

STRIKE LEADERS TO BE HELD FOR TRIAL

NOBLE SAYS JURY WILL HEAR CASES

Magistrate To Commit Defen- dants at Wednesday's Sitting

RENEWAL OF BAIL MAY BE CONTESTED

The eight strike leaders—R. B. Russell, R. J. Johns, George Armstrong, Ald. John Queen, W. A. Pritchard, R. E. Bray, Ald. A. A. Heaps and William Ivens—will face a jury trial on charges of seditious conspiracy.

Formal commitment will not be made until Wednesday morning, but at the conclusion of the preliminary hearing this morning, Magistrate R. M. Noble indicted that the men would be held for trial.

"I suppose your worship will find on the evidence that they all will be committed?" asked E. J. McMurray, chief counsel for the defense.

"Yes," replied Magistrate Noble.

"They have appeared so anxious for a jury trial," he added.

May Arrange Bail

The adjournment of the court until Wednesday morning was understood to be a matter of courtesy in order to allow the defense time to arrange for matters of bail and other concerns of the case.

Bail under which the defendants are now at liberty will expire with the formal decision of Magistrate Noble. According to J. B. Coyne, of the prosecution, the procedure will be to transfer the case to a judge of the assize court, who will immediately hear application for further bail.

A. J. Andrews, K.C., special crown prosecutor, hinted today that there might be some hitch in the matter of bail.

"There's a question whether a judge will grant bail in the light of the activities of the defendants during the present hearing," he said.

Mr. Andrews would not say what his own position in the matter would be.

For 24 days, during 18 of which there were actual sittings of the court, the preliminary hearing was

under way. One hundred and eighteen witnesses were placed in the box by the crown and 1,650 exhibits were placed in evidence.

The defense did not put in any case beyond cross-examination of the witnesses called by the crown. There was no argument.

The case is expected to come up at the October assizes.

Portions of minutes of the strike committee and of additional letters, papers and literature seized during the crown, read into the record by Mr. Coyne, formed the major part of the evidence taken today.

Committee Powerless

The central strike committee of 15 was in charge of the active direction of the strike but was powerless to take steps or put plans into execution without first reporting to the general strike committee, according to records of the committee read as evidence this morning by Mr. Coyne.

Plans to flood T. Eaton Co. with fake orders were discussed and adopted by the strike committee, according to a part of the minutes read by the prosecution.

The advisability of shutting off city power was also discussed, according to the minutes, which read: "Discussion as to ability of strike committee to shut off power. City has control completely and it is virtually a city in itself."

Revolution was advocated by William Ivens, according to charges brought by the prosecution as the result of notes of a speech seized in Mr. Ivens' possession. No evidence of any such speech having been delivered was introduced. The notes read in part:

"The only alternative. Direct action. Revolution by any means bloody or bloodless. Two lines of action. Political. Discouraging features. The government itself has set the pace for lawlessness. The war times election is sure lawlessness. Constitutional government is no longer possible. Government by order-in-council is a travesty on democracy. Judiciary a farce."

"Bolsheviki Funds"

Another telegram, said to have been written by R. B. Russell to R. J. Tallon, chairman of the Calgary convention, then at Montreal, was placed in evidence to show that the strike committee had seized control of the city during the strike.

"Strike committee are issuing orders to keep water at domestic pressure," one sentence read. "We are making arrangements to feed ourselves to prevent a recurrence of what happened in Seattle."

A great many other points, formerly touched on in the course of the proceedings, were once more brought up in order to throw the additional light of some letter or paper upon them.

The "Bolsheviki funds" letter, published by Senator Gideon D. Robertson, came up for further discussion. A letter from C. Berg to R. B. Russell in which the term "Bolshevik funds" was declared to apply to money sent in by the miners' union, was read.

Riot Premiums Trebled

Between \$75,000,000 or \$80,000,000 worth of riot insurance was taken out just prior to and during the strike. W. D. Low, an insurance man testified. Rates trebled during the period of the walkout, he said:

"Was there ever anything like that in America?" asked Mr. Andrews.

"Never in Winnipeg."

"Or in America?" reiterated Mr. Andrews.

"No."

Rates on an average risk was about \$3 a thousand, he said.

Basil Barker, another insurance agent, made a similar estimate of the amount of riot insurance taken out. He said rates were tripled on the day the strike was called and

added that some applications were not accepted because the agents could not get word through to their head offices because of the telegraph and mail tie-up.

J. G. R. Ong, transportation engineer for the Winnipeg Electric Railway company, was questioned as to the effect of the strike on the affairs of the company. Mr. Ong said that A. Scoble, business agent of the street railway men's union, had declared before an informal meeting of the conciliation board, headed by Justice Metcalfe, that the dispute between the Street Railway company and the men would not be settled and the men would not go back to work before all matters under dispute affecting all men on strike had been settled.

William McKenzie, a baker, with a plant at 353 Ellen st., told of having refused officials of the Bakers' union the use of his factory to bake bread for the use of the strikers. An offer to bake bread for the use of his customers as well as for strikers also was turned down, Mr. McKenzie said.