

CITIZENS PREPARED FOR ANY EMERGENCY

A letter that throws some light on the citizens' attitude towards the Winnipeg strike has been received here by Mr. W. C. Graham, of the Interior Department, from a friend of his in that city. He gives a very interesting description of the various methods that the committee have arranged to combat the strikers, and shows that the citizens are prepared to meet any emergency. After a description of his own work on the volunteer fire brigade, he continues:

"The committee of 1,000 formed by the prominent citizens is the biggest 1,000 I have ever seen. The people are welded into one solid steel band, and are willing to undergo anything. Volunteers manned the post office, but since new help has been hired and the service is almost normal. Volunteers running gas works, water works, city light and power plant, bread wagons, milk wagons, ice wagons, and night patrols of the most prominent business men guard all fire alarm boxes and property, in relays every night since the strike started, and I have yet to hear one murmur from any worker, and the strike is now one month old.

"Things are becoming normal. Don't for one moment think this is not Bolshevism and revolution. The dead set was made on Winnipeg, and this battle is being fought for both Canada and the United States.

"The Mayor, in the opinion of almost everyone, should have read the riot act, several days ago when special constables were attacked on the streets, and I can tell you it looked mighty ugly for about two hours, till a big force of special police got on the job. The specials now number about 2,000 and are well organized. If it becomes necessary to call on General Ketchen, well, all I can say is 'God help them.'

"The feeling against aliens is running very high, as you might well understand. The city is simply lousy with Austrians, who seem to predominate wherever strikers gather together. How the people of Winnipeg keep their tempers with Ottawa allowing sedition being openly preached and published, is only explained by their calm resolution to see our institutions upheld.

"The money to finance this strike is supposed to be coming from the south and I was told today that Burns, the head of the U. S. secret service is in the city, so you can see the international nature of this thing. Winnipeg is a Royal North West Mounted Police depot now, there being about 400 here at present from all accounts. Don't believe wild stories, we are prepared here and each difficulty is overcome as it arises."