

# BOMB KILLS ONE; POLICE ESCAPE

**Goes Off in Would-Be Slayer's  
Hand as Socialists Are Dis-  
persed in Union Square.**

**ON POINT OF HURLING IT**

**Man at His Side Blown to Pieces  
and He Himself Mor-  
tally Injured.**

**HE IS AN ANARCHIST CRANK**

**Says He Meant the Missile for an  
Approaching Platoon of  
Policemen.**

**PROUD OF DEED THAT FAILED**

**Made the Bomb Himself—Letters from  
Berkman, Who Tried to Kill H.  
C. Frick, in His Room.**

An attempt of the Socialist Conference of the Unemployed, which has long been preparing a public demonstration, to hold a meeting in Union Square after a permit had been refused by the Park Commissioner and the police had prevented speechmaking, ended with a bomb explosion there at 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The bomb, apparently, which was a small brass affair filled with explosive and iron nails, exploded prematurely in the hands of a Williamsburg Anarchist, who gives his name as Selig Silverstein, though he is also known over there as Selig Cohen. He had taken it into the park with the avowed intention of throwing it among the police, against whom he afterward admitted he entertains an undying hatred. There were at this time less than 1,000 persons in the square. Silverstein,

from their station an hour or so before, set out to march across the park on their way home, when two, some say three, shabbily-dressed men were seen shambling across the park, apparently on their way to Fourth Avenue.

## Bomb Thrower Appears.

One of these men was Silverstein, another was the man who was killed, while the third, if there was such a person, escaped. It is estimated that at this time there were from 500 to 1,000 persons in Union Square, which had just been reopened to traffic by the police. The bomb thrower was directly in front of the fountain in the centre of the park, and on the side facing the south, and the fuse that was to explode the bomb had been fired. The fuse burned quicker than Silverstein had

New York Hospitals reached the scene they said that Hilderbrand had been killed instantly. As for Silverstein, they said he could live only a few hours.

Before Silverstein was placed in the ambulance Inspector Schmittberger, with the aid of an interpreter, managed to get a brief statement from him. Even in his agony the man showed no regret for what had happened. The only thought that seemed to disconcert him was that he had failed to kill some of the police, who he said had been persecuting him and his brothers in the army of the unemployed.

"Yes, I made the bomb," said Silverstein, "and I came to the park to kill the police with it. The police are no good. They drove us out of the park, and I hate them. I am sorry that I did not



**THE DEAD AND INJURED**  
As They Lay in Union Square Park After the Explosion.

figured it would. He was just about to lift his hand to hurl it in the midst of the advancing policemen under Capt. O'Reilly when it exploded, the detonation sounding like the discharge of one of the great guns of Fort Wadsworth.

In a moment all was pandemonium. The police closed in on the crowd, using their clubs right and left, while the mounted men, under Inspector Schmittberger, formed in phalanxes and charged at the mob of unemployed that skirted the park, driving them back to the sidewalks.

The excitement was intense and immediately it was rumored that a dozen policemen had been killed, one of whom, it was said, was Capt. O'Reilly. The crowd acted as if it knew exactly what had happened. The fleeing throng started in to sing the "Marseillaise" and jeer at the police.

make good. As for my life, why that is nothing. It was the police that I wanted."

While the Inspector and Capt. O'Reilly were trying to get a statement from the dying Anarchist the police were bringing in those that had difficulty in explaining their presence in the park, in the hope that among them might be found somebody who could throw light on the affair and identify the dead man.

An incident that shows the coolness of a policeman was the action of Policeman McCormick of the Mercer Street Station, who was one of the men nearest to Silverstein when the bomb exploded. As Silverstein fell to the ground McCormick saw that his hand was blown off. Realizing that unless the flow of blood was quickly stopped his death would be a question of but a few minutes, he snatched the cord off his nightstick and tied it tightly around the stump of wrist that was left.

## Two Policemen Hurt.

Although two of the police had been slightly injured, nothing was heard of it for half an hour. Neither man referred to his injuries, and both kept at their posts until the situation was well in hand. One was Policeman Patrick Hannan of the Leonard Street Station, who was on reserve duty, and the other was Mounted Policeman Joseph O'Brien of the Traffic Squad, who was one of the men under Schmittberger. Hannan had a piece of brass in his foot, a fragment of the bomb, while O'Brien was thrown from his horse and had his ankle sprained. Both were taken to the New York Hospital.

The men who were arrested were all taken to the spot where the bomb had exploded and there were questioned by Inspector Schmittberger. Later Inspector McCafferty, Chief of the Detective Bureau, arrived and joined in the work. An Italian, who said he was A. Benedetto d'Altomonte of 166 West Forty-fourth Street, correspondent of a newspaper at Florence, Italy, was the first man brought in by the police.

D'Altomonte was near Silverstein when the bomb exploded. He said he was ignorant of the identity of the bomb thrower, and that he was simply passing through the park at the time. He was not one of the demonstrators, he said, and was in complete ignorance of the nature of the disturbance. He said he saw something in Silverstein's hand a moment before the explosion, but he had no idea what it was.

He was taken to the West Twentieth Street Police Station and questioned further.

Samuel Ruffin of 44 Gouverneur Street was the second man arrested. He said he was a painter, and declared he knew nothing about the bomb thrower beyond what he saw in the park. He had never seen Silverstein before, he said, and had no idea who the dead man was. George Robertson of 1 Chatham Square, Seer Greisenberg of 204 Clinton Street, Walter

Inspector Schmittberger never lost his head for a second and in less than two minutes he had Union Square cleared of every person who had no right to be there and had stationed his mounted men on all four sides of the park, with instructions to see that no person who could not show legal authority should be allowed within the confines of the park until further orders.

The unmounted men drove the throngs back into the side streets, while detectives from Headquarters hurried through the shouting crowd, arresting every man who acted suspiciously.

## Shock was Terrific.

Inspector Schmittberger said afterward



**POLICEMAN WOUNDED BY THE BOMB.**

with his hand blown off and his eyes blown out, is dying in Bellevue Hospital. Another man, who was near him, and who the police believe to have been a confederate, was killed instantly. His body was identified last night as that of Ignatz Hilderbrand, a tailor, of 288 Third Avenue.

Besides these Policeman Patrick Hannan was injured in the foot. Mounted Policeman O'Brien, whose horse was scared by the explosion, was thrown and badly bruised. These were all the casualties.

Had the bomb not exploded before Silverstein had a chance to hurl it in the midst of an advancing platoon of police under command of Capt. Miles O'Reilly of the Mercer Street Station, there is little doubt that the loss of life would have been appalling, so terrible was the force of the explosion.

## Made the Bomb Himself.

The would-be bomb thrower says he made the bomb himself and acted alone, but letters from Alexander Berkman and other Anarchist leaders were found in a search of his room last night.

Some 7,000 persons had gathered for the demonstration and had been turned out of the square by the police when the explosion occurred. All attempts to hold a meeting had been abandoned from the moment the people began to gather. Robert Hunter, former head of the University Settlement; Morris Hillquit, who last Fall was a candidate for Congress, and other prominent Socialists had gone about among the demonstrators telling them that Justice O'Gorman had refused to enjoin the police from interfering with their meeting, and so speechmaking was useless. The police had cleared the square, driving the crowd into the side streets, and traffic had just been resumed.

The mounted police, with Inspector Schmittberger in command, were massed in the Plaza of Union Square, preparing to return to their station. The reserves from Mercer Street, under Capt. O'Reilly, twenty men in all, who had been called

that the crash of the explosion was so great that men and women a block away were thrown to their knees, while windows rattled and doors in buildings all around the square shook as from an earthquake.

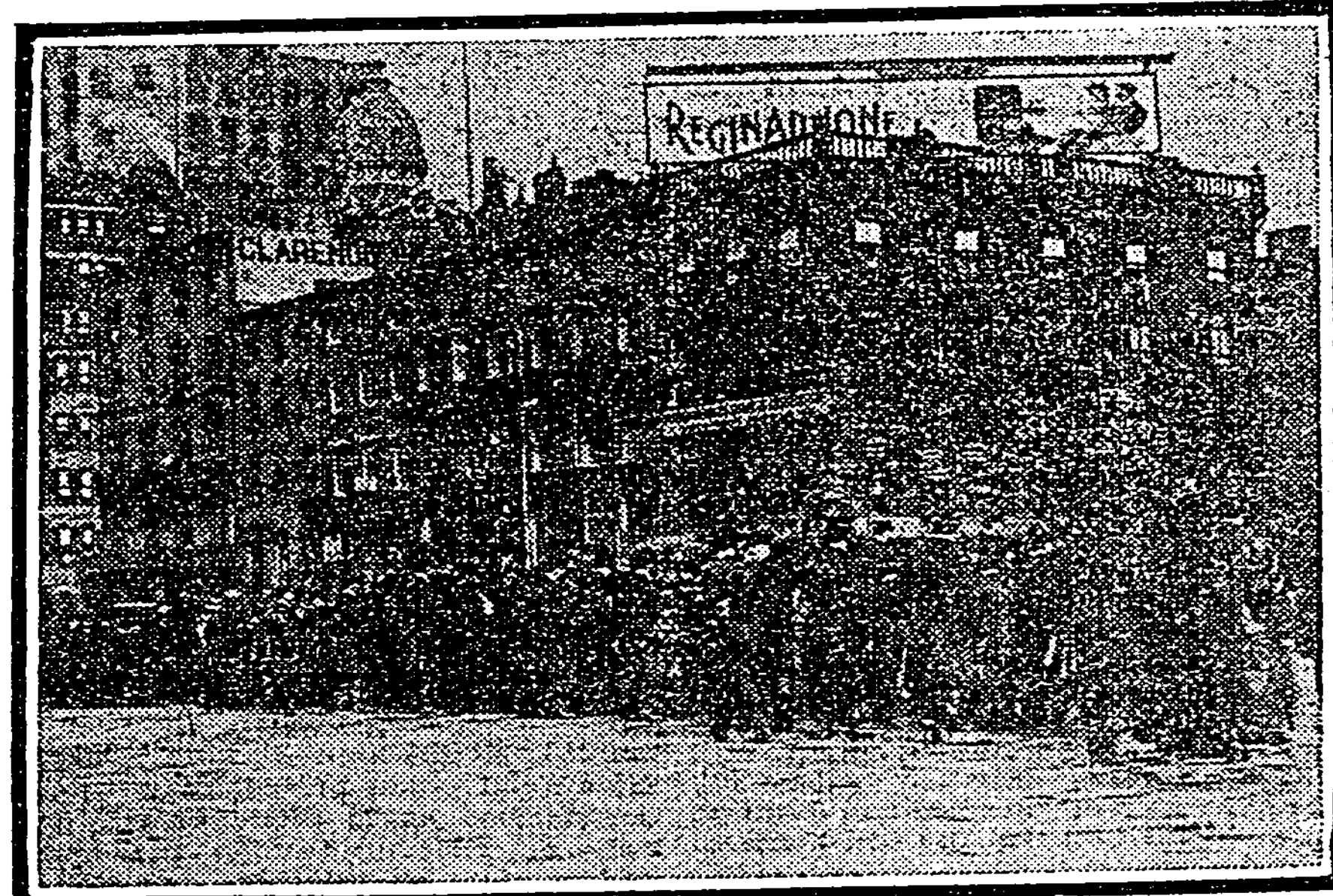
While the police were gathering in the suspicious characters and clearing the park the bomb-thrower lay near the spot where he was when the bomb exploded. The man who was with him, mutilated almost beyond recognition, lay dead a few feet away.

When the doctors from Bellevue and

Ruppert of 127 East 117th Street, Morris Mindl, who gave no address and exhibited a slight scalp wound that he said was caused by the bomb; Max Gross of 308 Van Brunt Street, who was distributing Socialistic literature in the park, and Max Dollinger of 131 Suffolk Street were the others detained by the police.

## Five Others Arrested.

Outside the park, at Fourth Avenue and Fourteenth Street, the police arrested five men as suspicious persons and hustled them off to Police Headquarters, where



**Driving Back the Mob After the Explosion.**

they declared that they knew nothing about Silverstein or his companions. These men were Michael Hyman of 625 Fifth Street, Robert Spencer of 414 East Tenth Street, Max Shriver of 414 East Tenth Street, Reuben Katz of 208 Madison Street, and M. Tadonia of 259 Stanton Street.

Dollinger was so frightened that the police could get little information out of him. He said he did not see Silverstein when the bomb went off, and knew nothing about the man. He was bareheaded, and declared that the force of the explosion blew his hat off, while Gross, the handbill distributor, also protested his innocence of any knowledge of the affair or the perpetrators.

It was rumored that a woman had been seen with Silverstein just before the bomb went off, and that the police were scouring the neighborhood in the hope of effecting her capture. This proved to be an error. One woman witnessed the explosion, and she quickly convinced Coroner Schrady and the police that she knew nothing about the demonstration or the man who had the bomb. She was Mrs. Ira L. G. Stonebreaker of 226 East Eighteenth Street, who was within a few yards of Silverstein at the time of the explosion.

"I was passing through the park on my way home," said Mrs. Stonebreaker, "when I saw two men, one of whom proved to be the man with the bomb. I saw the thing in the man's hand, and then there came a deafening report like the discharge of a cannon. I knew that something awful had happened, but did not know exactly what it was.

"I was so unnerved that for a time I don't think I knew anything. The man who had the bomb, if I remember correctly, was right by the fountain, and was facing the policemen who were marching in his direction. I think he lifted his hand as if he was going to throw the bomb at the police. Then it went off. I shut my eyes and turned away. I had seen enough, and I will remember it all as long as I live."

George McCormick, the Mercer Street Station policeman, who tied the cord of his light stick around the stump of Silverstein's right hand is the man who probably saw better just what happened than any other person. McCormick was in the front four of O'Reilly's platoon. He was at the bomb thrower's side within a few seconds after the explosion.

**It Exploded Too Soon, He Said.**

"Tell me, why on earth did you do this thing?" asked McCormick.

"It went off too soon," answered Silverstein, feebly, "and it got me instead of the cops."

"It was all over before we had a chance to realize what the man was up to," said McCormick. "I saw the thing in the man's hand, and then, in a space of time so short that I did not even have time to call anybody's attention to it, it exploded. The man at his side was literally blown to pieces. He must have been dead before he hit the ground. The bomb thrower certainly had nerve. He would have accomplished the destruction of some of us had the fuse lasted thirty seconds longer."

After Silverstein was removed to Bellevue Coroner Shraday and Assistant District Attorney Marshall went there and questioned him further in the hope of getting at the bottom of the affair and also of finding out who his confederates were, if he had any. Coroner Shraday said Silverstein told him two different stories.

"He told me first," said the Coroner, "that the bomb had been handed to him by another man, and that it went off before he had a chance to throw it at the police. Then he changed his mind, and said he had gone to the park with the bomb, and that he alone was responsible for the outrage."

"I asked him where he got the bomb, and he replied that he had purchased the chemicals of which it was made in a drug store and manufactured it himself. He said he got the directions as to the manufacturing of such missiles out of a book that told all about bombs.

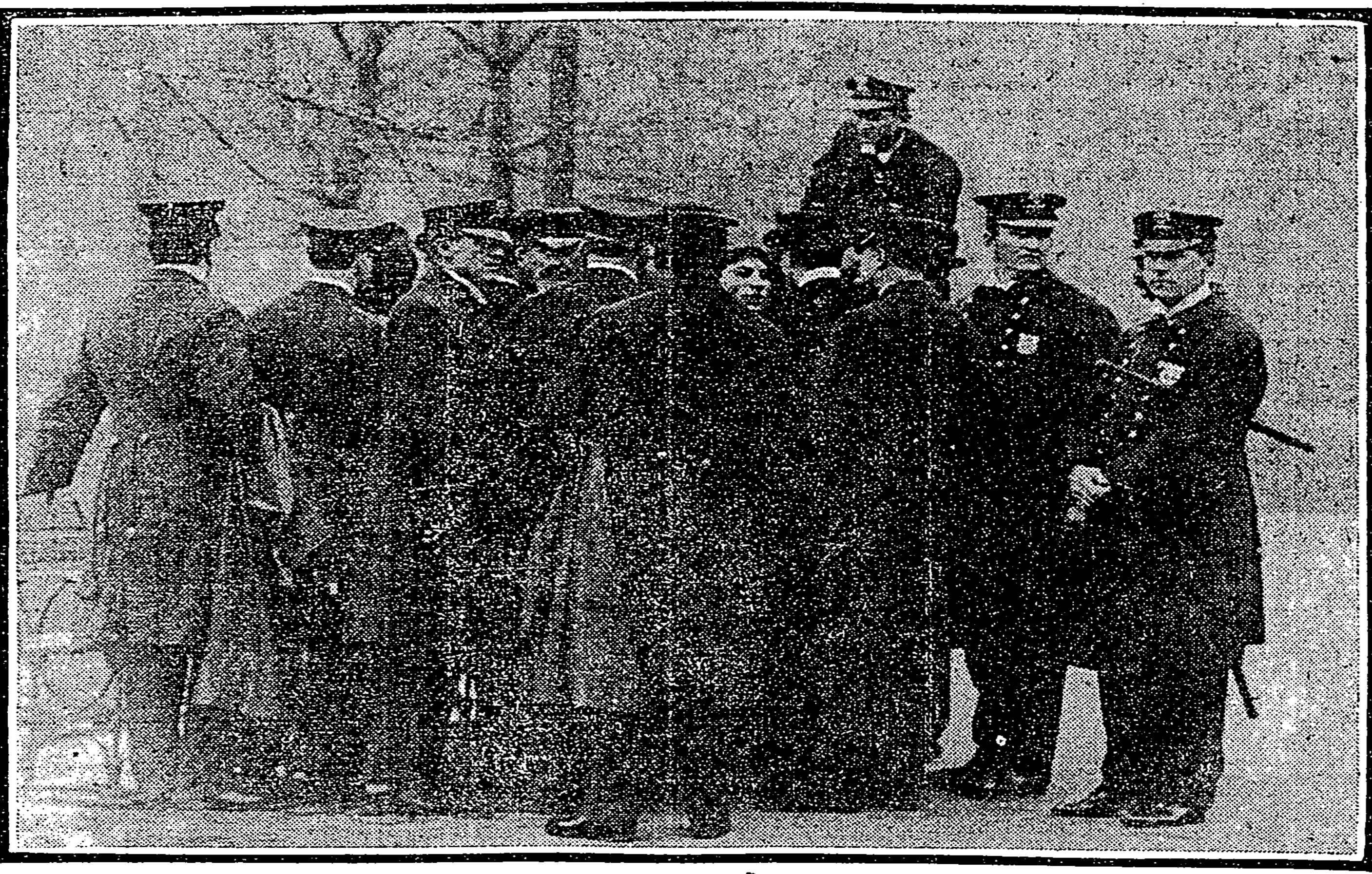
"The bomb thrower said that Selig Silverstein was his right name and that he lived at 21 Van Brunt Street, Brooklyn. He declared that he alone was responsible and that the dead man was not a confederate, but an innocent bystander. He said he was ten feet away from the police when the bomb exploded. I asked him why he wanted to throw it, and he replied: 'I was mad, a cop had hit me.'"

The bomb thrower also said he was a cloak maker, and that he worked for a man named Goldstein, who has a place of business in Eldridge Street, between Delancey and Broome. He said a man named Cohen of 21 Park Street, Brooklyn, was a friend of his. Later it was said that Cohen was the man's right name, and that he took the name Silverstein when he came to this country from Russia several years ago.

**A Possible Clue.**

On a piece of paper that was found near the fountain after the explosion was written the name Beckman, and this may furnish a clue for other arrests.

As for the report that a third man was



ARREST OF SAMUEL RUFFIN. He Was the Second Man Seized in the Park After the Explosion.

In the bomb party, the police do not give it much credit. They are not at all certain that the bomb thrower was identified with the horde of unemployed demonstrators. But that the throng who surrounded the park rejoiced openly over the explosion there is not the least doubt.

When they heard that several policemen had been killed or injured they shouted for joy. Marching down Fourth Avenue, they sang the "Marseillaise."

The police, who had heard also that some of their comrades had been injured, handed the crowd without gloves, and for about ten minutes following the explosion the night sticks swung with deadly precision in Union Square and the neighboring streets. The streets bordering on the park were soon congested with

the Yiddish newspaper offices were crowded, and news bulletins were being constantly placed in front of them. Pacific and new Pythagoras Halls, in East Broadway, where numerous lodge meetings are held by various societies, were also closely watched by detectives.

### POLICE CLUBBED THE CROWD. Eyewitness Says They Struck Out Savagely Before the Explosion.

W. J. Hanley, who accompanied the foreign automobiles in the New York to Paris race as a correspondent as far as Chicago, and has just returned from the West, was within forty feet of the bomb when it exploded.

"I had been making a social call in the

started simultaneously from the different spots around the edge of the park, where they stood as if they had been posted there, and moved swiftly in converging lines toward the speakers' stand. This was noticed apparently by all the policemen lined up on the south side of the square and by others, apparently, along the east and west sides.

"I hurriedly sent one of my assistants to one point and then hastened toward the stand.

"I had reached a point about 150 feet from the stand when the bomb exploded. There was a puff of smoke, a crash, and then a babel of shouts and cries.

**The Crowd Fled.**

"Men hurrying toward the stand halted suddenly, turned, and fled—all except the policemen, who at once charged into the crowds toward the point where the explosion occurred. As the police met and passed the fleeing men, many of the latter paused in their flight long enough to utter abusive and threatening cries.

"I'd like to kill you," hissed one of them in the face of a policeman.

"The police charged the crowds in every direction, and the most intense excitement followed, many seeking safety apparently in the belief that other bombs were about to be exploded. I ran to the Statue of Washington, at Fourteenth Street, thinking that as good a place as any to escape being run over, and as soon as there was a chance I escaped into the Subway again."

Enl Balderson of 84 West Tenth Street, who stepped from a southbound Broadway car opposite Union Square immediately before the bomb exploded, said he was looking in the direction of the speakers' stand when the explosion occurred.

**Was Near the Explosion.**

"I left the car because I was attracted by the crowds in and about the park," he said later.

"After leaving the car I had barely time to notice the arrangement of the police to the north of the square before the explosion occurred. There was a terrific crash and smoke puffed up. I saw what appeared to be a red flag near the spot. A moment before the policemen on foot stood in line, with their faces to the crowd gathered at the northeast corner and facing their mounted companions. A moment later all the police were charging north, south, east, and west. Some fled as far as Sixth Avenue.

"I did not stop running till I was two blocks further south in Broadway."

### SEEN FROM THE SQUARE EDGE. Persons in the Skyscraper Windows Describe What They Saw.

The explosion of the bomb and subsequent panic and struggle between the police and the mob was witnessed by hundreds of employees in the buildings surrounding the Square. The windows of the offices and business houses were all occupied by men and women who had been watching the police clear the park. It seemed to those looking down on the crowded square and streets that the crowd jammed into the plaza, north of the square, the mob was moving. Some of the police reserves had been withdrawn and knots of people were drifting back into the park.

Traffic, which had been held up for some time, was moving again in the streets, and pedestrians were being allowed to cross the park. Then came a flash, rattle, and roar, and the puff of smoke at the edge of the fountain. Few of the onlookers were able to distinguish just what had happened among the six or seven men who had been seated on the stone coping around the fountain. Several men were knocked down and the others tumbled over one another in their eagerness to escape.

Richard Marche, an opera singer, of Thirty-seventh Street and Seventh Avenue, who was crossing the park with four friends, says that they were all thrown off their feet by the force of the explosion, and that he did not see anything that happened before the flash came at the fountain.

Peter Genease, a cigar dealer of 13 East Fourteenth Street, was also among those who were crossing the park with four friends by its place of business. Those who saw the panic after the explosion say that it is remarkable that many persons were not seriously injured in the rush. A well-dressed old man who was standing at Seventeenth Street and Broadway, said:

"People were tumbling over one another right and left and jamming into the crowds packed on the sidewalks. At first I thought many women would be injured by being trampled upon, but I saw that they were not. The Police Department and the Bureau of Highways will also be notified.

All delegates to the conference who are not

born of the Executive Committee and led by Tom Inspector Schmitzberger that it was hopeless to think of conducting the meeting, moved about among the crowd urging the men to make no disturbance.

"I was at the north end of the park when the bomb exploded," said he. "Several hundred persons had collected in the plaza there after we had been driven out of the park, and I saw a small knot of men on the steps of the cottage. Thinking that some one was going to speak to the crowd urging them to disperse, I walked toward the cottage. Then the explosion came, and in the rush and excitement that followed I was able to see little that happened."

### IGNORED POLICE BAN. Organizers Say They Couldn't Stop Meeting After Injunction Was Refused.

Yesterday's demonstration, which ended so disastrously, was called by "The Unemployed Conference of New York," an organization created in February by leaders of the Socialist and Socialist-Labor Parties and several persons outside of these bodies interested in labor. According to the assertions of those concerned in it, this has the backing of more than 100 labor organizations and several charitable societies, although they had been prohibited by the Central Federated Union.

Repeated and persistent efforts had been made by the promoters to get a permit from the Department of Parks to hold this demonstration, and their anger over their inability to do so was only increased by the fact that Park Commissioner Smith granted a permit for a meeting on March 7, and then repudiated it. This misunderstanding arose, he says, through his signing the permit among other routine papers, without noticing its nature. When asked last night as to what his objections were to the holding of the meeting, the Commissioner replied:

"It seems to me that what happened to-day is answer enough to that."

The Commissioner also said that all permits for public gatherings of this kind in the squares and parks that have already been granted will be revoked and future requests refused. Even the big meeting which has been held on May 1 in Rutgers Square for several years will be put under a ban.

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All delegates to the conference who are not

to speak, shall constitute themselves an Order. They are urged to assemble at the corner of Seventeenth Street and Fourth Avenue at 1 P. M. and come to keep order among the great crowd that is expected to assemble on Union Square, Saturday, March 28, at 2 P. M.

The speakers who were to address the gathering were Robert Hunter, former head of the University Settlement and brother-in-law of J. P. Morgan; Stokes, "Comrade" Fieldman, "Comrade" Lewis, William Malley of 569 St. Mary's Street, Brooklyn; Joseph Vauhough, editor of the "Magazine"; James O'Neil, associate editor of "The Worker"; Ludwig Lorey of the "Staats-Zeitung"; Jacob Pankov, a lawyer of 382 Grand Street; Miss Gertrude Malley, and "Comrade" Gilder.

Mr. Hunter was present at the demonstration, but got away as quickly as possible after the explosion. It was said at his city home, 230 Madison Avenue, last night that he had left on the 4:06 o'clock train for his country place at Noroton, Conn.

Mr. Zimm's personal account of the controversy over the permit is that the original permission to hold the demonstration was obtained by "Comrade" Hugh Solomon, and that the after Committee of the Unemployed Conference had granted it for March 7. The committee decided that they would put over the meeting until they could prepare for a larger demonstration. This was done, the Commissioner revoking the permit in the meantime, as soon as he found out the truth. Mr. Zimm says:

He is a Tammany Judge and I knew that however just our demands might be they would not be granted. He refused to sign it on the technical ground that our sureties were not real-estate owners."

### SIX PRISONERS SET FREE. One of Them a Woman Who Was Distributing Cards in the Square.

Central Office Detectives Miller and McMullen took four young men and one young woman they arrested after the explosion down to Police Headquarters. The nine others went to the East Twenty-second Street Station. The Headquarters prisoners were charged with using indecent and profane language, with distributing little red circulars when ordered to stop doing so by the police, and with inciting riot. Magistrate Finn, before whom all five were arraigned in the Night Court last night, discharged them with a reprimand.

The detectives said that the young woman, Mamie Togina of 259 Stanton Street, had led the procession of distributors around the park. She was handing out little red cards on which was printed, "We demand work."

Miller said that he and his partner requested her to stop giving out the cards during the riot. She refused, and only did harm after the explosion of the bomb, whereupon she had answered:

"Why, this is a free country."

Seeing four or five men giving way to the two Central Office men, she had said scornfully:

"Why, you are not afraid of those fellows, are you?"

The woman told Magistrate Finn that she had worked in a sweat shop up to last October, since when she had been unable to find employment. She was neatly dressed, and her appearance did not suggest that she had been deprived of any of the necessities of life. She admitted that she was giving out the cards in Union Square. She said a Socialist organization had sent her word to be on hand to help with the work of making a demonstration.

Mr. Hyman of 628 Fifth Street said that he was 19 years old and that he had been out of work for months. He was a machine operator by trade. Detective Miller and McMullen said they found in his pocket, scribbled on the back of an envelope bearing the name of the Unemployed Conference, a list of names, notes of a speech which ran like this:

"Workmen, when will you wake up and realize your condition? All depends on your brain, on all goes to port, so hurry up. The battle is near. Victory is sure on election day. We will need our prayers."

"When you hear us calling will you be ready for the fray? Stand like men and do your fighting. The nut is cracked, the run away. Wearing the emblem of your party, stand like men around your flag. Socialism is the cry. We will fight until we die to free the working class."

Reuben Katz of 208 Madison Street, 19 years old, a tailor long out of work, said he was in his defense. Max Scherover of 141 East Tenth Street said he wasn't out of work; he owned a clothing store. Robert Scherover, a brother, who lived with him, was in his employ.

After hearing the detectives, Magistrate Finn said to the five prisoners lined up before him:

"I have a sympathetic feeling for people out of work. But you can't get work going by fighting. The nut is cracked, the run away. Wearing the emblem of your party, stand like men around your flag. Socialism is the cry. We will fight until we die to free the working class."

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