

LOYALIST DEMONSTRATION IN BRISBANE.

PROTEST AGAINST BOLSHEVISM.

The meeting which was held in Albert-square, Brisbane, on Tuesday night, under the auspices of the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League, to carry resolutions combating the Bolshevik element, was one of the largest open-air gatherings yet held in Brisbane.

Major Taylor opened the meeting by calling on all present to join in singing the National Anthem, and the response was hearty and lusty. Major Taylor said they were out to maintain law and order, and were not by this demonstration entering into party politics. They were there to protest against those things for which they had been in the past prepared to lay down their lives—and that they were still prepared to do. There were people in the community who had flagrantly sounded their disloyalty, and the returned soldiers considered the time opportune to take action to protest. They would make a united protest against the disease of Bolshevism.

Mr. Pearce Douglas moved the following resolution :—“That this gather-

...ing resolution.— That this gathering of returned soldiers and sympathisers have assembled for the purpose of voicing their determination that the fruits of victory shall not be wasted in the interests of the Bolshevist and other extremists. We pledge ourselves to unity and action, and urge the authorities to intern or deport all Bolshevie Russians and their sympathisers. We demand that the State Government immediately cease their apathetic attitude to the traitors of our country, and that the Commonwealth Government cease their toleration. We further solemnly and sincerely declare that further lack of courage by our public men will surely provoke drastic action by returned soldiers." Mr. Douglas said that it was their duty first as citizens and then as returned soldiers to come out and raise their voice in protest against the Bolshevik element in Queensland. The whole of the trouble had been caused by those leaders from North Queensland coming here to cause a big uproar. Those in the element known as the Russian Bolshevists—who left their country, no doubt, for their country's good—had come out to Australia—to a true democracy—where, if they wanted to get revolution, they should get it through the ballot box. But all their

cry was for bloody revolution. The returned soldiers had suffered enough and wanted no more bloodshed. They stood for constitutional government. On seeing the Acting Premier that day they had asked him if he was willing to receive the assistance of the returned soldiers in pulling down Bolshevism, and he had said, "Yes." He had had experience of this element in various parts of the world, and could say that it was never any good, but had incited to incendiarism and assassination. They intended to see that the Commonwealth Government did its duty in this matter.

Brigadier-General Browne seconded the motion. He said that he had a very strong objection to any political capital being made out of the trouble that had arisen in the recent disturbances. He had been told that this sort of thing was getting very near to revolution, and he replied that if it was a revolution at all it was a revolution of loyalty. It was a revolution in which every well-ordered man and woman in our beautiful State should take their part. If they stamped out Bolshevism now, the sacrifice of many valuable lives would be saved. The lives of their boys were too good to be wasted on Russian criminals—who had

... of Russian criminals—who had broken from the Russian gaols, and who came in hordes to Australia—not political exiles, but criminals of a bad type. These were carrying out propaganda work, and money was coming for them in very large sums. When Australians disagreed they did so at the ballot box, and allowed the majority to rule. He considered that the Federal Government and the State Government had not only shut one eye, but both eyes, to the doings of the mob of disloyal people who marched down our streets and offered insults to our holy dead lying in Gallipoli.

Corporal Thorpe said that he had been told the returned soldiers were to blame for the disturbance—they had started it. If the same thing occurred again there would not be a Bolshevik left to go out of Brisbane. Some returned men were out to assist the police on Sunday but the police absolutely rode them down. It had been stated that the returned soldiers did the damage on the previous night. Well, if they did, the property which was damaged should not have belonged to Russians. It should belong to returned soldiers. They had a right to it. If all aliens were cleared out of Queensland there would not be one unemployed man walking about. It was up to the Government of Australia to prevent

the Government of Australia to deport every alien—every enemy subject. The Bolsheviki turned their soldiers down on the Eastern Front. They wanted

to come here and start the things they did in Russia, but they could not do it. If the "red ragers" repeated their tactics again the soldiers would be there to take action.

Sergt. H. Buchanan said the question was who was going to govern Australia—the Australians or those dirty greasy Russians? Australians were going to govern it. The imported element before very long, if not deported, was going back to its Maker. Last Sunday's affair would not have been a skirmish if the soldiers had been there; there would not have been a live Bolshevik to-day. They were going to get up in arms against a Government that would not rid the country of this cancer. They would support any Government that would deport this revolutionary mob. He appealed to them all to stick together and to join the league.

Major Polingbrooke said that they in-

Major Bolingbroke said that they intended to take a determined stand. "We are absolutely determined that this crowd has to go," he said, "not only the Russians, but the I.W.W. and Germans." They were going to see that the Government did its duty. They had the fighting strength, and would use it.

Mr. R. J. Jones, of Ipswich, said that they came last night in a body from Ipswich, because they received the "S.O.S." from Brisbane, and when they got here they had a good time. He was only sorry that they had not had a better time. They had the Bolsheviks at Ipswich, and the boys had now decided to do away with them. They were in the workshops there. Ipswich was taking the same stand as Brisbane, and intended to get rid of the dirty, low-down dogs. They were holding a mass meeting at Ipswich at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning, and he invited all who could to go up and attend it.

Mr. A. J. Markowicz said that the Government not only did not insist on the police putting down the mob on Sunday, but sent them armed on the previous night to protect the property of the Russians. They defended the Bolsheviks against the soldiers. He urged them to stick together and to

urged them to stick together, and to see that the Bolshevik was removed.

Pte. R. T. Evans, of Kingaroy, said they had discussed the matter with the Acting Premier, but were just as wise now as they were before they went respecting what the Government intended to do. A message had been sent to the Federal Government demanding the deportation of Free and Ferricks at once. They had given the Federal Government to understand that if their request was not taken notice of at once they would resort to swift action, and call upon the loyal people of Queensland to back them up.

The Chairman, before putting the motion, said that they were determined on knowing how the country they had a vote for was going to be run. They did not intend a riotous rebellion. The Acting Premier, when consulted with regard to putting down those who made disloyal utterances, made the excuse that it would be restricting free speech and said those who offended were an irresponsible body, and the returned soldiers should treat them with contempt. He told the Acting Premier that he had power to stop disloyal utterances, and that their demand was a reasonable one. The soldiers did not wish to embarrass the Government, but they intended to see that their wishes were carried out.

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The resolution was carried with cheers, and the meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.