCT. 12.

PARIS, June 23 (Havas).—The Echo de Paris today says the government is considering the holding of legislative elections October 12.