

# *Nine Winnipeg Strike Leaders Seized; Other Arrests Are Promised*

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*Men Are Charged With "Seditious Conspiracy"—Were Taken to Penitentiary and Labor Temple Was Raided—Senator Robertson Says Arrests Were Ordered by Department of Justice—Remaining Strike Leaders Issue No Statement—Situation Unchanged*

WINNIPEG, June 17.—On authority from the Federal government at Ottawa, armed with warrants issued by the Dominion government officials, nine men whom secret service authorities had marked down as leaders of Bolshevist propaganda, were arrested this morning, according to an official statement issued by Acting Chief of Police Chris. H. Newton, at 10 o'clock. It was declared that all of those taken into custody played a prominent part in the sympathetic strike, now in its fifth week. They were taken to Stony Mountain penitentiary.

Beyond expressing indignation at the presence of representatives of the law at their homes, the men taken into custody submitted to arrest quietly, it is understood. The prisoners were not taken to any of the city police stations.

Simultaneous with the arrests, the Labor Temple, from which the strike has been directed, was raided by the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, and literature said to be of a Bolshevik nature was seized. The building was thoroughly searched, and doors and rooms that could not be opened were broken down. Books and papers of all sorts were taken and thrown into waiting automobiles.

The raid was conducted by Inspector Green of the city police force and Inspector Mead of the R. N. W. M. P. For the purpose, a cordon of special police numbering several hundred, were placed around the building.

#### List of Those Arrested.

The official list of those under detention follows:

R. R. Russell, secretary of the Metal Trades Council, and one of the inner circle of the strike committee.

Rev. Wm. Ivens, editor of the Western Labor News and pastor of the Labor Church.

R. E. Bray, leader of the pro-strike parades which visited the parliament buildings on a number of occasions recently.

George W. Armstrong, an official of the Brotherhood of Carpenters.

Alderman John Queen, advertising manager of the Western Labor News, and member of the city council for Ward Five.

Alderman A. A. Heaps, upholsterer, member of the city council for Ward Five.

Moses Charitonoff, arrested in 1918 on a charge of sedition; convicted, sentenced to jail; then released on technicality. Of Russian birth.

Moses Almazoff, extreme Socialist; Russian.

Mike Berenzuk, admirer of Bolshevist theories, Russian birth.

While the arrests were being made a cordon of special police was thrown around the Labor Hall, central strike headquarters, and a squad of Royal Northwest Mounted Police officers searched the building. A truckload of literature was seized, including, it was stated, books and documents in connection with the Calgary convention, at which the One Big Union movement was formally launched. Similar raids were made on the Ukrainian Temple and Liberty Hall, Socialist headquarters.

Secretary Ernest Robinson, of the Trades and Labor Council, J. L. McBride, business agent of the Electrical Workers' Union and E. Woodworth, of Vancouver, were in the Labor Temple today but declined to make any statement other than to say that the arrests would have no effect on the strike, and labor meetings will continue as scheduled.

#### Ordered by Department of Justice.

Following his conference with Commissioner A. B. Perry, of the Royal North West Mounted Police, and A. J. Andrews, K. C., at mounted police headquarters this forenoon, Senator G. D. Robertson said he had no information to give out. The arrests had taken place, he declared, as a result of a decision of the department of justice, and the department of labor was not concerned with them.

The labor minister remarked, however, that it had been "a very nice job." He said that there were no new developments in the strike, which he referred to as a "tragedy."

A. J. Andrews, K. C., has been retained by the federal authorities to take charge of the prosecutions. He announced that the charge against each accused was "seditious conspiracy."

While he could not give more definite information, it is believed that the charge is based on the recent amendment to the Immigration Act which gives authority to the Dominion government to seize and deport any persons, other than of Canadian birth, found guilty of agitation against constituted authority.

The news of the arrests brought out no statement from remaining strike leaders, and the Labor News and the Strike Bulletin were issued this morning without any mention of the incident.

The authorities were successful in getting all except three of the men they sought, it was declared, and the missing men, whose identities have not been disclosed, are expected to be rounded up today. Whether or not any further arrests will be made in addition to the 12 marked down, or under lock and key, A. J. Andrews says, will largely depend upon the incriminating nature of the material seized when the various headquarters were entered.

#### What Warrants Are Based On.

Arrests of striker leaders at the instance of Federal authorities, were based on warrants charging them with inciting the police force of the city of Winnipeg to neglect of duty. They were issued on complaint of Albert Edward Reams, as follows:

"That the said persons (naming the men arrested) during the months of May and June did conspire with one another and divers persons to this informant unknown, to excite divers liege subjects of the king to resist laws and resist persons, such being part of the police force of the city of Winnipeg, in the due execution of their duty, and to bring the said force into hatred and contempt, and to procure unlawful meetings, and to cause divers liege subjects of the king to believe that the laws of this Dominion were unduly administered and unlawfully to disturb the public peace and to raise discontent in the mind of subjects of the king, and to raise and excite tumult and disobedience of the laws, and did cause to be published certain false and libellous statements with reference to said police force and administration of justice in a paper known as the Western Labor News, special strike edition."

The complaint then goes on to quote the article that appeared in this paper, entitled "Police Replaced by Thugs," which attacked the special returned soldier constables.

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### **No Action in Saskatoon**

SASKATOON, Sask., June 17.—No arrests of agitators or strikers have been made here. Mounted police have not been notified to take any action.

It is authoritatively stated that no switchmen or firemen will strike in Saskatoon.

Officials in close touch with the situation between the shopmen and Railway War Board said they had reason to expect a settlement which would avert the impending strike.

### **All Quiet in Calgary**

CALGARY, June 17.—No arrests of strikers here.

### **No Arrests at Edmonton**

EDMONTON, June 17.—There have been no arrests made here over the strike.

### **No Arrests Reported**

MOOSE JAW, Sask., June 17.—No arrests are reported in connection with recent federal government order on strike situation.

### **No Arrests at Regina**

REGINA, Sask., June 17.—Mounted police say no arrests here.

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### **No Instructions Received Here.**

The Royal North West Mounted Police in this city have received no instructions to take action similar to that in Winnipeg. This statement is made on the authority of Major Fitz-Horrigan, the officer commanding the R.N.W.M.P. stationed in Vancouver.