

PROTEST SCENES IN LONDON.

March of 10,000 Down Park Lane.

EMBASSY CORDON

Mounted Police Disperse Crowds.

Extraordinary scenes followed the big Hyde Park rally organised last night by the International Class War Prisoners' Aid, an extreme Left wing organisation. The promoters had announced that after the demonstration the crowd would march to the United States Embassy in Grosvenor Gardens and there keep up an "all-night vigil."

The police early in the evening strongly cordoned off Grosvenor Gardens with the intention of preventing demonstrators from approaching the Embassy premises, and mounted police dispersed groups of people who, while the demonstration was still going on in Hyde Park, collected to await its arrival, but were driven down side streets. One of the groups was singing "Land of Hope and Glory" when the police rode in.

After the speeches of Mr. Cook, "Comrade" Mrs. Pollitt, and the other main speakers in Hyde Park a man from one of the platforms shouted, "The time has come now for a march to the American Embassy."

As one man the vast crowd rushed across to the Marble Arch gate, many vaulting the railings. They made an attempt to form fours, and with red flags held high above their heads marched into Park Lane and towards Hyde Park corner. By the time the procession was half way down Park Lane there were over 10,000 in the crowd, and many thousands more spectators lined the pavement or marched alongside.

"Up the Reds."

Hundreds of police kept up with the procession, which was led by twenty mounted constables, with sergeants and superintendents. Policemen on bicycles were also among the crowd. For nearly half an hour traffic in the neighbourhood of Marble Arch was at a standstill. In Park Lane vehicles were pulled up to the kerb, and a long line of cars returning from theatres filled with people in evening dress had to wait until the procession had filed into Grosvenor Gardens. Girls of fifteen and white-haired women of seventy-five, hatless and dishevelled, marched side by side with smartly dressed young men and labourers in their working clothes.

There was uproar when a British Fascisti tender with a woman driver and a number of young women slowly passed the gigantic procession in Park Lane. Above the car was a large Union Jack. A great shout was raised by the marchers and hooting and booing was taken up from one end of the procession to the other. Once again the "Red Flag" and the "International" were sung. Some of those lining the pavement replied by singing the National Anthem.

When opposite some of the larger houses in Park Lane many of the marchers shook their fists at them, and cried "Up, the Reds. Our day is coming."

The procession was met at Grosvenor Gardens by a strong cordon of foot and mounted police. Policemen were posted at each entrance to the gardens, thus preventing the demonstrators from approaching the American Embassy. The road was quickly filled in front of the cordons, and once more traffic was disorganised.

Demonstrators Fall Down Area.

When the demonstrators found that a cordon of police prevented them entering Grosvenor Gardens they began to sing "The Red Flag" and "International." At this stage the police, on foot and mounted, charged the procession and divided it into three groups, following this up by hustling everybody out of the vicinity, hundreds running before the horses as they came along the pavement.

Others were pushed along by the foot police, and a section of the crowd at the corner of Grosvenor Gardens and Ebury Street fell through an open gateway down into an area. About thirty people were entangled in a heap at the bottom of the area, and several of them were bruised and shaken.

Attempts to Re-form Prevented.

Half an hour later a crowd of between 2,000 and 3,000 demonstrators attempted to re-form at Hyde Park Corner with the object of marching along to the Embassy, but they were again dispersed by mounted police who had followed them up.

All the houses in Grosvenor Gardens were guarded by strong companies of police, and no one was allowed to stop for more than a few seconds within five hundred yards of the Embassy.

When a press representative was escorted to the American Embassy he was told by the caretaker that the Embassy officials were away, and that there was no statement to be made. Mounted police patrolled the streets in the City until well after midnight, and up to an early hour this morning police lined the route from Victoria station to Park Lane. All was quiet.

FOUR ARRESTS AND FOUR CASES OF INJURY.

Four persons—two men and two women—sustained injuries during the demonstration and were removed to St. George's Hospital. Their injuries are not serious.

Two arrests were made in Grosvenor Gardens and two more at Hyde Park Corner.

MR. COOK'S TRIBUTE

TO THE POLICE.

Fascists Responsible for the

Charges.

Telling a press representative his impressions of the demonstration, Mr. A. J. Cook said: "Everything was peaceful till the British Fascists rushed into the procession, taking a red flag away from the girl who was carrying it. The processionists got the red flag back, but the Fascists kept shouting 'Let us duck the Reds.' The result was that the police charged, the Fascists and there was a general mêlée. I was amongst them for a time, but I could stick it no longer, as my leg, which was kicked by a Fascist last year, gave out. I have only just managed to crawl home."

Mr. Cook added: "The police were in no way to blame. They were simply splendid in their behaviour towards the demonstration itself, and the procession was quite orderly. It was when the Fascists intervened that the trouble started."