

SOCIALISTS HOLD MASS-MEETING

ON SUNDAY NIGHT

Gathered in City Hall to Commemorate Massacre of Peasants in St. Petersburg a Year Ago — Collection Will Be Sent to Aid Down-trodden Russians.

The Socialists held a mass-meeting at the City Hall last night. The hall was only partly filled, but this was due no doubt to the heavy rain which was falling outside. The hall was warm, however, and there was lots of enthusiasm. Many of the fair sex were noticed in the audience. The meeting was scheduled to start at 8 o'clock, but long before that time the Socialists began filing in. Previous to the time of calling the meeting to order the audience was entertained by several creditable and enjoyable piano selections by Miss Dolly Parr, daughter of Mr. Parr, the Socialist candidate for school trustee at the last election.

Mr. N. L. Johanson, late lieutenant in the Russian army, who brought fifty-one indigent Russians to Vancouver last month from Yokohama, was to have been the principal speaker of the evening, but he was unable to be present. At the last moment he was suddenly called to Seattle to meet several of his comrades who were on their way to New York. His place was filled by Mr. E. T. Kingsley.

In Memoriam.

Mr. R. P. Pettipiece acted as chairman, and called the meeting to order. He explained that the gathering was a memorable one, and was held in commemoration of the "Bloody Sunday," as the day is known, on which a year ago in Russia so many of the people lost their lives. He said that the Socialists throughout the world were holding similar meetings that night.

Mr. E. Burns gave a short speech. He said in part:

"We will rejoice in the downfall of autocracy.

"If Russia can obtain freedom, the danger to the progress of Europe will be swept away.

"The struggle between the autocracy and the people of Russia can only end in the supremacy of the people.

"Every minute the struggle in Russia continues, the cause of the people is strengthened.

"Russia is not one single country. It is a conglomeration of nations. Hundreds of different languages are spoken. No common bond. It is a struggle of nations against a centralized Government.

"I believe when the end comes we will find in place of the autocracy a federal republic such as Switzerland has to-day.

"I believe the massacre of the peasants a year ago will be the seed from which will germinate the social republic of the future."

Food for Reflection.