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# FREEDOM OF PRESS DISCUSSED

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## Good Attendance at Pender Hall Last Sunday

There was a good attendance at the Pender Hall last Sunday, when the subject under discussion was "The Freedom of the Press," J. Kavanagh being the speaker. In opening, he referred to the fact that in the past, it had been the proud boast of the British people that they had freedom of expression, and he admitted that in pre-war days, there had been some grounds for it. He then dealt with the change which had taken place on the outbreak of war, when publication after publication had been suppressed. Referring to the year 1917, he stated that when the Czar was overthrown, there was then no objection to the publication of the exposures of Rasputin, etc., and other matters which could be used against Germany, and no restriction on the liberty of the ruling class press to deluge the land with tales of terrorism and slaughter; but there was an objection to telling the achievements of the Russian people in revolt.

He also referred to events during the war which occurred in Canada, when all of Kerr's works were banned, and if a man had a copy of Marx's Capital, published by Kerr, he was liable to imprisonment, but if he had the same work published by the Socialist Labor press of New York, it was no offence.

He concluded by stating that there was never a time when the Labor press was more necessary than today, and appealed for support for it.

A collection was taken for The Federationist defence fund, and many questions were asked before the meeting was brought to a close.

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