

POLICE DESCEND ON AGITATORS IN DEAD OF NIGHT

Nine Strike Leaders Arrested and Much Alleged Bolshevik Literature Seized at Winnipeg.

Ivens, Bray and Some Russians Among Prisoners; Placed Behind Bars at Stony Mountain.

Special to The Journal by W. R. Plewman, (Copyright in Canada).

WINNIPEG, June 17.—A great sensation was sprung in Winnipeg at an early hour this morning, when the men who are supposed to be the brains of the general strike movement were arrested in the quiet of their homes by hundreds of mounted police and special constables. The arrested men include:

R. B. Russell, secretary of the Metal Trades Council and International officer, a Socialist, and credited with being a dominating factor in the strike.

Rev. Wm. Ivens, editor of the Western Labor News, the strike paper, and pastor of the Labor church that has been holding open air meetings in the park on Sunday night.

Ald. John Queen, advertising manager of the Western Labor News, and member of the City Council for Ward Five.

Ald. A. A. Heaps, upholsterer, also a member of City Council for Ward Five.

B. E. Bray, Soviet advocate and leader of the striking veterans.

George Armstrong, street car motorman, who was prominent at the Calgary convention and had spoken much during the strike at meetings in parks.

Moses Charitonoff, arrested in 1918 on a charge of sedition; convicted, sent to jail; then released on technicality; of Russian birth.

Moses Almazoff, extreme Socialist, Russian.

Mike Berenzuk, admirer of Bolshevik theories; Russian birth.

At the time of writing Ald. Ernest Robinson is not under arrest.

He is secretary of the Trades and Labor Council and a Radical. One rumor has it that Fred Dixon, M.P.P., is in custody, but this has not been confirmed.

The arrested men were rushed out to Stony Mountain Penitentiary, near Stonewall, some twenty miles from the city, where ample protection is being provided.

Labor Temple Door Smashed In and Much Literature Seized

I was at the Labor Temple at six o'clock and saw the window in the door broken clean out. I was told that a dozen redcoats, backed by more than 500 special constables, had surrounded the building, and, finding the door locked and the strike committee not in session, as it has been some times early in the morning, broke into the building, smashed in doors, and seized all papers they could find.

"And they raided our supply of cigars and passed them all around," said one chap, who seemed more grieved on that point than about the rounding up of strike leaders. This same fellow said at least a score of autos had driven up and that their numbers had been boarded up. "But," he added, proudly, "I went around examining them and got the numbers of fourteen."

High-Handed Move.

As I was standing outside the building, Woodsworth, formerly a Methodist minister and later a longshoreman in Vancouver, who is here assisting the strikers and doing some writing for the Labor News, came hurrying up from the Canadian Pacific Hotel, where he is staying. I asked him what he thought of the authorities. He replied: "It is a stupid, high-handed move. Already the workers feel that the Government is not truly representative, that it represents only a section and not all of the community."

"Will the strike collapse now that the leaders are moved?" he was asked.

"Not at all," he replied. "The Government can't arrest 35,000 strikers, and if the strike were broken people still would insist upon handling their affairs and securing the ancient rights of Britons."

Arrested in Pajamas.

Just then an auto drove up with the wives of Ald. Heaps and Charitonoff, Ruthenian labor editor. They were in some distress and told agitatedly how their husbands had

been in bed when the police took them into custody. They said Ald. Queen, whose wife is not at home, was staying with Ald. Heaps and was in his pajamas when arrested. They were informed that their husbands probably had been taken to the barracks, which may be a mistake, and Woodsworth climbed in and went off with them. Not unlikely Woodsworth will play a prominent part in subsequent events.

Vancouver Man Got Out.

It is alleged that W. A. Pritchard, of Vancouver, who made a vigorous speech at the Labor Church on Sunday and was violently denounced by a Winnipeg paper yesterday, has left the city. It is also rumored that the Dominion authorities are rounding up incendiary agitators and labor leaders in Calgary and other parts of the west, among those arrested in Winnipeg are said to be at least four Russians.

"Nothing Doing" at All.

The Dominion Government is credited with orders to make all arrests. Senator Robertson, Minister of Labor, was out most of the night and returned to his hotel room about four this morning when the round-up was nearly complete. Shortly before he was asked if anything was doing and with a broad smile answered "Nothing." Premier Norris tried to see Senator Robertson at midnight and finding him out went to bed.

The wholesale arrests here followed long conferences between Premier Norris, Mayor Gray, General Ketchen, O. C. Military District and Lt.-Col. Starnz, head of Mounted Police held on Friday night until after midnight at the Royal Alexandra Hotel and again yesterday morning at the Legislative Building. A. J. Andrews, K.C., was much in evidence and last night Senator Robertson was in company with a lawyer named Anderson who does much Government work.

Expressed Their Indignation But Submitted To Arrest Very Quietly

WINNIPEG, June 17.—Beyond expressing indignation at the presence of representatives of the law at their homes, the strike leaders taken into custody this morning submitted to arrest quietly, it is understood.

The blow of the Dominion Government against sedition in the west fell between three and four o'clock this morning.

It was announced that arrests were also to have been carried out in Calgary and other western points at the same time.

The raid was conducted by Inspector Green of the city police force and Inspector Mead of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police. For the purpose a cordon of special police, numbering several hundred, were placed around the building.

Here Is a Line On The Pedigrees Of Some of the Men Arrested

Winnipeg Citizen, June 9.

For nearly a month all eyes in Canada have been turned upon Winnipeg. For nearly a month the citizens of Winnipeg have been fighting whole-heartedly and with a very generous measure of success, against a determined attempt to establish Bolshevism and the rule of the Soviet here and then to expand it all over this Dominion.

In their fight, the citizens of Winnipeg have contended against great odds. When through the machinations of a number of confessed Bolsheviks in the Winnipeg Labor Temple, between twenty and thirty thousand were tricked and betrayed into striking, the issue went right to the heart of the great body of middle-class citizens whom the strike leaders sought to deprive of the very necessities of life, of food and water, and of light, police protection and fire protection.

It aroused them to organization and to action, and it sounded a note of warning throughout Canada as to what might be expected all over the Dominion if this effort to foster

Bolshevism upon Winnipeg were not decisively defeated. From the moment that the general tie-up took place over a dispute between some metal workers and their employers, the general strike was recognized as an attempt at revolution—and the citizens proceeded to combat it as such.

The revolution in Winnipeg was the outcome of a Bolshevik movement started at Calgary last March and directed by the I. W. W. organization in the United States. That convention elected a "Red Five" executive for Canada. One of these is Victor Midgley, of Vancouver, a notorious agitator whose expulsion from Vancouver was demanded by returned soldiers last August when he and others led a one-day general strike in that city in memorial to a military slacker and defaulter who was shot while resisting arrest.

The second is W. A. Pritchard, of Vancouver, who participated in the same unpatriotic escapade. The third is Joseph Knight, of Edmonton, one

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of the most notorious of Western agitators of the mining districts and a man who demands the release from internment of men who were actively working in Canada for the German Government during the war.

The fourth is Joseph Mayler, a Bolshevik by his own frank admission, who is out to overturn the present system of Government. And the fifth is R. J. Johns, one of the worst Red agitators in Canada, a Winnipeg man who in 1917 at a public meeting of the Trades and Labor Council urged a general strike against conscription and national registration.

Johns is one of the prime organizers of the Winnipeg strike and he also went to Toronto and was largely instrumental in bringing about the abortive general strike there. Another local leader is Mrs. Helen Armstrong, who, according to her own word, has spent some years of her life in an insane asylum. Her husband, George Armstrong, another notorious "Red," is one of the local leaders, who drew down upon himself the wrath of returned men both over the conscription issue and latterly when returned soldiers went on a rampage against a Bolshevik meeting which sent greetings to the Soviet Government of Russia, and the Spartacans in Germany.

F. J. Dixon, a soap-box orator, who is a member of the Legislature, had to flee for his life and was battered by returned soldiers when he addressed a meeting in the Market Square in 1917, counselling everybody to burn their registration cards and to resist conscription. He is another of the leaders of the local revolt. Still another is John Queen, a Socialist alderman, who participated in the same meetings and was one of the objects of the patriotic soldiers' ire.

Andrew Scoble and R. B. Russell, two more of the prime agitators in this defiance of constituted authority, were active participants in the Red convention at Calgary which passed resolutions for the release of German agents, others for the establishment of Soviet Government and proletarian dictatorship, and still further resolutions favoring minority dictatorship of labor by manipulated votes such as that which brought about the general strike here.

A further leader is R. E. Bray, who poses as a returned fighter, but who never saw the firing lines, and who told Premier Norris in cold blood on June 2, that he was a Bolshevik and out for the establishment of Soviet Government in Winnipeg.