

INFORMATION WARRANTED GOV'T. ACTION

Minister of Labor Says Ample Evidence of Contemplated Conspiracy

WINNIPEG, June 18.—Referring to the action of the federal government in arresting the strikers Hon. G. D. Robertson said: "When the strike occurred the federal government was interested and involved to the extent of restoring postal service and after giving the postal employees ample time and opportunity to reach a decision as to whether they would fulfill their obligations as public servants and return to work or permanently desert the public service, took the necessary steps to resume the handling of mail matter.

The Alleged Cause.

"The dispute between the metal trades employers and their workmen which was alleged to be the cause of the general sympathetic strike was one which did not fall within the scope of the industrial disputes investigation act and therefore the federal government could not consistently interfere, especially when local authorities were endeavoring to do what was possible to effect a settlement. The officers representing the railway transportation organizations having offered their services in the capacity of mediators it seemed probable that a reasonable solution of the metal trades dispute would be effected through mediation. When it appeared that their efforts would fail and that several hundred members of the railway train service organizations in Winnipeg were taking part in the sympathetic strike, thereby dislocating transportation, the dispute then became one national in scope and in which the federal government was directly concerned.

A considerable number of the railroad train employees ceased work on Friday last and on the following day a conference was arranged with the metal trades employers, who subsequently issued a clear-cut declaration of their acceptance of the generally applied interpretation of the term, collective bargaining. This declaration gives to their employees the positive right to join labor unions, to elect representatives from among the members of their unions, to submit proposals and negotiate agreements with their employers, individually or collectively. It furthermore provides that the executive officers of the several international organizations representing the crafts in the metal shops shall be recognized by these employers and permitted to assist in reaching adjustments when same are not made directly between the employers and the committee.

"Since the sympathetic strike was called the Federal government has been carefully investigating as to whether or not the strike arose out of an ordinary industrial dispute or whether other and sinister motives were involved."

"The information and evidence gathered amply warranted the conclusion that a seditious conspiracy was contemplated by a portion of the members of the central strike committee who are believed to be revolutionary and dangerous in their tendencies.