

FREE SPEECH SUPPRESSION. CALLED OFF

A great crowd assembled on the Powell Street grounds last Sunday to take part in and witness Findlay's fourth Unpopular Circus. The sidewalks and even the roofs of adjacent houses were black with spectators, who eagerly anticipated seeing the police practice the noble art of skull cracking. At 2 p.m. the fourth battle for free speech in Vancouver was on.

Speakers from the I. W. W. and the Socialist party were on hand and proceeded in the usual style. But nothing happened. Identically the same "unlawful assembly," "riotous mob" and "anarchist gang" was on hand that had been there previous Sunday afternoons. The same "seditious," "inflammatory" and "violent" speeches were delivered.

Strange to say, however, what had, the Sunday before, brought out scores of policemen and caused the shedding of much blood, this Sunday passed off like a children's picnic. All the awful things the "Daily Province" had raved about for three weeks, had become lawful overnight. Free speech is once more re-established.

It is quite evident that Mayor Findlay's ungraceful retreat from his absurd position in regard to free speech is a result of the pressure brought to bear upon him from Victoria. While Premier McBride has no particular love for the working man, he readily fell in with the views of J. H. Hawthornthwaite, Socialist member for Nanaimo, and the members of Vancouver T. & L. Council, who interviewed him as to the forcible suppression of free speech. Thus the "iron hand" will wear a new glove—the gift of its Conservative master.