

5,000 STAMPEDED BY POLICE CLUBS

Women and Children Felled in Flight at Union Square May Day Rally.

SAVED BY SCHMITTBERGER

Chief Inspector Stops Panic, Hurling Back Clubbers and Shouting Orders to Stop.

ANARCHISTS STIR TROUBLE

Policeman Knocked Down in Group of 500 Who Invade Meeting of 15,000 Paraders.

With Chief Inspector Schmittberger close behind issuing vain orders to halt and return to their stations, 200 uniformed policemen charged through the May Day gathering of Socialists and labor unionists who celebrated the International Labor Day in Union Square yesterday.

The police charge caused a stampede of 5,000 of the 15,000 persons in the Square. Clubs flew right and left, the police jumping over the bodies of prostrate women, men, boys, and even two babies, to reach people beyond them.

Schmittberger and Acting Inspector Morris rushed to the foremost police clubber, grabbed him by the collar and threw him back upon the other patrolmen. Schmittberger's powerful voice was heard above the din of the stampede and the screams of women and children who had been bowled over.

"Back to your stations, you men! Down with your clubs! Stop this! Stop it at once!" the big Inspector called out and his message seemed to bring the excited policemen to their senses.

As they turned to retreat over a big open space they had cleared they found two little babies rolling in the dirt, with their mother, Rebecca Shulman, trying to crawl to them from a point ten feet away where she had landed on her head. One man, Bola Bologna, of 255 East 184th Street, was bleeding profusely from a wound across his head.

Inspector Schmittberger himself picked up one hysterical woman and carried her into his own headquarters in the cottage at the north end of Union Square. He continued to care for her until she regained her self-possession and left the Square.

At the worst moment of the stampede, the crowd the police were driving from the north end of Union Square rushed madly into solid walls of people lined up across Fourth Avenue, a little south of the northeast corner of the Square. Neither of the two crowds could give way, except at the side, and as a flying wedge of people poured on to the lawns of Union Square a thirty-foot section of an iron-spiked railing surrounding a flower pot was broken down.

Finioned over the spikes on top of the iron fence were two women who went down with it. Both had to be treated for hysteria and bruises. One of them said she was Jennie Lovlier, but she refused to give her address.

Crowd's Mood Changes.

While the charge was being made Socialist speakers, several of whom were women, were standing on the cottage porch, from which a woman was addressing the multitude. The police advance occurred so quickly that the meeting itself was not disturbed. Speakers continued with their appeals to keep May 1 as a general labor holiday, in harmony with a world-wide movement, for several minutes after the stampede.

But the mood of the crowd was changed. The marchers, from 30,000 to 40,000 strong, had been sweeping into the Square for four hours. All had arrived in a cheerful mood, and there had been much singing, while little children by the hundreds mingled with the men and women marchers.

The joyous spirit continued until Inspector Schmittberger's big form appeared on the cottage porch among the speakers, with the hysterical woman in his arms. The arrival, a moment later, of the man whose head had been laid open by a police club, chilled the crowd. In sullen groups they left the square.

Deputy Police Commissioner Rubin was standing at the curb line east of the cottage when the police charge began. He was talking to friends, and he waved his hand out over the packed space with the remark, "There's isn't an ounce of harm in that crowd," just as the police clubs suddenly were raised. Mr. Rubin declared afterward that no club of those he saw was brought down upon any person's head. He insisted the police used the "fanning" motion only, and brought the clubs down across the legs and thighs of those they were driving.

The cause of the trouble seemed to lie in the crowd itself, and the effort of the police at the outset seemed to be the protection of one portion of the crowd from another portion. Socialists nearest the point where the trouble started blamed I. W. W. and anarchist agitators, while labor union leaders said the trouble started in a clash of workmen in the suit and cloak making trades, one faction having joined the Socialist Party and another the I. W. W.

Quarrel Between Orators.

Deputy Commissioner Rubin and friends were attracted to the point where the trouble began by two speakers standing in adjoining automobiles. These two were just beyond earshot of those speaking from the cottage porch as part of the formal May Day festivities. An Italian in one automobile shook his cane at an Italian in the other automobile, and both talked together as loudly as they could.

Only a small part of the crowd was interested in either speaker. They continued their quarrel, while an Italian who spoke English remarked to Detective Geognegan, who pressed close at the

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head of a force of plain-clothes men, that he needn't worry, as Italian speakers often looked as if they were about to kill each other when they were merely trying to emphasize points.

A Socialist jumped into an automobile from which August Belanca was speaking and urged Belanca's friends to put a hand over the excited orator's mouth. This was done and the Socialist orator then called out:

"Friends and comrades, shame on you! You came here to demonstrate and exhibit your solidarity. I find you quarreling like children. For shame on you all!"

A man shook his fist up in the face of the man who thus had intruded into a quarrel theretofore conducted wholly in Italian.

"Arrest that man. He's an Anarchist," the volunteer peacemaker called out to Detective Geoghegan and Geoghegan made a move to obey.

In an instant uniformed men saw that the detective was in trouble and began to club their way through the crowd to assist him. Other uniformed men saw the clubs in the air and one and all rushed for the point of excitement.

"That was a terrible thing to witness," said Schmittberger later. "The only thing I could think of was that we must not start a panic. I do not believe clubs were used to hurt anybody—just to break an opening so the policemen could get through. I saw the people flying eastward as the police line formed, and I knew there would be a collision with the crowd in Fourth Avenue that we had purposely kept separated from the crowd about the cottage. I sent Acting Inspector Morris first and then jumped in myself to get my men back and stop the panic."

The Socialist who entered the automobile to criticize the Italian speakers was identified as J. J. Coronel. He said he believed the policemen started out to do just right but that they lost their self control in the excitement of seeing the stampede start.

Anarchists Stir Up Trouble.

From 10:30 o'clock in the morning, when the first police detachments and the first celebrators reached Union Square, until 5:20 o'clock, when the stampede occurred, the police had an anxious day. The source of the trouble always turned out to be Alexander Berkman's group of Anarchists, who were bent on breaking up any movement except their own.

The permit to hold a public meeting in Union Square was held by Morris Stelzer, a Socialist organizer. But under a ruling made by Commissioner Woods to expand the free speech policy of previous police administrations, the police were ordered to allow any one to speak from a packing box in front of the cottage, while the porch of the cottage was to be turned over to persons holding permits.

When Mr. Stelzer arrived, two hours before the May Day parade was due to reach Union Square, he found four I. W. W. men holding forth from a packing box in front of the cottage. The police turned over the cottage porch to the Socialists, but said they could not interfere with the I. W. W. men.

A few minutes later a noisy, brawling, yelling group of I. W. W. men and Anarchists arrived at Union Square from Mulberry Park, where they had been for two hours. Berkman was at their head with "Sweet Marie" Ganz on one side of him and Becky Edelson on the other side. The brawlers carried banners containing slogans such as these:

"Rockefeller is a good Christian. He murders our women and children."

"Wanted—Volunteers to go to Colorado and fight."

"Huerta and John D. Rockefeller—Two bandit enemies of the people."

Policeman Beatty approached Berkman to ask under what permit he was taking the 500 men up Broadway. For answer a man standing close to Berkman struck the policeman from behind with a heavy cane, felling him. Thirty-five plain-clothes men rescued Beatty from the hooting Anarchists. They

brought out of the crowd a silver-headed cane bearing the initial "W." with which Beatty had been struck. A gash in his head was sewed up at Bellevue Hospital after which he returned to duty.

A man climbed a thick iron post from which he waved a black banner bearing a skull and crossbones and the address "26 Broadway." Detectives ordered the man down, and at that the anarchists swarmed close to the post, hooting and yelling at the detectives. Just then the streets to the east became alive with marching police reserves, Schmittberger at their head. The streets to the west showed an equally menacing prospect, and at Schmittberger's first command, "Come down, young man," the anarchist dropped from his perch.

Berkman suddenly remembered an important engagement in Philadelphia and fled to catch his train, while Becky Edelson and Marie Ganz retired to a restaurant for lunch. The rest of the anarchists jeered the Socialists.

Schmittberger Curbs "Reds."

"I'll clean every man of 'em out if you want me to," said Schmittberger to the holder of the Socialist permit, ordering a selected squad of 120 policemen, none of whom weighed less than 200 pounds, into position close to the cottage. The Socialists hesitated to ask police protection against the rowdies.

Schmittberger sent detectives into the crowd with orders to bring back every man carrying a banner. "Remember the curb's the line," he said, and the anarchists heard him. They did not press closely against the curb, but instead surrendered all their banners.

Band music heralded the first division of the Socialists marching south on Fourth Avenue, and a moment after the anarchist banners were safely stowed away in the cottage the vanguard of the paraders arrived. Mounted men, aided by several hundred policemen on foot, tunneled a hole for them through the crowd which packed the Square.

Lucien Sanial, 83 years old, a veteran of the French Commune, blind, deaf and feeble, led the marchers in an automobile.

In the first division of the parade were 7,000 men, women and children representing the United Hebrew Trades. The second division contained twice as many marchers as the first. The first division formed in Rutgers Square, and marched through Canal, Eldridge, Broome, Ridge, East Houston Streets, Second Avenue, Fourth Street, Washington Place to Fifth Avenue. There it joined the second division in a consolidated parade by way of Fifth Avenue across Twenty-third Street and down Fourth Avenue to Union Square.

The second section, known as "the up-town parade," was led by the Cloak-makers' Union, with twenty-three bands and a force of men in line estimated at more than 10,000.

Near the end of the parade Anna M. Sloan and Helen Fischer, dressed as Red Cross nurses, marched, carrying a litter into which watchers along the line of march dropped coins and bills. They had fifteen pounds of coins before they reached Union Square.

The transparencies in the parade dealt mostly with the Colorado situation, with some reference to Mr. Rockefeller, the most striking of which was "He uses Bibles in New York and bullets in Colorado."