

Convicted Strike Leaders At Winnipeg Given Sentences Of One Year Each In Prison

**Crowds of Sympathizers Throng Courthouse, But There
Are No Demonstrations—Justice Metcalfe Resents
Remarks Made by One of Convicted Men in Reflecting
on Justice of Trial.**

Winnipeg, April 6.—Sentence was pronounced on the six convicted strike leaders by Mr. Justice Metcalfe, at the assize court today. William Ivens, George Armstrong, W. A. Pritchard, John Queen and R. J. Johns were sentenced to one year on each of the six counts of seditious conspiracy, on which they were convicted and to six months on the count of common nuisance, sentences to run concurrently, making the term to be served by each in the provincial jail one year. R. F. Bray, found guilty on a charge of common nuisance, was sentenced to six months in the provincial jail.

Before being sentenced each of the convicted men with the exception of William Ivens, when asked if they had anything to say, condemned the trial as unfair and reiterated their adherence to the principles of the right of general strike and free speech.

Crowds of sympathizers thronged the court and crowded the halls in the court house. They were more orderly and took the announcement of the sentence without any demonstration. Preparations had been made to care for any demonstration which might have been made, and squads of provincial police and Royal Canadian Mounted Police were stationed in the court house.

The convicted men while waiting for the court to convene conversed freely and apparently light-heartedly with their families and friends in the court, John Queen in particular keeping the relatives of the prisoners, who were in the jury box, in laughter with witty sallies.

When Mr. Justice Metcalfe entered the court, A. J. Andrews, crown counsel, moved for sentence. Mr. Justice Metcalfe asked if counsel for the convicted men wished to make any statement. E. J. McMurray stated that they did not. Mr. Justice Metcalfe asked for the indictment, and asked William Ivens, the first of the convicted men, to be sentenced, if he wished to say anything. Mr. Ivens stated that he did not, and was sentenced.

As each of the convicted strike leaders received the sentence, he was taken in charge by one of the court bailiffs and removed to the provincial jail. The families of George Armstrong and R. F. Bray followed them from the court, and were allowed a few minutes in privacy.

Sensation in the Court.

A sensation was caused in the court when Mr. Justice Metcalfe interrupted R. E. Bray in his statement and told him that he had just committed a more serious offense than that for which he was about to be sentenced. He had in his reference to the court as being biased laid himself open to summary sentence for an indefinite period.

Crown counsel at the conclusion of the session asked the court to take action against the accused Bray to uphold the dignity of the court.

Mr. Justice Metcalfe stated that the status of the judiciary of Canada was being lowered by members of the legislature under the cloak of privilege. He was tired he said, of trying to uphold the dignity of the court when this was going on. The time is coming rapidly, he declared, when men chosen for the honorable position of judge will prefer their own private practice. It should not, he said, be left to the judges to uphold the dignity of Canadian law. Men should not be allowed to make speeches such as are being made daily in reference to the trial of the strike leaders, in which they refer to him as being a representative of the "capitalistic class."

Bray, when making his statement, repeatedly caused the court displeasure by stating that he had not had a fair trial. That the trial and the verdict were a travesty of British justice and referred to Mr. Justice Metcalfe as biased.

Bray continued by stating that the class struggle had been plainly shown in the trial, when well-dressed women had been given reserved seats in the court to gloat over the sufferings of himself and comrades.

Said He Acted on Orders.

R. J. Johns was the second man to be sentenced and in a statement made to the court, declared that anything he had done had been done on the order of the men he represented. "I am pleased that I carried on the work. I feel that it is my life work," he de-

clared, and went on to point out that any man who had not worked with the workers could not understand the psychology of the working class. Men outside the working class, he said, did not understand the needs or determination of the worker.

The crown, he said, had contended that there were no classes in Canada. There were two classes—a working class and a capitalistic class—who opposed each other. Social ownership, he claimed, was inevitable in time, to support human life. The strike, he said, was premeditated and brought on by the citizens' committee who were afraid of the organization of the One Big union.

"They beat us," he said; "I adm're them for it. They beat us because we did not know enough. Punishing me will not stop it. The psychology is there and will remain. Had we been dead the One Big union would have gone through this process of formation."

Pritchard stated that he felt the same way as Johns, and went on to say that he was ready to go to jail to serve the sentence of the court, but "I go to jail realizing that if a man is to be true to himself he cannot then be false to any other man," he declared.

Blames the Farmers

Alderman Queen referred to the opposition he and his comrades put up when Mr. Justice Metcalfe was appointed to take charge of the trial. He claimed that the farmers, who had suffered losses through the strike, were not proper men to serve on the jury. "We know that the farmers would be willing to hang any one who had been on strike," he declared. He claimed that he was convicted merely because he was on the city council and did not prove suitable to the citizens' committee.

George Armstrong, who appeared to be very nervous, was interrupted by Justice Metcalfe when he went into a very lengthy outline of the doctrines he had advocated and asked if he had anything to say as to why the court should not sentence him.

Armstrong then stated that he was not on strike, was not a strike leader and that in his mind the law had been given an unparalleled elasticity to cover his particular case.