

# **POLICE, SOLDIERS, AND BOLSHEVIKS.**

**THE AFTERMATH OF SUNDAY'S DEMONSTRATION.**

**POLICE OFFICERS INJURED, BUT STICK TO THEIR POSTS.**

**BRISBANE "STANDARD" BESIEGED.**

**WINDOWS BROKEN BY CROWD.**

## **Meeting of Returned Soldiers.**

**"DOWN WITH DISLOYALTY."**

**SOLDIERS' DETERMINATION.**

*Brisbane, Tuesday.*

A well attended meeting of returned soldiers was held at the Residential Club this morning, when a vigorous discussion took place regarding the situation that has arisen in Brisbane, owing to the disloyal display on Sunday, and its aftermath.

The Chairman, explaining the object of the gathering, said it was high time the returned soldiers took a firm stand in the matter at issue. They had the numbers, and they had the potentialities of the necessary organisation to form a fighting force to combat the disloyal elements in the community. (Hear, hear.) They were not going to be dictated to by the scum which had been endeavouring to take charge of Brisbane and of Queensland lately. (Hear, hear.) He suggested that a deputation should wait on Mr. Theodore, and put the question straight to him as to his and the Government's attitude towards the unruly element. They should not mince matters. (Hear,

attitude towards the unruly element. They should not mince matters. (Hear, hear.) They must know whether Mr. Theodore was for them or against them. If Mr. Theodore or the Government generally were not prepared to clear the disloyalists out of the country, well then it would be necessary for the returned soldiers to clean the place up. (Loud applause.)

The speaker also referred to repatriation matters, but several of the others present interjected their desire to deal first with the Bolshevik question.

The Chairman said it was preposterous to think that aliens were snugly in Government employment, while men who had fought for their country were walking about workless. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Douglas also insisted on having a definite reply from the Acting Premier. He also favoured sending a deputation to wait on the military commandant to put the case before him as representative of the Commonwealth here. (Hear, hear.) It was shameful that such a disloyal demonstration as that which took place on Sunday, was not suppressed. (Applause.)

A voice: They are going to have another one next Sunday.

Mr. Douglas said the brigadier general could be asked to communicate with the Acting Prime Minister by wire on the matter. (Loud applause.)

Mr. G. Lawson said the Federal Government only could act in such a case at the request of the State Government, representing the civilians of the State.

Captain Cottam considered that it was the duty of the State Government to suppress such demonstrations as that held on Sunday, and it was a sign of great weakness that they had not done so. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Douglas suggested that the State

Mr. Douglas suggested that the State Government should be asked to take immediate steps to deport the alien element in the community. Unless that were done, the soldiers would have to resort to direct action. (Loud hear, hears.) He nevertheless appealed to returned soldiers generally to preserve decency and order in all their operations. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Montefiore heartily approved of the idea of the proposed deputations. The police, he stated, were prevented from getting their arms out on Sunday. They anxiously awaited instructions from Mr. Huxham to that effect but those instructions never came (Murmurs of disapproval.) On Monday evening, however, when the returned soldiers attempted to clean up the place, the police were well armed. (More expressions of disapproval.) It was high time, therefore, that the attitude of the State Government should be clearly defined in such matters. Mr. Theodore should be asked straight out whether he intended to support the Bolsheviks and their revolutionary propaganda or the loyalists and constitutional government. (Loud hear, hears.) Having missed the Russians, the returned soldiers should have proceeded to the residence of Mr. Free, who espoused the Bolshevik cause. Such a man as Free should have more sense, seeing he was a member of a British Parliament, and a supposed supporter of a properly constituted Government to talk as he had in the public streets or anywhere else for that matter. (Loud hear, hears.)

A voice: And ex-Senator Ferricks, too. (Loud hear, hears.)

Mr. Montefiore: Yes, we certainly should couple the names of those honourable members with the Bolsheviks as persons whose deportation is highly desirable. (Loud applause.)

A voice: Are they honourable? (Cries of "No")

Mr. Montefiore: Well, that is a

(Cries of "No")

**Mr. Montefiore:** Well, that is a courtesy title which they do not by any means deserve. (Applause.) Had the Government taken a firm stand on Sunday the disgraceful demonstration which took place and its consequences never would have occurred. (Loud applause.)

Corporal T. G. Thorpe wanted to know why Russians were allowed to purchase firearms and use them without let or hindrance in a country to which they were alien. (Loud hear, hears.) If a Britisher conducted himself in the same way he was subject to the pains and penalties of the law for going about armed. Another question to which he desired an answer was what was being done in regard to the persons to whom the permit for holding Sunday demonstrations was granted. Such persons were supposed to satisfy themselves beforehand that the laws of the land would be observed, and if there was any breach of those laws the holders of the permit were responsible. (Hear, hear.) He knew of many instances in which permits had been refused to Britishers. (Murmurs of disapproval.) Why was it, then, that permits had been granted to foreigners, and to openly disloyal foreigners, too? Yet there were no arrests, and the State authorities did not seem to care (Murmurs of disapproval). As for the plea that the Russians were protecting their own property in using firearms, why were aliens allowed to hold property? (Hear, hear.) He could assure the returned soldiers generally, and indeed, the people of Queensland as a whole, that he found a very strong feeling against the soldiers in some parts of the State, and particularly in the northern part of the State. In some instances he had received letters purporting to come from unions, as well as from individuals warning him against coming to their town. In the case of a place called

warning him against coming to their town. In the case of a place called Quilpi, he was forbidden to enter the town by some people who wrote to him. But he did enter it, and did good business there. (Loud applause.) And he would assert the right to enter any other town in Queensland, if he felt it necessary to do so. (Loud applause.) Amidst cries of disapproval the speaker instanced the case of a railway official who, he stated, had put a returned soldier together with his wife and his child out of a clean newly

painted carriage, into a dirty one, to which the soldier had objected.

Several voices: Name him; name him.

Corporal Thorpe: I will name him publicly, when the proper times comes, for it is not the only case of the kind of which this particular official has been guilty, I understand, as soon as I collect the further necessary evidence. (Loud applause.)

Cpl. Thorpe, continuing, stated that there were a considerable number of men wearing returned soldiers' badges in Brisbane who were unable to show any discharges, in many cases, and who in other cases had stolen discharges. Those men posed as returned soldiers, enjoyed the few advantages which the bona fide returned soldier was entitled to, and, moreover, acted as spies at the meetings of the returned men. Such men should be excluded by sentries placed at the doors to examine the credentials of every man entering the meeting room. The military authorities, moreover, should take the necessary steps to prevent such scoundrels from masquerading as returned soldiers. (Loud applause.)

A Voice: Making a convenience of the "dinkum."

Mr. Markowicz demanded information as to who countermanded the orders to the police on Sunday regarding the use of truncheons. He also

orders to the police on Sunday regarding the use of truncheons. He also complained of the authorities taking no steps to suppress the circulation of an openly disloyal propagandist paper, which was distributed by the disloyalists on Sunday. He had a copy of that paper, which admitted that the organisation publishing it knew no moral code, and did not recognise existing laws. That paper was the official organ of the I.I.W., which was another name for the illegal I.W.W. It also was the mouthpiece of the O.B.U. promoters and of the Bolsheviks. Was it because the Commissioner of Police had appointed returned men to the force that he received his bayonet wound from some I.W.W., Bolshevik, or Sinn Fein sympathiser? The speaker also strongly condemned the attitude of certain members of the Chamber of Manufacturers, who had said harsh things about returned men who had fought for the liberties and for the property of those who had stayed at home. (Loud applause.)

On the motion of Mr. Douglas, seconded by Mr. Montefiore, a deputation, consisting of Major Bolingbroke, Lieut. Dunkerton, and Messrs. Markowicz, R. J. Jones, Morrison, and Thorpe, together with the mover and seconder, was appointed to wait on Mr. Theodore for the purpose of asking him to take immediate and drastic action to deal with all such disloyalists as Bolsheviks, I.W.W. members, and Sinn Feiners.

Another deputation was appointed to wait on the military authorities.

Mr. R. J. Jones (Ipswich) assured his comrades that he had seen a Britisher sacked on one evening at Ipswich, and an unnaturalised Russian had stepped into his place on the following morning. (Loud murmurs of disapproval.) Mr. Huxham, he declared, was a snake, and must be dealt with accordingly. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Herbert, before the meeting

with accordingly. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Herbert, before the meeting closed, stated that he had obtained documentary evidence on the previous evening of the presence of a Russian acting as a German secret service agent in Brisbane. And yet that man was carrying on business in one of the main thoroughfares. He asked if anyone present would volunteer to assist him in sheeting home the charge.

Almost every man in the room responded to the invitation.

Mr. R. J. Jones invited all present, and all other returned men to a mass loyalty demonstration to be held at Ipswich on Saturday morning next.

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