

# ANDREWS DROPS SEDITION COUNT AGAINST ALIENS

## Crown Counsel Hints That New Charges May Be Laid In Few Days

Criminal charges of seditious activities against four men included in the original information under which wholesale arrests of labor leaders were made June 17 were withdrawn by the crown Monday afternoon. A. J. Andrews, K.C., special prosecutor, said that the men affected were Solomon Pearl Almazoff, Sam Blumenberg, Oscar Schoppelrei and B. Devyatkin.

The charges against F. J. Dixon M.L.A., were not dropped, he said.

The names of the four men were not included in an amended information read against the remaining labor leaders under arrest when the preliminary hearing in the matter was opened before Magistrate R. M. Noble in the law courts building.

Mr. Andrews hinted, however, that other informations might be filed against the men, although he gave no details of such a plan.

Action of the crown in letting the cases against the five men drop without a formal dismissal brought forth a short but heated protest from E. J. McMurray, of counsel for the defense. Magistrate Noble, however, said that the present information was to be considered the only one with standing in court, so that the elimination of the five names amounted to the same thing as formal withdrawal of charges.

Marcus Hyman, also of counsel for the defense, asked for a definite statement that the withdrawal also applied to Charitonoff. Mr. Andrews said it did, but his name was not mentioned in his announcement this morning.

### May Lay New Charges

"As far as these proceedings are concerned," Mr. Andrews replied, "the amendment practically amounts to a withdrawal of charges against the men previously mentioned."

"Other informations may be filed, however," he added.

The amended information extended the charges to cover the years of 1917, 1918 and 1919 and to include the periods of the Calgary convention, the Walker and Majestic theatre meetings, and the riots of last winter as well as the strike riots.

A verbatim report of the Calgary convention was the first document placed in evidence. Frederick G. Perry, of Fernie, B. C., a court reporter, testified that he had taken the stenographic report and that the transcript was identical with one furnished to the Western Labor News.

### Tells of Meetings

Evidence concerning the meetings in the Walker and Majestic theatres and the riots was introduced by Sergt. Langdale, of the military intelligence department. His testimony was almost identically that which he had previously given before the special board of inquiry in the immigration cases against the four men of foreign birth.

In cross-examination T. J. Murray, attorney for the defence, pressed queries concerning possible incompleteness of the reports. Mr. Langdale said that his report was accurate in everything that it covered, but that it was not a complete stenographic report.

The hearing will be resumed at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon. The men against whom the amended information applies are William Ivens, R. E. Bray, R. J. Johns, Alderman A. A. Heaps, Alderman John Queen, George Armstrong, R. B. Russell and W. A. Pritchard.