

ON FILE POINTS

Angry Armenians Impale Each Other During a Fight in Their Society Hall.

TWO FACTIONS CONTEST

The Row Started Over Some Remarks Made by One Side—Police Were Called In.

The rooms of the Hunchagian Armenian society on Exchange place, opposite the Union passenger station and the sidewalk adjacent thereto, was the scene of a bloody fight yesterday afternoon, and Dr. Palmer was called to exercise his skill on two of the participants, while six others were arrested.

It seems that the society is run by one of the Armenian factions which exist in this city, as well as all over the country. Many of the natives of this country are interested in the raising of funds for the sake of securing the freedom of Armenia from Turkey, and they are divided into two radically different parties, the pacific and the violent. The Hunchagian is the name of the violent or socialistic party, and it is claimed by others of their country that they are even anarchistic in their ideas, though they lack the pluck even to make the threats that characterize the anarchists of other nationalities.

As admitted by some of the arrested members, the meeting was of an anarchistic nature, but was held principally for the purpose of settling a dispute as to leadership. Previous to the meeting display bills were posted, where they were seen by many of the Armenians, inviting all of the nationality to be present at the meeting. The result was that nearly 400 attended, many of whom were of the peace party and directly opposed to the principles set forth by the Hunchagian.

The row started when a certain gentleman, supposed to hail from Boston, named Michon Garabidian, was speaking from the stage. Garabidian is said by some to be a Russian Jew and not an Armenian at all, but he can speak the language and has figured very prominently in the money-raising movement in New England. His address was not to the liking of the members of the pacific party and they began to leave the hall. At this, it is said, some of the members of the other party began to use harsh epithets toward those who were leaving, and these called for a response in like kind. Somebody locked the door and then the fight became general.

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. Others armed themselves with rungs of chairs and pieces of settees which they ripped apart and scattered about the hall.

The detail of police which started out from the central station on its way to the city to do guard duty at the laying of the corner-stone of the new convent, passed through Exchange place, and as soon as the officers appeared, a number of people ran out and begged them to hasten to the Armenians hall, for a big fight was on.

By the time the officers reached the building some of the combatants had been forced out of the windows of the third story and were fighting on the landing of the fire escape, in imminent peril of being crowded to the pavement below. A terrible din came from the hall, and the detail lost no time clambering up the stairway.

The detail consisted of Sergt. Edward Smith, with Officers Albert E. Nickerson, James F. Feeney, Edward Haniford, Frank H. Anthony, Joseph H. Arnold, Peter H. Galligan and James A. Flynn. Two men remained on the sidewalk to control the crowd, while the others, with the sergeant at the head, ran up the stairs to the hall.

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.

Materas Simon also was cut badly on the head with a knife. The police arrested Hagop Goolkhasian, Mardros Semarovmian, Kreker Gavabidian, Mooshak Kerkorian, Mike Soiken and Marrogg Kerkorian. Some of these came from Boston, but they would not give their address in that city.

It is said that Garabidian secreted himself when the row started and escaped without injury. He has been charged by some of his alleged countrymen with receiving money contributed for the purpose above mentioned, and of using it to his own advantage, instead of sending it to the headquarters at Athens. When the arrests were made he managed to get away without being seen by the police.

In the police court this morning eight men were arraigned on the charge of reveling and, pleaded guilty, some of them retracting the first plea of not guilty after being shown the evidence and the chance of a worse penalty. They were severally fined \$10 and costs, some being paid, while the remainder took a journey to Cranston.