

SAYS RUSSELL DID NOT BRING ON THE STRIKE

**James Winning Thinks It Was
Inevitable No Matter Where
Leaders Were.**

Associated Press by Leased Wire.
WINNIPEG, Dec. 31.—With the
evidence for the defence still uncom-
pleted, the trial of R. B. Russell will
commence for the twenty-sixth day
tomorrow. It is generally agreed by
the counsel for the Crown and de-
fence that it will be impossible to
finish the case before Christmas and
some are of the opinion that New

Year's day will still see the case proceeding.

The session on Saturday was cut short by the sudden illness of one of the jurymen. The court ordered that a physician be immediately summoned and it was found that the indisposition of the juror would not be of a serious nature and will not interfere with the case proceeding Monday morning.

Juryman Became Ill.

On Saturday James Winning, formerly president of the Trades and Labor Council, and Ernest Robinson, secretary of the council, gave evidence in defence of Russell. Robinson had just commenced when the sickness of the jurymen caused the court to be adjourned.

Under cross-examination James Winning was asked by Mr. Andrews concerning a conference held in the basement of the Parliament Buildings between Premier Norris and representatives of the workers. Mr. Andrews put it to the witness that the Premier asked Mr. Russell—one of those representing labor—if there was no basis of co-operation between the workers and the employers, and that Russell had replied in the following words:

"There is no basis for co-opera-

tion. The workers must take over all industries. Capital has no rights whatever."

Mr. Winning could not recollect whether these were the exact words or not but stated that he remembered some interchange of this nature taking place.

Disruption Took Place.

Mr. Winning stated in his evidence that a disruption had taken place in the ranks of labor since the strike. There were now, he said, two trades and labor councils—the one under the old affiliation of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and the other affiliated with the O.B.U. There were numerous unions, however, said Mr. Winning, that had no affiliation with either of these bodies. The O.B.U., he said, gained control of the old trades and labor council by a straight vote.

Mr. Winning told about the manner in which the general strike of last May started. The strike by the Metal and Building Trades, said Mr. Winning, was called against the better judgment of the officers of these trades. The time was inopportune because there were other times when greater inconvenience could be caused. Strikes, said Mr. Winning, should always be called when the maximum of inconvenience could be caused by the minimum of the workers' power—or in other words, at the busiest seasons. The strike by these trades, however, he said, was forced by the rank and file of the unions who were in favor of it. When it was seen that it might not be successful the officers of the two trades applied for support to the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council. A resolution was then passed by this body directing that a strike vote be taken in all the affiliated unions. This, he said, was overwhelmingly in favor of a general sympathetic strike and resulted in the order for the walkout being given.

Mr. Winning denied that Mr. Russell and his associates were in any way responsible for bringing on the strike. It would have occurred just the same, he said, if the eight accused had been hidden in a crevice of the Himalayan mountains.

Capt. J. W. Wilton, M.L.A., was the first witness called by the defence Saturday, but his evidence was ruled to be inadmissible by the court.