

ONLY NINE POLICEMEN ON DUTY IN WINNIPEG

Government Officials Believe Beginning of Settlement Now in Sight.

By JAMES T. KOLBERT.

Special to The Star by United Press.

Winnipeg, Man., May 31.—Winnipeg's police force to-day consisted of nine men. One hundred and eighty-nine officers were automatically discharged Friday upon refusal to sign an agreement with the city severing connection with labor. The policemen had voted approval of demands in the general strike here, but had not voted to go out themselves. An effort was made to have mounted police do the patrolling.

Some Believe Settlement Coming.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Winnipeg, May 31.—With arbitration conferences actually under way on the basic industrial dispute of the general strike—the walkout of the metal trades—and hundreds of employes returning to work, gradual settlement of the civic and industrial tie-up, which has been almost complete since May 15, was beginning to-day, according to Government officials.

Edmonton despatches indicated resumption of public service functions is now complete there although strike headquarters asserted workers in 33 trades were still out.

Votes on a general strike now being taken at Vancouver and Victoria will be completed and announced within a few days.

Reports from the mining districts in Ontario and British Columbia said that the labor situation at Cobalt and Fernie was acute, though not directly related to the Winnipeg strike situation as are the general strikes under way or under discussion at other points.

Though the first outward demonstration of disaffection occurred in Winnipeg yesterday, in a parade of veterans and strikers to the Parliament Building no disorders occurred. The veterans promised to return again to-day, to insist on speedy action to legalize collective bargaining, one of the chief points sought by the metal trades in their walkout, which precipitated the general strike.

When members of the railroad brotherhoods succeeded in beginning the first arbitration conference, efforts to replace striking workers generally slackened, except in the police, fire and postal services. Officials of the brotherhood warned maintenance of way employes in Winnipeg and to the west not to consider sympathetic strike votes or attempt to walk-out in violation of their contracts.