

# "FREE SPEECH" TO LABOR CHAMPIONS; BUT NO SEDITION

**Soldiers and Socialists in Local Peace Conference With Mayor Gale.**

**WILL PROTECT SPEAKERS**

**Hatchet Buried and Friction  
Attributed to Work of "Rumor Monger."**

The first of what may prove to be a series of "get-together" conferences between such usually ~~foreign~~ and opposing elements as capital, labor, returned soldiers and socialists, was held yesterday in the mayor's office, at the call of Mayor Gale, with the avowed intention of bringing the various bodies together to avoid a recurrence of the "powder magazine situation" which existed locally last Sunday night when it was expected returned soldiers would break up the usual Sunday night meetings of the Federated Labor party and the Socialist Party of Canada.

Whether or not further sessions of this local "peace conference" are held, one thing seemed reasonably clear from the utterances of the various representatives and Mayor Gale during yesterday's session. That was the fact that an insidious "rumormonger" was very busily at work in the city striving to foment trouble between the returned soldiers' organizations, the labor unions and Socialists. The ultimate outcome of the "get-together" peace conference was a decision that there should be no official interference with "free speech" or the usual Socialist and federated labor propaganda meetings, provided no seditious utterances were allowed at these meetings. On the other hand, Mayor Gale gave the delegates to the "peace conference" the positive assurance and pledged himself to use all the machinery at his disposal, and even invoke the aid of the attorney-general's department, in an effort to locate the malicious liar who, it was conceded, seemed to be at the bottom of all this trouble and the near-clash of last Sunday night.

### **"Representative Gathering."**

It was a thoroughly representative gathering which assembled at the mayor's invitation. There were present Messrs. Chris. Spencer, of the Canadian club; Mr. Wooster, of the Employers' association; Capt. C. W. Whittaker, president of the Great War Veterans; Mr. Mabbett, of the Army and Navy Veterans; S. J. Gothard, of the Comrades of the Great War; David Rees, vice-president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada; Victor E. Midgley, of the local Trades and Labor council; A. S. Wells, of the B. C. Federation of Labor; Messrs. W. R. Trotter and Bert Showler, of the Federated Labor party; and Messrs. Bennett and Ewert, of the Socialist Party of Canada.

On behalf of the labor men, Mr. Midgley explained at some length the steps that led up to the apparent movement to link up the Sunday night meetings with the alien-enemy problem, and also the attempt to cause an open rupture between the labor men

(Continued on Page Three)