

BORDEN SAYS ROBERTSON GAVE ORDER

Tells Commons Authority Was
Placed In Labor Minis-
ter's Hands

RECEIPT FOR BOLSHEVIK CASH REPORTED FOUND

Senator Gideon D. Robertson, minister of labor, is the man who ordered the arrest of the strike leaders and others, according to a dispatch from Ottawa today.

In the House of Commons this morning, Premier Borden, in response to an inquiry by D. D. McKenzie, said that government counsel at Winnipeg had been instructed that it should take no proceedings for the arrest of the men, save under the authority of the minister of labor.

"That authority has evidently been granted," said the premier.

Robertson Reveals Evidence

Documents seized in the raid on the Labor Temple Tuesday morning indicate a "deep and serious conspiracy not only in Winnipeg but throughout Western Canada," according to Senator Robertson. Receipt of Bolshevik money and disclosure of an attempt to cut off electric power from the city were among the things revealed by the papers taken from labor headquarters, he said. Senator Robertson's statement in full follows:

"When the strike occurred the federal government was interested and involved to the extent of restoring postal service, and after giving the postal employes ample time and opportunity to reach a decision as to whether they would fulfil their obligations as public servants, and re-

turn to work or permanently desert the public service, took the necessary steps to resume the handling of mail matter.

Dispute Becomes National

"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 affect 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 service employes 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 employes 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.

Sedition Contemplated

"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 who were believed to be revolutionary and dangerous in their tendencies. It being apparent that a reasonable settlement of the metal trades dispute would not result in settling the strike and because of the persistent and insidious propaganda and misrepresentation that were being spread abroad, especially among the railway employes with a view to extending the strike and utterly dislocating transportation, the federal department of justice, through its authorized representatives, properly decided to take into custody those held responsible for seditious conspiracy.

Documents Show Conspiracy

"From additional evidence obtained, consisting of papers, pamphlets and documents gathered in by the police on Tuesday morning, only a few of which have yet been scrutinized, the citizens of Winnipeg and of Canada will have little difficulty in reaching a conclusion as to the depth and seriousness of the conspiracy which was going on, not only in Winnipeg, but generally throughout Western Canada. The representatives of the justice department will in due time unfold the facts.

"It might be interesting, however, for the public to know that the records indicate that a special committee had been selected on June 10 to investigate and report upon the possibilities of cutting off the electric power from the city; and that correspondence addressed to 'R. B. Russell, Secretary of the One Big Union, Provincial Executive Committee of Manitoba,' acknowledges receipts of 'Bolsheviki money.'"