

THE FIGHT IN A HALL.

Providence Armenians Have a Hot Session.

Russias

Cont Into a Controversy Over a Chief
to Lead the Race.

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Knives and Files Freely Used, and Place
of Meeting Wrecked.

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PROVIDENCE, R I, Sept 23—A bloody fight took place this afternoon at the hall of the Patriotic Armenian society on Exchange pl, and two men had their heads cut open. Eight arrests were made, and the prisoners were locked up and charged with revelling.

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The Armenians began to gather at noon today, and it was stated the meeting was to settle a dispute which had arisen between Boston and Worcester leaders who seek to establish their power here among their countrymen. The gathering today was made up of about 400; about 250 were on the sidewalk and the balance in the third story.

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The fight lasted fully 15 minutes. There were little rows going on all over the hall, and Armenians fought each other in the halls and on about every step down from the quarters to the street.

It was a factional fight, and every man was pummelling another in the interests of the Boston or Worcester chieftain. As the fight continued up in the big hall, knives were pulled, and the rioters slashed their countrymen right and left. Some fighters carried files sharpened down so that they could be used with effect. Others armed themselves with rungs of chairs and pieces of settees which they ripped apart and scattered about the hall.

Big pieces of furniture were thrown aloft and came crashing down on the heads of those engaged in the melee. Panic stricken, some of the fighters got out of the third-story windows to the fire escapes and several fights were started there. The crowd below on the street were spectators of these, and they in turn caused an outbreak among the gathering on the sidewalk.

The fight continued until a special squad of officers, on the way to a corner-stone laying, arrived upon the scene, and they at once plunged into the worst fight that has taken place in the center of the city in many a year. There was not a whole piece of furniture left in the place and several men were lying wounded on the floor of the big hall when the officers entered. Others were covered with blood and there were many blackened eyes and cut noses.

Tores Johnson was one of the badly injured. His head was cut open with a file, and as he was dragged from the hall to save him from further mutilation a trail of blood was left behind, and this continued along the sidewalk toward the patrol box. An artery had been severed.

Anteras Simon also was cut badly on the head with a knife. He was literally bathed in his own blood. The police squad arrested six of the fighters, and all were held for revelling. They were enrolled as Hagop Goolkhasian, Mardros Semarovinian, Kreker Gayabidian, Mooshak Moscodian, Mike Solken and Marrogg Kerkorian, some of whom come from Boston, but they will not say where they live there. Semarovinian was cut up very badly, and doctors were called to dress his wounds.

The police were unable to ascertain who did the cutting, and the prisoners arrested disposed of their weapons before they were taken into headquarters. Some time ago there was a similar riot, although less serious in results.

The place is used by the Armenians for religious purposes, and it is generally known as their church.