

SPITE WORK, BISHOP SAYS OF ARREST

Ruthenian, Held In Saskatche-
wan on Sedition Charge,
Blames His Enemies

HEARING SET FOR MONDAY

Bishop Nicetas Budka, head of the Ruthenian Greek Catholic church in western Canada, who is under arrest at Hafford, Sask., on a charge of sedition, issued a statement today through his attorney declaring that his arrest is the result of spite work.

The bishop and Rev. Father Posky, a priest of the Ruthenian church, were arrested Sunday evening following a church service in Hafford which was broken up by residents of the district. They were admitted to bail in \$3,000 each and remanded for hearing next Monday.

Murray Defends Bishop

Bishop Budka gained notoriety at the beginning of the war by issuing a letter urging Austrians in Canada to return home and fight for their country. Ever since then he has been under the surveillance of the military authorities, it was declared today.

The Bishop, in explanation of the trouble at Hafford, is defended by T. J. Murray, his attorney, in the following statement:

"Rev. Myron Zalitch, of the Ruthenian Greek Catholic church, of which Bishop Budka is the Superior in Canada, and who resides with Bishop Budka at 511 Dominion st., Winnipeg, and who is the editor of the Canadian Ruthenian, received Tuesday evening the following telegram from Bishop Budka, sent from Hafford, Saskatchewan:

"Mission sermon on Hell was interrupted by Worobetz saying it is not true; Bishop has given the man to police. He collected our opponents, and charged us with sedition. Bishop and Father Bosky arrested but released on bail of mass of farmers; Church blessing Arran regular; next weeks visitations recalled because trial next Monday; God be blessed that all our troubles go at once to Court. No danger for us."

"The above dispatch would indicate that the arrest of Bishop Budka has arisen out of opposition which

he has experienced for some time past from a section of the Ruthenian people who are unfriendly towards him. This section which has its headquarters in Saskatoon, has for about a year past been carrying on an active propaganda against Bishop Budka with a view to undermining his influence among his own people. As a result of this the Bishop who is now and who has been for some time past, engaged on his annual tour of visitations among his people, has been expressing his opinion of these Ruthenian enemies of his in no uncertain tones and undoubtedly as a consequence has aroused their ire. Worobetz, referred to in the dispatch, is a farmer and is known in Winnipeg to be a member of the section of Ruthenians unfriendly to the Bishop. Evidently Worobetz had attempted to disturb the mission at which Bishop Budka was preaching a sermon and as a consequence the Bishop caused him to be arrested. The Bishops opponents evidently entered upon a policy of reprisal and have been instrumental in causing the Bishop to be arrested on a charge of sedition. Undoubtedly the charge is without any foundation.

\$160,000 Bail Offered

"Word has come to Winnipeg that within five minutes after the arrest of Bishop Budka, Ruthenian farmers who had been in attendance at the mission services, offered to provide bail in the amount of \$160,000 to secure the Bishop's release. The Bishop evidently is going to trial with the utmost confidence."

From its correspondent in Hafford. The Tribune ascertained that the man who laid the information is George Worobetz.

At the time the bishop issued his farmers' letter public protest was voiced at mass meetings held in Yorkton and other points and the matter was brought to the attention of Premier Borden, Bishop Budka came to Canada direct from Austria, of which nation he is a subject.